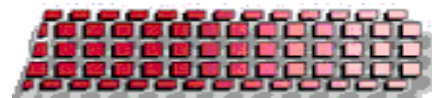
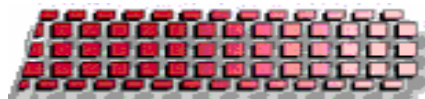


New Mexico Trials Association

New Mexico Championship Observed Trials Manual & Rulebook



www.nmtrials.org



Revised May 2007

New Mexico Trials Association

Overview - An observed trials is a test of balance and control on a motorcycle which emphasizes the rider's skill and ability to control the bike in a technically challenging off-road environment. The competition takes place on a course made up of a series of observed sections. Each section along the course contains obstacles to challenge the rider such as turns, hills, rocks, and logs within the boundaries of the marked section. At each section an "observer" or course official judges the ride and assigns penalty marks for infractions such as "footing" for balance or other failures to successfully negotiate the obstacles within that section. Although the competition typically has a time limit, it is not a test of speed.

The Club - The New Mexico Trials Association (NMTA) is an organization comprising of amateur recreational motorcyclists. The club is a member of the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) and the North American Trials Council (NATC). Club events are sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association (AMA). Riders are expected to recognize the dangers of motorcycle riding and ride and act responsibly. Entrants in NMTA events and their guests and spectators are liable for their own actions and behavior and must accept the risk of motorcycle riding and other activities.

Board of Directors - The NMTA elects officers that make up the Board of Directors. Officers hold one year terms and are elected by members at the annual banquet. Active club members must nominate candidates; Board meetings shall be run by official means w/ agenda items & consensus for voting. There shall be a public portion of each meeting in which club members may attend to discuss various topics. The following officers are voted upon by the active members:

President – Responsible for:

- Overseeing Club Activities & Events.
- Representation of NMTA at Official Functions.
- Delegation of Club Responsibilities as required.
- Holding Board Meetings.
- Updating Manual & Rulebook.

Secretary – Responsible for:

- Recording NMTA Event Results, Scoring & Series Points.
- Monthly Newsletter.

Monthly newsletters shall contain: Results & Commentary of the prior event, an announcement of the next event which includes location (with map) & starting time, yearly schedule (with trialsmasters), national events schedule, championship series standings, commentary, advertisements, interviews and other information should also be included.

- Minutes of board meetings.
- Creation / Maintenance of Scoreboard. This includes bringing the boards to each event.

Treasurer – Responsible for:

- Management of Financial Transactions & Accounts and Treasurer report at Board meetings.
- The president, treasurer & event coordinator shall be named on and have access to all NMTA accounts.
- Obtaining & Coordinating Event Insurance & AMA Sanctioning.
 - Coordination of all AMA documentation, including referee report & memberships.
 - Coordinating & Supplying Year-End Overall Awards.
 - Coordinate cash box w/ proper change at Each Event and collection following event signup.

Event Coordinator – Responsible for:

- Obtaining & Bringing Event Awards.
- Obtaining & Bringing Trialsmasters Gifts, i.e. Glasses or Mugs.
- Submits & Coordinates Applications & Permission for Land-use.
- Responsible for Event Signup Procedures & Documentation.
- Responsible for coordination of event items such as porta-potties, etc.

Course Clerk(s) – (1 Upper & 1 Lower) Responsible for:

- Referee for Safety & Clarification of Event Loops & Sections.
- Maintain & Post NMTA event sign at Each Event.
- Maintain & Coordinate Trials Master Boxes & Supplies for Each Event.

Additional Officers - These positions are not officially part of the board and do not vote on board matters, but play a vital role in coordination and club correspondence.

NATC Representative – Responsible for:

- NATC Annual Meeting Representation, which includes a report on NATC matters to the NMTA Board.
- This representative must have board approval in order to commit to anything on behalf of the NMTA.

NMTA Webmaster – Responsible for:

- Keeping webpage updated with current news, events, schedules, etc.
- Keeping an accurate and accessible e-mail list of all club members.

Personnel and Task Outline

A. Event Tasks, Signup, Entry Forms & Fees:

Event sign-up should begin at least 1 hour before the event start time.

Liability Waivers - All riders, workers and spectators must sign the liability waiver before entering any riding area. A common practice is to have everyone entering the parking area or trials site sign the waiver at that time. This may require that someone with the liability waiver be positioned at the entrance of the venue in order to capture every signature.

AMA Membership - Riders must present a current AMA membership card at each event or submit an application with payment to join the AMA at the event signup. **Riders not able to present a card will be required to fill out an application for membership**; the AMA currently credits current memberships forward from the expiration date of their existing membership.

NMTA Membership - Riders are not required to have a current NMTA membership. Trialsmasters should encourage non-members to signup and become an NMTA member at each event. NMTA membership forms are available in the event signup box. You must be an active NMTA member to receive Year-end Awards and monthly newsletters. Members receive a newsletter and access to the San Yasidro Riding area for practice. If you are a member and need the combination to the gate, contact a board member or current president.

NMTA Annual Membership = \$15.00

Event Sign-up -

The event trialsmasters are responsible for sign-up. The signup box contains an AMA imprint plate. Put the correct plate in the imprinting machine, and follow these steps:

1. The rider must complete an AMA release form (liability waiver).
2. If the rider is a minor, all release forms must be completed and signed by the legal guardian.
3. Check for valid NMTA membership.
4. Check for a valid AMA membership card.
5. Use the AMA card to imprint the AMA release form.
6. Return AMA card and rider copy (thick one) of the imprinted release form to the rider. Keep the other copies of the imprinted release.
7. Collect fee for the event as follows:

1 – Day Event	=	\$25.00	Adult
		\$15.00	Riders under 18
2 – Day Event	=	\$45.00	Adult
		\$25.00	Riders under 18

Junior Class is Free for all Events
8. Have riders fill out event class sheet in their respective class.
9. Have riders fill out event scorecards and return them until the riders meeting.

Following Sign-up, trialsmasters shall give the NMTA Treasurer the money box immediately following the completion of signups. In the event that an entered rider cannot compete, the entry fee is non-refundable once signup has completed.

Event Proceedings -

Significant activities that must be handled during the event are:

1. A Mandatory riders' meeting must take place before the start of an event -- usually 10 minutes before the start time. If a time limit is to be enforced, this must be announced and the penalties associated with failure to finish on time shall be assessed as described in additional penalties. A description of the loop and any important event factors shall be explained with any questions answered at this time.
2. A trialsmaster should man the signup desk during the course of the day in case of injury, disqualification or rider class adjustments.
3. Coordinate event scoreboards and fill our rider's names and scores accordingly.
4. Trialsmasters shall begin collecting loop scores as riders complete their day.
5. A trialsmaster shall sweep the loop following the last riders of the day and tell scorers when it is ok to pull the sections.
6. When the penalty period expires, scores are accumulated and posted.
7. A ten minute protest period begins after the scores are posted. **All rider scores are final at the conclusion of the protest period and cannot be changed by any action!**
8. Awards presentation.

After the event, some paperwork and expenses must be completed:

1. The Secretary shall collect the final scorecards & scoreboards.
2. The Event Coordinator shall collect signup box for restocking.
3. The Treasurer shall collect completed liability waivers, minor releases and the AMA copy of imprinted release forms and submit the AMA referee's report following each event. The liability waivers, minor releases and the AMA copy of imprinted release forms must be sent to the AMA with the referee's report.
4. Refer to the instructions in your AMA Sanction kit for what to do if an injury occurs at your event.
5. Trialsmasters shall be responsible to pull their loop markings and make sure all sections are cleared and free of any debris or event markings. Trialsmasters shall also be responsible for general venue clean-up, this includes: raking section ruts caused by riders, cleaning up trash, clearing debris, and making sure the venue location is left in good condition following an event.

Trialsmaster Suggested Checklist -

- Secure trialsmaster box prior to event and verify it is adequately stocked.
- Coordinate with club officers with any issues or questions pertaining to event location.
- Finalize sections, then pre-ride sections & loop accordingly.
- Coordinate safety & clarity meeting with Course Clerk prior to event day.
- Coordinate event day road markings to clarify event parking & location.
- Establish signup area and provide adequate facilities for signup.
- Assist board members with obtaining proper paperwork following signup and event end.
- Double check loop and site to verify everything is cleaned up following the event.

B. Course Requirements:

The course layout and marking is the responsibility of the persons designated as the trialsmasters. The trialsmasters should endeavor to establish a course which will be fun and challenging for all skill levels and which will not contain impossible obstacles or extreme hazards. There shall be One Upper and One Lower trialsmaster assigned to each trials event. Floaters shall be assigned as to assist both trialsmasters, this position is intended to aid in learning and training of the responsibilities of trialsmaster.

The Course (Loop):

- The course should consist of a minimum of 8 sections laid out in a loop to be ridden 3 times. The trialsmaster has the discretion of adjusting the amount of sections as well as the number of loops as necessary. It is the intent to be scored on a minimum of 24 rides by the end of the event.
- The "loop" or trail which comprises the course connecting the sections must be clearly marked and riders must follow the course in the direction intended. Riding the loop backwards or cutting the loop is not allowed. The course shall be marked with ribbon and signs (Gate markers). It is a good idea to use different color ribbon or a combination of colors to denote separate loops set for a single event. Signs should be used to clearly define the direction of travel and assist riders with clarity of the loop. Two-way traffic on single lane paths is not recommended, but if applicable it shall be clearly marked. An "X" shall be placed to mark caution or technical parts of the course.
- A rider off course or going backwards on the course may be disqualified at the discretion of the trialsmasters.
- A rider may begin their day on any section, but must continue each loop in the same sequential order. Each section may be attempted only once per lap.
- Section Inspection and Practice: Riders may inspect the sections by walking the section prior to riding, but may not practice in the sections and may not alter the section by moving rocks or other obstacles.
- **Riders are limited slow controlled speeds (approx. 5 mph and low gear) for safety in pit areas.** Penalties will be assessed by the course trialsmasters as described in additional penalties.

The Sections -

- Each observed section must be marked with "Section Start" and "Section End" signs which clearly delineate a gate comprising the beginning and end of the section. Each gate has a minimum width of 4 feet.
- Section Boundaries. Each section shall be bounded by natural obstacles and surveyors ribbon securely fastened to rocks, trees or placed in baggies. The ribbon should be at a maximum height of 12 inches off the ground.
- Class Gates. Interior gates within the section may be marked to reduce the width of a section or to define the different routes for riders competing in different skill classes. Each gate has a minimum width of 4 feet. A rider must pass through the gates of their respective class. If a rider passes, in either direction, between the gates of another class it will be consider as a failure.
- The rider's front axle must pass between the start gates and end gates. The front axle is only allowed to pass between the start gates once.

C. Machine Requirements:

- a. Motorcycle. The motorcycle may typically be of any engine displacement, except in youth or specially designated classes where the engine size may be limited. The motorcycle must be rear wheel drive only and be equipped with a working engine kill switch, working brakes, ball ends on all handlebar mounted levers, and a number plate designating the rider's class.
- b. Tires. The motorcycle must be equipped with approved trials-type tires having rectangular tread blocks with the sides parallel to or at right angles to the tire axis. Tire width may not exceed 4.5 inches, tread depth may not exceed ½ inch, and the space between the blocks may not exceed 3/8 inch across the tire or ½ inch in a circumferential direction.
- c. A USFS approved Spark Arrestor must be installed whenever operating a motorcycle at a trials site unless specifically informed otherwise.
- d. Trailbike class: An exception may be made for tires in a specially designated "trailbike" class, which may be included as an entry level class for non-trials motorcycles at the trialsmaster's discretion.

D. Rider Qualifications:

1. Riders must be physically able to control & properly function on a motorcycle.
2. If a rider has not competed in a previous event, the course trialsmasters may request an example of the rider's abilities and can refuse entry or modify the entry class if they think a rider is not qualified.
3. Helmet: DOT, Snell 95 or any FIM approved helmet is required to be worn whenever operating a motorcycle at a trials site.

E. Scoring:

The scoring method outlined below is the standard method of scoring used in AMA sanctioned trials and is generally consistent with the scoring rules used in the AMA/NATC National Championship events and in the FIM Trials World Championship events, although simplified to eliminate time limits in the section and other requirements specifically associated with higher levels of competition.

Riders Responsibilities -

- The rider will be scored only within the observed sections. Scoring begins when the rider's front axle passes through the start gate and ends when the front axle passes through the end gate.
- The rider must enter the section only after receiving a signal from the observer; the observer shall show a raised, balled fist and announce "rider" in a loud voice to authorize a rider to enter the section. A rider may choose not to attempt a section and have the observer mark their scorecard with 5 points corresponding to a failure.
- The rider must have a number plate clearly indicating the class to be ridden within the section, or announce to the observer the class to be ridden.
- Riders are responsible for their own scorecard, and must carry their scorecard and present it to the section observer for marking at the completion of their ride in that section. It is the rider's responsibility to verify that each section is punched correctly. Once the rider leaves the section, the score is fixed and shall not be changed. Any sections not marked on the scorecard are considered missed sections and will be penalized as noted in additional penalties section.
- A rider may request to alter their sign-up class within the first 3 attempted sections. The rider must return to sign-up and request this change to the course trialsmasters. Once a fourth section has been attempted, the rider may not alter the day's class.
- Injury - Riders shall be responsible to notify a course official upon injury. An injury form must be completed by the rider & course official immediately following the event.

Scorers Responsibilities -

- Observer Position. The checking officials at each observed section should be stationed so the entire section is plainly visible. When more than one observer is required, penalties will be called to the observer at the end of the section.
- To ensure consistency of scoring, observers should not be changed during the event. Observer's should show a raised, balled fist and announce rider in a loud voice to authorize a rider to start riding the section.
- Scoring shall start when the front axle passes between the start markers and stop when the front axle passes between the end markers.
- Any course official, including a section Head Observer, has the authority to close a section or part of the loop for unforeseen reasons such as natural disasters or rider injury. In cases where a portion of the field has ridden a section before it has been closed, scores for those rides will be thrown out of the days total.
- Scorers shall assist in pulling sections at the completion of the day. Scorers shall not pull the sections until notified of the completion of the trials by a Trialsmaster.

Section Penalties - Penalties are assessed by the observer in each section as follows:

- 1 fault: 1 point
- 2 faults: 2 points
- More than 2 faults: 3 points
- Failure: 5 points

Definition of a Fault: A fault is defined as each contact (used for support) of any part of the rider or his machine (with the exception of the tires, footpegs, and engine skidplate) with the ground or an obstacle (tree, rock, etc.). It is the scorer's responsibility to distinguish between contact used for support versus incidental contact.

- Footing - any contact providing support between any part of the rider's body or machine (exception; tires, footpegs or skid plate) with the ground or an obstacle (tree, rock, etc.). Footing can occur either inside or outside the boundary.
- Foot rotation counts as one point. Rotation can only occur at one rotation spot and cannot transfer heel to toe or vice versa. There is no additional penalty for multiple rotations as long as the foot does not slide or transfer the rotation spot.
- Sliding a foot counts as three points.
- Both feet placed on the ground simultaneously counts as two points.

Definition of a Failure: A failure is defined by one of the following:

- The machine moves backwards.
- The machine touches the ground with either tire outside a boundary.
In the case of running over a ribboned boundary, ground must be visible between the ribbon and the tire on the out-of-bounds side of the ribbon. Any gate for a class other than your own constitutes a boundary. It is permissible to float one wheel over a gate, but not both wheels, i.e. jumping the bike over a boundary constitutes a failure.
- The rider or machine breaks or displaces a gate or ribbon by direct contact while attempting the section.
- The rider dismounts from the machine and has both feet on the ground on the same side or behind the axle of the back wheel of the machine. A side dismount is considered when the rider's leg has come completely over the fender or seat of the machine.
- The rider assists the machine with their hands in any way other than with the handlebars.
- The rider receives outside assistance, i.e. catching or minding the machine.
- The engine stops while the machine is without forward motion and the rider is leaning or footing any part of the machine other than with the tires touching the ground.
- The handlebar of the motorcycle touches the ground.
- The motorcycle does a complete loop, crossing its own track with both tires.
- The rider begins a section attempt without the observer's acknowledgment.
- The rider fails to pass through all the gates in consecutive order for their class.
- The front wheel does not precede the back wheel when passing through the gates.
- The rider passes, in either direction through a gate of another class, breaking the plane of a gate.

Only the greatest penalty, as defined above, shall be counted for the section. However, the following points may be added:

Additional Penalties -

- A rider may report to the observer and receive a five for that section, even though he does not attempt it.
- Any sections not filled in (punched) on the scorecard are considered missed sections and receive 10 points for each section not punched.
- Sections ridden out of order will receive a 10 point infraction for each section ridden out of order.
- Any section ridden more than once per loop will receive 10 points.
- Practice in any of the sections before or during the event will result in disqualification of the rider from the trial.
- A rider must present a scorecard to the course trialmasters at the completion of the trials to be considered a finisher. If a scorecard is not presented, the rider will be considered a non-finisher and no score will be posted.
- If blank or unmarked spaces on a scorecard exceed 10% of designated rides, the rider will be considered a non-finisher.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, offensive behavior or language, by a rider will result in a penalty of 25 points. The penalty can be given at the sole discretion of any observer or course official. Penalty points are in addition to the points accumulated during the rider's section attempt.
- Exceeding slow & controlled speeds is a 5-point penalty assessed before, during and after the event. The penalty can be given at the sole discretion of any observer or course official.

Obstruction or Balk: If, while riding a section, a rider is hindered by the presence of another rider or spectator standing in the section, the rider may request that the observer permit a re-ride of the section. Any penalties incurred to the point of the infraction, prior to the hindrance are not considered, the rider receives a fresh start at the section.

Protests: A rider may protest a score in a section, by making a specific protest in writing to the trialsmaster within 10 minutes after the end of the event. The trialsmaster will decide on the merits of the protest, after conferring with the observer(s) in question. A rider may not protest another rider's score. Decisions of the trialsmaster are final.

Overall Scoring and Ties: In each class, the order of finish is determined by the low score. In the event of ties, the rider with the lowest score on observation (independent of any time penalties, if those are used) will prevail. If the riders are tied on observation, the rider with the most cleans will prevail, and if still tied then the rider prevails who has most ones, twos, or threes, in succession. If still tied on all points, the trialsmaster will organize a "ride-off" in which a special section is designated and the riders ride one time each in turn, repeating the process until one rider has a lower score. A coin flip will be used to determine which rider goes first in the ride-off. If both riders agree, a coin flip can occur to designate a winner without performing a ride-off.

G. Series Championships -

Annual Club Championship Series: In order to promote a season long club championship, the club will have a series of competitions with championship points accumulated in each rider class. This is a New Mexico State Championship Series open to all riders who wish to participate. Club membership is encouraged, but not required to receive championship points. **You must be an active club member in good standing to receive year end awards. All Riders are eligible to receive daily event awards as well as 2-day overall awards.**

- Ranking of riders is determined by counting their best rides in the competitions represented by best of 10 events per season. A season comprises a full year event schedule as described in event series below.
- Championship points for each event are awarded as follows:
 - Position 1: 15 points
 - Position 2: 12 points
 - Position 3: 10 points
 - Position 4: 8 points
 - Position 5: 6 points
 - Position 6-10: decreases 1 point per position
 - Position 11-20: decreases 0.1 point per position
 - Position 21-40: decreases 0.01 point per position
- Non-club members shall receive event placement points. Riders shall only receive the points earned for their respective placement at each event; no adjustments shall be made for non-club members positions.
- Course Trialsmasters are eligible to receive points for 1 event per season. The points must be assessed to the event in which they were course trialsmaster and shall be placed in their current class. If a rider switches classes during the season, trialsmaster points can be moved to the alternate class at the riders request.
 - Trialsmaster: 14 points
 - Floater: 14 points

H. Rider Classification

Upper Classes:

- **Champ** - The highest skill level classification at the local club level, comparable to the Expert level at the AMA/NATC National Championship competitions.
- **Expert** - A rider at this skill level can readily compete in the AMA/NATC national Expert Sportsman class. The rider should have skills at maneuvering the bike by hopping, climbing undercut rock ledges, lofting the front end for "wheelie drops" and other similar techniques that demonstrate expertise in the sport.
- **Semi-Expert** - A rider at this skill level is competent to participate in the AMA/NATC national support classes. The rider should have skills to include an ability to precisely place the front wheel so as to negotiate obstacles at an angle to the path, even on a steep descent. Often referred to as an "Advanced" skill level.
- **Sportsman** - A rider at this skill level is competent to negotiate steep hills and off-camber turns, can use "un-weighting" techniques to clear logs higher than the skidplate, and can climb obstacles of a moderate height so long as a steep drop-off does not immediately follow.

Lower Classes:

- Intermediate - A rider at this skill level is competent to negotiate steep hills and off-camber turns, and can climb obstacles of a moderate height so long as a steep drop-off does not immediately follow.
- Amateur - A rider at this skill level has the ability to attempt the most basic obstacles including logs, rocky terrain, hills of moderate difficulty, and tight turns. Most riders at this level can overcome logs or small rock ledges by lofting the front of the bike but cannot precisely place the front wheel. Sometimes referred to as an "Intermediate" or "Amateur" skill level.
- Novice - A novice level rider at the entry level to the sport. Obstacles should be small and generally capable of being ridden over without the ability to loft the front wheel. The emphasis for section layout for this level rider should be on basic turns, simple hills and cambers, and control of the bike. Generally referred to as "Novice" skill level.
- Youth or Beginner - In order to promote the sport to young riders, it is desirable to have some very simple sections available that can be ridden by beginning riders on small wheeled bikes. Many clubs have youth sections that are on a totally separate and easy loop from the regular trial loop.
- Other Classifications - Some clubs may include classes specifically for riders of a certain minimum age, or for vintage machines manufactured during a certain time period.

Systems for Observing and Event Organization: Various events may find it necessary to employ various methods for observing. The system utilized will be defined by the trialsmaster prior to the riders meeting.

- Morning/Afternoon Scoring – The club breaks up the groups consisting of morning and afternoon sessions, with rider classes observing in the morning and riding in the afternoon and vice versa. The trialsmaster has the discretion to assign group riding order.
- Group scoring - Small rider turnouts or limited event time may constitute riding in groups of one or more classes who ride together with an individual observer accompanying the group to score all the riders in the group.
- Peer scoring - Small rider turnouts or limited event time may constitute riding in one or more groups, with the riders of each group scoring each other.

I. Events & Series Year-End Awards & Banquet:

Schedule: Events are held the first Sunday of each month with the exception of January unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. Exceptions may be adjustments for 2-day events weekends (i.e. 4th of July, Labor Day Weekend, etc.), Holiday Weekends (i.e. Easter) and special event conflicts (i.e. National & World Round trials events). The season point series shall begin in February and ends in December.

Awards: Following each event, an awards ceremony shall be held to present awards for the days finishes. The ceremony shall be utilized to present event awards, present token of gratitude to trialsmasters and make any important announcements for activities and club events. Awards shall be selected by the board, examples include: plaques, metals, ribbons, etc.

- Event Awards - Event awards shall be presented to the top 3 places in each class. These awards shall be presented at an awards ceremony upon the completion of the event, or weekend's events.
- Trialsmaster Token – A token for trialsmaster efforts shall be given to all trialsmaster as gratitude and shall be presented at an awards ceremony upon the completion of the event, or weekend's events.
- Series Year-End Awards - At the end of each series, special awards shall be given to all riders that completed the required number of events to constitute a full season. These awards shall be an engraved plaque with the rider's class, finishing position, event locations and year. This award will be given to all riders that have ridden a full season as described above.

Banquet: An annual awards banquet shall be held to present series championship awards, elect the next year's board, an solicit trialsmasters for the upcoming season. This function shall consist of dinner and an awards ceremony. Series End Awards shall be presented to the top 3 finishers in each official class. The club shall provide these awards as determined appropriate by the board. This banquet shall be coordinated by the current board and shall include activities such as: special thanks; joke awards, raffles, dinner, slideshows, etc. The board shall have the authority to subsidize this function by means of club funds.