

# Florida Trials Association Rules

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(Revised 10/2025)



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## 1. FTA Organization

1.1. 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.

1.2. Elected officers making up the Executive Board will be:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Officers of the Executive Board 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 Board members, such as the Sporting Steward, may be assigned by the Executive Board throughout the year as needed.

1.3. Duties of Elected officers:

1.3.1. President. The President shall be the final call on any changes to the Rules. The president also represents the FTA at any NATC or other national meetings.

1.3.2. Vice President. The Vice President shall focus on FTA member needs. The vice president (or a delegate) is responsible for maintaining season points and work credits which should be posted on the FTA website (or linked) periodically throughout the series. The VP is also focused on keeping members informed of FTA activities.

1.3.3. Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for all paperwork submissions prior to any series events or special events such as Fun in the Sun or NATC national events. The secretary may delegate duties to willing assistants, but holds the responsibility and authority in how this work is accomplished.

1.3.4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain financial accounts and spending related to the FTA. Account balances shall be reported to the Executive Board Members at least annually.

1.3.5. Sporting Steward (if occupied). If the position is occupied, the Sporting Steward shall review all event sections to ensure the class lines are within the realm of sensibility for the class assigned.

1.4. The rulebook will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the executive board. Any changes will be completed prior to the beginning of the championship series and communicated to the members during the year end meeting (typically in October) and made available on the FTA website once finalized. Rules will remain in effect until the completion of the series.

## 2. Membership Dues

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. Only paid FTA members can earn championship points at an event. Championship points start only after the rider is signed up and membership is paid and are not back credited.
- 2.3. Membership fees:
  - Individual adult: \$20
  - Family (spouse and dependent children living in same household): \$30

Fees may be modified at the beginning of the season to be brought in line with FTA needs.
- 2.4. Member list is displayed on the FTA website (or a link to the list displayed) and should be kept up to date to allow for membership verification.

### 3. Rider Classification

- 3.1. 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
  - Champ
- 3.2. Sportsman Advanced riders will ride the Sportsman lines except for the sections marked as SA=A. These should consist of a minimum of 3 of the easier Advanced lines for that trial.
- 3.3. Riders may reclassify themselves at any event in the series; however they may only qualify for points in one class per season.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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 Trials Master, obtain a new scorecard, and re-ride the sections in the new class within the allotted time for the event.
- 3.6. At our Promise Ranch Location: All competitors including those riding exhibition must be current AMA members and sign the AMA release at each event.
- 3.7. Minor eligibility (copied from 2008 AMA rulebook)
  - 3.7.1. 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.
  - 3.7.2. Parents, legal guardians or authorized adults must remain present at all times during participation of AMA member in any sanctioned youth meet.
    - To authorize a minor to compete, parents, legal guardians or authorized adults must sign below the rider's signature on the entry form.
  
    - 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.

- 3.8. 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. Equipment

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. All motorcycles must be effectively muffled so the noise level is not irritating to the other riders, observers, or spectators.
- 4.4. Riders in the Sportsman class and above must use trials tread pattern tires meeting FIM specifications and which are available to the general public.
- 4.5. A rider may start and finish on different bikes.
- 4.6. A number plate stating the class the rider is competing in must be on the motorcycle when an event is held with observers.
- 4.7. 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. Event Sanctions

- 5.1. 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. A best practice is to assign a Trials Master for each event during the development of the schedule. If this is not possible for each event, a Trials Master may be selected at a later time but must be selected prior to setup day.
- 5.2. The Trials Master shall 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.
- 5.3. In the event of a need to cancel or reschedule a trial, the Trials Master 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.
- 5.4. The Trials Master is responsible for providing the worker/observer list to the FTA Vice President. The Trials Master is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to ensure they have adequate workers. Peer scoring is an acceptable method for obtaining adequate workers for local FTA events only.
- 5.5. The Trials Master is responsible for providing the FTA Vice President with the complete list of final results after the trial. All ties, discrepancies, and protests are to be resolved before the awards ceremony. A picture or other agreed upon method may be used to communicate the final results.
- 5.6. The FTA will sanction a 2-day “fun in the Sun” event every spring in conjunction with Bike Week in Daytona. This event may or may not be a part of the championship series with this determination being made prior to the start of the 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.
- 5.7. 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.
- 5.8. 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. Course and Sections

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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 Trials Master 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.
- 6.3. Each section shall be ridden in numerical order. Any staggered starting will be decided by the Trials Master and indicated at the riders meeting. No section shall be ridden twice in a row.
- 6.4. Each event will have at least 24 sections and no more than 32.
- 6.5. Each section shall be numbered and have clearly marked start gates and end gates 48" minimum width.
- 6.6. 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.
- 6.7. Sections should be set up to allow riders to complete a section in less than one minute.
- 6.8. The Sporting Steward and/or their representatives should ride the sections to ensure the suitability of the section for each class. No one 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 to ensure the suitability of that section for a class other than their own. Setup members and the Sporting Steward should pay special attention to the effects of changing weather on each section and plan for possible route changes.
- 6.9. Sections are considered closed before the start of the event. Walking the sections is permitted the morning of the event.
- 6.10. The Sporting Steward or a delegate 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. Efforts should be made to make this determination prior to the start of the event. 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. Scoring

- 7.1. FTA event scoring will follow the AMA/NATC rules, page 7, listed under Section 6: “Scoring” with the following exceptions:
  - Sections will not be timed
  - Protests will be handled by the Trials Master or an FTA Executive Board member
  - No observers will be present if peer scoring. With 50/50 scoring, riders will be split up into morning and afternoon groups with the afternoon group observing for the morning riders and vice versa.
- 7.2. The FTA executive board will decide prior to the start of the championship series whether observers or peer scoring will be used. The FTA executive board will determine how the Fun in the Sun event will be run, which scoring method will be used and if it will be part of the FTA series.
- 7.3. When peer scoring is used, riders are not allowed to mark their own scorecard and must exchange scorecards with other riders in their class. The scorer must tally the points and 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. No group can consist of only junior (17 and under) riders without prior approval by the Trials Master and FTA President or Vice President. No rider may ride a section before other members of their group arrives.

Any rider not following these rules will receive a DNF for the day. These rules are not enforced if a class has less than 2 riders for the day.
- 7.4. 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. Tree dabs, shoulder dabs, leaning and other instances when a part of the motorcycle or rider are noticeably providing support other than the rubber of the tires or the bottom of the skid plate will be considered a dab.
- 7.5. Once the riders have completed the event, the scorer shall tally the points, sign the scorecard and turn their card in as soon as possible. It is recommended this be done together immediately after finishing the last loop prior to returning to vehicles.
- 7.6. Other site specific rules may be indicated at the riders meeting.
- 7.7. It is the riders’ responsibility to check his/her scorecard to ensure all sections are correctly punched.

7.8. Tie scores will be broken using the following steps in order.

Most cleans scored wins

Most ones scored wins

Most twos scored wins

Most threes scored wins

Best score in a section wins, starting with the first section that was ridden.

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. Rider Protocol

- 8.1. Riders should be courteous to spectators and other riders on the loop. Slow down when passing spectators.
- 8.2. Riders should not block a section entrance or exit with their bikes.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. 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.
- 8.5. No riding backwards on the loop. A rider may be disqualified for this safety infraction.
- 8.6. When present, the observer is the authority at the section and should be respected at all times.

## 9. Safety and Protest

- 9.1. If no Sporting Steward has been selected or is not available, an elected officer will act as Sporting Steward 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. It is advised that the Trials Master accompany the Sporting Steward during the evaluation.
- 9.2. The Trials Master will be responsible for resolving disputes or protests. If necessary, the President or Vice President should be consulted.
- 9.3. 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 Trials Master, President, or Vice President. The Trials Master will review the protest with the rider and observer and render a decision prior to the close of the trial.
- 9.4. 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 Trials Master, President, or Vice President. The Trials Master 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.
- 9.5. 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. FTA Championship Series

- 10.1. The Championship series is normally scheduled from September through May.
- 10.2. The spring two day event is not included in the championship series.
- 10.3. 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.
- 10.4. Points are awarded as per the AMA/NATC system. (NATC 9.D.1.).
- 10.5. 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 of 9.
- 10.6. Tie scores will be broken using the following steps in order:
  - Most first place finishes wins (dropped rounds not considered)
  - Most second place finishes wins (dropped rounds not considered)
  - Most third place finishes wins (dropped rounds not considered)
  - Most fourth place finishes wins (dropped rounds not considered)
  - Most fifth place finishes wins (dropped rounds not considered)
  - 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.
  - If still tied in head to head competition, the rider who came out on top by the largest margin wins.
  - If still tied, all points are added for all rounds. Low score wins

## 11. Member Work Rules

The success of the FTA championship series is entirely dependent on the volunteer efforts of its members. Every member is required to contribute as described below during the FTA championship season in order to qualify for year-end awards.

11.1. Work requirements for rider members to be eligible for year-end awards:

Two setup work days for regular FTA series events, and

One setup day for Fun in the Sun and two setup days for the National if FTA is hosting a National, and

One observing day for Fun in the Sun; and one for the National (if held).

11.2. All FTA members are encouraged to help out on as many additional trials as possible.

11.3. In the event a FTA member is unable to observe the National due to riding the 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 President or Vice President. It is the responsibility of the rider to provide the name of the proxy and the name of the member for whom the work credit is to be applied.

11.4. The Trials Master for each event is responsible for providing the Vice President with the worker list for the event. The Trials Master has the sole authority to award work credits for their event. The Trials Master has the authority to withhold work credit from anyone who is deemed to not have done their fair share of work to qualify – simply showing up is not enough to gain credit.

11.5. Anyone serving as Secretary has automatically earned all work requirements for the year. This is due to the large amount of work done by persons in this position before and after each event. In the case that someone has been in the role for less than the full season, a minimum of 3 events will qualify for credit.

11.6. Any duties assigned by an FTA Executive Board member or Trials Master for the Fun in the Sun or a National on the day of the event may count as a member's observing requirement, at the discretion of the FTA Executive Board. This is to give credit for tasks such as minding the gate, scoring or acting as Trials Master or Sporting Steward.