

Florida Trials Association Rules (last revised 2018)

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1.0 FTA Organization

1. The association will be a not-for-profit organization and shall be known as the Florida Trials Association Motorcycle Club, Inc. (FTA). The FTA will provide a yearly championship series in Florida for trials riders who enjoy competing for fun and to promote the sport of observed trials.
2. Elected officers making up the part of the Executive Board will be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers will be elected at the annual meeting held at the conclusion of the competition series, and will take office at the adjournment of that meeting. Other Executive Board members are the Club Directors and Competition Director (Risk Manager).
3. The Competition Director will be responsible for maintaining the championship points for the series.
4. FTA is divided into four clubs-Cahills, Central Florida, FUBAR, and West Coast. Each club will be represented by a Club Director. New members may request to be placed in any club; however the executive board may reassign members amongst the clubs to balance the number of riders within each club. Each event in the yearly championship series will be hosted by one of the clubs, with that clubs' director responsible for organizing the event. Each club will also be responsible for creating and observing sections for the spring two day event.
5. The rulebook will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the executive board after the annual election. Any changes will be completed prior to the beginning of the championship series and will remain in effect until the completion of the series.

2.0 Membership dues

1. Annual membership due amounts will be determined by the executive board. The dues are payable prior to the start of the championship series. Payment of dues on the day of the competition event is accepted, however it is preferred for members to download the membership application on the FTA website and send a check to the secretary prior to the championship series.

2. Only paid FTA members can earn championship points at an event.
3. Membership fees for the 2016-2017 season:
\$20 for individual adult, \$30 for family living in same household (spouse and dependent children)

3.0 Rider Classification

1. There are seven rider classifications based on ability level. Each rider is responsible for establishing their own classification based on their riding abilities, experience, comfort zone, and foremost their own safety. From easiest to most difficult, the classifications are: Novice, Intermediate, Sportsman, Sportsman Advanced, Advanced, Expert, and Champ.
2. Sportsman Advanced riders will ride the Sportsman lines except for the sections marked by the Club Director as SA=A. These should consist of a minimum of 3 of the easier Advanced lines for that trial.
3. Riders may reclassify themselves at any event in the series; however they may only qualify for points in one class per season.
4. A rider wanting to compete in another class other than their normal class can elect to ride exhibition and will not collect points or a trophy for that event.
5. A rider can only ride one class per event. If, after riding a few sections, a rider feels the sections are too challenging or not challenging enough, they may move up or down a class without being penalized. It is the riders' responsibility to make this determination, notify the hosting Club Director, obtain a new scorecard, and re-ride the sections in the new class within the allotted time for the event.
6. At our Promise Ranch Location: All competitors including those riding exhibition must be current AMA members and sign the AMA release at each event.
7. Minor eligibility (copied from 2008 AMA rulebook)
 - a. To compete in a youth meet, an AMA member must be no younger than 7 years of age and no older than 16 years. The referee or clerk of course may ask to see any rider's proof of age at sign-in.
 - b. Parents, legal guardians or authorized adults must remain present at all times during participation of AMA member in any sanctioned youth meet.
 - (1) To authorize a minor to compete, parents, legal guardians or authorized adults must sign below the riders signature on the entry form.
 - (2) The notarized authorization signed by the riders parents or legal guardians giving responsibility to authorized adults must be kept on file with the riders release form.
 - c. The rider must be large enough and mature enough to control his machine at all times and to ride it safely. This includes stopping, starting, standing still, mounting, dismounting and putting one or both feet on the ground. The referee has the authority to disqualify a rider that cannot safely control his/her motorcycle/minicycle.

4.0 Equipment

1. All riders must wear a DOT-95, Snell-M 2000, or any FIM approved helmet whenever operating a motorcycle at a trials site. Bicycle helmets are not permitted.
2. Boots must be worn in all trials. They must be at least eight inches high with either laces, buckles or zippers, or specially designed and constructed for leg and foot protection.
3. All motorcycles must be effectively muffled so the noise level is not irritating to the other riders, observers, or spectators.
4. Riders in the Sportsman class and above must use trials tread pattern tires meeting FIM specifications and which are available to the general public.
5. A rider may start and finish on different bikes.
6. A number plate stating the class the rider is competing in must be on the motorcycle when an event is held with observers.
7. Riders are solely responsible for the condition of their motorcycles and riding gear. The FTA and the event organizers do not assume any responsibility for the inspection or safety of the motorcycles, riding gear, or accessories used by the rider.

5.0 Event Sanctions

1. The FTA executive board will select the schedule and location of events for the championship series. The FTA will sanction a minimum of 6 events for the championship series.
2. The Club Director assigned to a sanctioned event will function as Trials Master and be responsible for providing a trial that is laid out and operated in accordance with the FTA rules. The FTA executive board may disqualify any trial not run in accordance with the FTA rules.
3. In the event of a need to cancel or reschedule a trial, the Club Director must notify the FTA President as soon as possible so the appropriate action can be taken. The Division of Forestry requires a 60 day notification to issue a permit for any event at Croom. The AMA requires a minimum of 25 days notification to sanction and insure an event.
4. The Club Director is responsible for providing the worker/observer list to the Competition Director. The organizing club is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to ensure they have adequate workers.
5. The Club Director is responsible for providing the Competition Director with the complete list of final results after the trial. All ties, discrepancies, and protests are to be resolved before the awards ceremony.
6. The FTA will Sanction a 2-day "fun in the Sun" event every spring in conjunction with Bike Week in Daytona. This event is not a part of the championship series. A NATC national event may be held instead of the normal "Fun in the Sun" event. In the case of a NATC event, the NATC rules shall supersede any conflicting FTA rules.
7. Other events not part of the championship series may be scheduled at the discretion of the executive board. These may include "fun trials", a trials school, or trials demonstrations.
8. To protect the FTA officers, property owners and riders, a Notarized Release

is required for every participant, regardless of age. Please print off from website and have notarized prior to event. Other releases will require your signature also.

6.0 Course and sections

1. The course shall consist of sections in numerical order laid out on a loop. Turns must be marked with arrows. Caution or danger spots on the course must be adequately marked.
2. The design and layout of the sections shall be such that they do not present unrealistic or overly hazardous conditions to riders in the respective class. Trails connecting the sections must not present challenges above the skill level of the lowest class riders. The Club Director may provide alternate routes, separate sections, and/or elimination of sections for lowest class riders if the loop or section is too difficult or dangerous for them to ride. Any alternate loop route, alternate section, or section elimination must be announced at the riders meeting.
3. Each section shall be ridden in numerical order. Any staggered starting will be decided by the Club Director and indicated at the riders meeting. No section shall be ridden twice in a row.
4. Each event will have at least 24 sections and no more than 32.
5. Each section shall be numbered and have clearly marked start gates and end gates 48" minimum width.
6. The sections will progress through gates marked by white ribbon and/or gate markers. Split lines are marked with yellow ribbon. Gate markers should be placed square to the path of the section and firmly attached to a stable object. Gates will be one meter minimum width. Ribbons should be placed below foot peg height. Section boundaries will be marked with white ribbon.
7. Sections should be set up to allow riders to complete a section in less than one minute.
8. Club Directors and/or their representatives should ride the sections to ensure the suitability of the section for each class. No one, including the Club Director, is allowed to ride the line for the class in which they will compete. No competitor is permitted to pre-ride any section unless directed to do so by the Club Director to ensure the suitability of that section for a class other than their own. Club Directors should pay special attention to the effects of changing weather on each section and plan for possible route changes.
9. Sections are considered closed before the start of the event. Walking the sections is permitted the morning of the event.
10. The Club Director or Risk Manager will determine if deterioration from weather or other causes will render a section or parts of the loop dangerous and have the authority to close the section or part of the loop. In the case where some of the riders have already ridden a section before it has been closed, scores for those rides will be deleted from the scorecard and should not be counted from the final score.

7.0 Scoring

1. FTA event scoring will follow the AMA/NATC rules, page 7, listed under Section 6: "Scoring". with the following exceptions:

- a. sections will not be timed
 - b. protests will be handled by the FTA
 - c. no observers will be present if peer scoring
2. The FTA executive board will decide prior to the start of the championship series whether observers or peer scoring will be used. The Fun in the Sun event will be run with observers.
3. When peer scoring is used, riders are not allowed to mark their own scorecard. The scorer must sign the riders' card once all sections are completed. All riders in a class should ride the first loop together to ensure all are riding the intended line. After the first loop is complete, larger classes may break into smaller groups of no less than three. No group can consist of only junior (17 and under) riders without prior approval by the Club Director. No rider may ride a section before the rest of their group arrives.
4. If a rider brushes against a tree, rock, or other terrain object with an elbow, handlebar, etc., and the contact does not noticeably aid the progress of the bike, it should not be considered a dab.
5. Once the rider has completed the event, they should turn their card in as soon as possible.
6. Other site specific rules may be indicated at the riders meeting.
7. It is the riders' responsibility to check his/her scorecard to ensure all sections are correctly punched.
8. Tie scores will be broken using the following steps in order.
 - a. Most cleans scored wins
 - b. Most ones scored wins
 - c. Most twos scored wins
 - d. Most threes scored wins
 - e. Best score in a section wins, starting with the first section that was ridden.
 - f. If the tie cannot be broken based on the preceding steps, the riders will have a ride-off by riding a section one level above their class to determine a winner.

8.0 Rider Protocol

1. Riders should be courteous to spectators and other riders on the loop. Slow down when passing spectators.
2. Riders should not block a section entrance or exit with their bikes.
3. Do not disturb any of the section or course markers. If a ribbon is broken or markers are displaced, they should be repaired/replaced before the next rider enters the section.
4. Stay well clear of a competitor's line while they are riding the section. Riders should not block the view of the observer or peer scorer.
5. No riding backwards on the loop. A rider may be disqualified for this safety infraction.
6. When present, the observer is the authority at the section and should be respected at all times.

9.0 Safety and Protest

1. Club directors and elected officers will act as Sporting Stewards and should evaluate each section and the loop for safety and proper marking prior to the start of the event. Any discrepancies in marking or safety concerns need to be resolved before the competition begins.
2. The hosting Club Director will be responsible for resolving disputes or protests. If necessary, the President or Vice President should be consulted.
3. To lodge a protest in a trial with observers, the rider must first notify the observer that they will submit a protest. This must be in writing and submitted to the Club Director, President, or Vice President. The Club Director will review the protest with the rider and observer and render a decision prior to the close of the trial.
4. To lodge a protest in a peer scored trial, the rider must inform his or her scorer and submit a protest in writing to the Club Director, President, or Vice President. The Club Director will review the protest with the rider and the scorer and render a decision prior to the close of the trial. With peer scoring, by nature, multiple riders should be watching the rider and should try to resolve any disputes at the time they occur.
5. If a rider is severely distracted or his line is blocked by spectators or other riders in the section, he may claim a balk. At the discretion of the section observer, or his or her fellow competitors in a peer scored trial, a re-ride of the section may be permitted, but the re-ride will be the one to be counted.

10.0 FTA Championship series

1. The Championship series is normally scheduled from September through May.
2. The spring two day event is not included in the championship series.
3. Only paid FTA members can receive points in an event. Non FTA members may receive trophies or awards, but their scores are not counted in the championship standings.
4. Points are awarded as per the AMA/NATC system. (NATC 9.D.1.).
5. The number of scores counted for the championship will be equal to one half, plus one of the total FTA events for the season. If an odd number of rounds occur for the season, the number of counted rounds will be equal to one half rounded up, plus one. Example: Best 5 of 8 or best 6 or 9.
6. Tie scores will be broken using the following steps in order. For a. through e., the dropped rounds are NOT considered.
 - a. Most first place finishes wins
 - b. Most second place finishes wins
 - c. Most third place finishes wins
 - d. Most fourth place finishes wins
 - e. Most fifth place finishes wins
 - f. If still tied, all rounds in which both competed will be evaluated. These WILL include the dropped rounds. The rider who came on top in head to head competition wins.
 - g. If still tied in head to head competition, the rider who came out on top by the largest margin wins.
 - h. If still tied, all points are added for all rounds. Low score wins.

11.0 Member work rules

1. The success of the FTA championship series is entirely dependent on the volunteer efforts of its members. Every member is required to contribute at least two work days for the trials hosted by their club during the championship season.
 2. Work requirements for rider members to be eligible for year-end awards:
 - a. Two work days for their clubs' events, and
 - b. One set up day for Fun in the Sun or National, and
 - c. One observing day for Fun in the Sun or National.
 3. All club members are encouraged to help out on as many additional FTA trials as possible.
 4. In the event a FTA member is unable to work their own clubs' event, another person (proxy) will be allowed to work in their absence to enable them to receive credit. The proxy must be approved by the Club Director and the President or Vice President. The Club Director will provide to the Competition Director the name of the proxy and the name of the member for whom the work credit is to be applied.
 5. The Club Director for each event is responsible for providing the Competition Director with the worker list for the event. The Club Director has the sole authority to award work credits for their event.
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