

**AMA/NETA Sanctioned Trials Event
GUIDELINES**

Revised January 10, 2011

New for 2011

- **Suggestion to add “Next Section” numbers to loop markers**
- **Suggestion to add signs with numbers of gates at section start**
- **Reminder that all gate marker arrows should face inward and towards each other**
- **Suggestion to bring attention to gate markers that are obstructed (from the rear or sides) with a yellow ribbon that is visible from all angles**
- **Reminder that the AMA now requires event insurance payment in advance**
- **Reminder that no new events can be added after April 15th**

Important note: This guide is intended to assist clubs when setting up and conducting NETA sanctioned trials events. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information but the current NETA rulebook officially documents all details, rules and regulations and takes precedence over this guide in any discrepancies that might arise. Both documents should be referenced when conducting NETA sanctioned events.

Sanctioning Your Event

Follow these steps when sanctioning a NETA Championship event:

1. Propose your event date at the annual NETA business meeting or through NETA officers after that. All proposed dates must be submitted to the NETA at least 60 days prior to the event for Championship consideration. Start time, location and clerk of the course must be established at this time. No new events will be scheduled after April 15th.
2. Complete an AMA "Competition Sanction" and "Competition Insurance" form and submit it to the AMA, preferably 90 days prior to your event. Payment for insurance must be submitted before a sanction will be issued. Current AMA sanction and insurance forms can be downloaded from the AMA website at:

www.amadirectlink.com/organizers/resources

It is the sole responsibility of the sponsoring club to obtain an AMA competition sanction and insurance. You must receive the sanction form and insurance prior to the event or it will not be sanctioned (by either the AMA or NETA). **The NETA must be named as "Additional Insureds" on the AMA insurance application.**

Sponsoring clubs must also provide AMA membership applications and liability forms at each event. Complete and submit a supply order form (also available on the AMA website) for AMA membership application pads, Adult release/waiver and Minor release forms and send it along with the sanction and insurance forms.

3. Complete an NETA sanction application form and send it to the NETA secretary at least two weeks prior to the event. Provide any information about the event that you want posted in the newsletter and website. Beside the required starting time, location, directions, clerk of the course and contact person with telephone numbers, please include the following that may apply: on-site camping restrictions, local campgrounds, other lodging, food concessions, special information, land use restrictions and events to benefit special causes, etc.
4. Make sure that your event is listed on the NETA Championship schedule. Your proper event date should appear on our newsletter and website schedules.

Classes and Section Categories

There are 14 NETA competition classes that compete for year end points:

Rookie	May ride easier “C” lines in some Novice sections but should also include some unique sections. Rookies ride 3 loops.
Junior	Rides Novice sections, “C” lines, 3 loops.
Women	Rides Novice sections, “C” lines, 4 loops.
Novice	Rides Novice sections, “C” lines, 4 loops.
Senior C	Rides Novice sections, “C” lines, 4 loops.
Vintage	Rides Novice sections, “B” lines, 4 loops.
Sportsman	Rides Novice sections, “B” lines, 5 loops.
Senior B	Rides Novice sections, “B” lines, 4 loops.
Senior A	Rides Novice sections, “A” lines, 4 loops.
Intermediate	Rides Novice sections, “A” lines, 5 loops.
Senior Advanced	Rides Expert sections, “B” lines, 4 loops.
Advanced	Rides Expert sections, “B” lines, 5 loops.
Expert	Rides Expert sections, “A” lines, 5 loops.
Championship	Rides Expert sections, “CH” lines*, 4 loops.

* Championship lines consist of “A” and “CH” gates.

Youth In addition to the above, a non-championship points Youth class will be offered. Although all classes are mandatory at NETA sanctioned events, there are some venues that prohibit non-trials bike tires, thus disqualifying some Youth riders’ bikes. If Youth classes are not offered, event organizers will give notice in the NETA newsletter and on the NETA website.

Section Design

General Practices

When designing sections, keep the class of the rider in mind. Verify the difficulty level of the sections by having a rider from that class, who will not be competing, ride the sections.

Keep weather conditions in mind. Wet conditions can sometimes make a moderately difficult section impossible. For difficult sections, plan foul weather changes.

Well-designed sections have more than one line. Try to provide options for the riders. Some riders excel at difficult turns but are less skilled at hits. Others will go for the intimidating hit, avoiding difficult turns. Multiple lines bring more strategy to the sport. See the current NETA rulebook for rules on section marking.

It is recommended that you indicate the number of gates at the start of each section.

Gate markers should be clearly visible with arrows facing each other. Arrows must only be visible from the direction that the gate is to be ridden through.

Gate markers that are obstructed (from the rear or sides) should be highlighted with a yellow ribbon that is visible from all angles.

Youth sections will utilize open turns and very small or no obstacles. Youth classes will include sections and a loop segregated from all other classes and with a dedicated Youth Trialsmaster. Youth classes will start one (1) hour earlier than adult classes.

Separate Rookie Sections

Separate Rookie sections should be designed to provide an introduction to motorcycle control. The turns should be wide enough to allow negotiating with non-trials type motorcycles. Logs, rocks and other obstacles should be small, allowing for bikes with minimal ground clearance.

Novice Sections

Junior, Novice, Sportsman, Intermediate, Senior A, Senior B, Senior C, Vintage, Women and sometimes Rookie class riders compete in the Novice sections—thus a large number of riders. Provide an area near the start for riders to line up and wait to enter the section. Novice sections require “C” gates for Rookie, Junior, Novice and Senior “C” riders, “B” gates for Sportsman, Senior B and Vintage riders and “A” gates for Intermediate and Senior A riders. Two to three gates per line are adequate for each section.

“C” line:

should be easy, allowing riders with no previous trials riding experience to gradually enter the sport at their own pace. They should test basic trial skills, such as turns and cambers. They should include gentle climbs, small size logs and hits less than 1 foot high. When in doubt, err on the easy side.

“B” line (in Novice sections):

should be more difficult than “C” line. They should test basic trial skills, such as turns, cambers, moderate climbs, moderate size logs and hits less than 2 feet high.

“A” line (in Novice sections):

should be more difficult than “B” and “C” line. They should have bigger hits with less-defined approaches, tight turns, combinations of turns, steeper climbs and climbs with turns.

Expert Sections

Advanced, Expert and Championship class riders will compete in these sections. Separate “B”, “A” and “CH” gates are required for each class. Championship riders ride both “A” and “C” gates.

Championship line.

Championship riders must ride all “A” and “CH” gates, The Championship line should be designed to test riders with top level, national caliber trials skills. They should include large hits requiring splatter techniques with little room to prepare, steep climbs with obstacles and turns requiring advanced techniques, such as floaters or flick-turns.

Expert line.

Expert riders must ride all “A” gates (in Expert sections).

The Expert line should be designed to test very advanced trials skills. They should include large hits with little room to prepare, sometimes requiring splatter techniques, steep climbs with obstacles and turns requiring advanced techniques, such as floaters or flick-turns.

Advanced line.

Advanced and Senior Advanced riders must ride all "B" gates (in Expert sections).

The Advanced line can have obstacles similar to those used in the Expert line, but a significantly easier approach to the obstacle should be provided. Hits can be smaller, less vertical, or have a kicker on the approach.

Special Note: Above all, no section should be constructed so as to pose a significant risk of injury to competitors, workers or spectators. Any section deemed inappropriate may be changed or eliminated.

Loop Design

A typical loop has eight Expert and eight Novice sections and is approximately 2 miles in length. There may be separate loops for Novice and Expert sections or combinations of both. If all classes, except Rookie are riding the same loop, it must be easy enough to be negotiable by the least proficient riders.

Avoid two-way traffic. This includes entering and exiting the pit area. If necessary, use ribbon to separate the entrance and exit to the pit area.

It is recommended that you add signs along the loop that indicate the next section number.

Attendance at events can be substantial at times, particularly in Novice sections, creating long waiting lines to enter the first few sections of the first loop. Staggering or starting classes at different sections decreases waiting lines. For example, Novice and Senior B classes might start at Section 1 and Intermediate and Senior A classes at Section 2.

Starting some classes at Section 2 (or another section) means that Section 2 should be close to the pits, or a spur trail is needed to efficiently get the riders back without forcing them to ride the entire loop twice. A long loop might spread the riders out and decreases the waiting at sections, but is less effective than staggering the start section. A long loop may also require that you extend the event time beyond the standard four hours. A long loop is not recommended for this reason.

Another suggestion to help minimize lines is to make the first few sections fairly short and straight forward, with a good separation in between. This also helps get the riders back out on the loop and spread out.

Youth classes will include sections and a loop segregated from all other classes. Youth Trialsmasters should consider rider skill limitations when laying out the loop for Youth riders on small motorcycles.

Facilities

Sanitary Facilities

A minimum of one sanitary facility is required at all NETA sanctioned events.

Concessions

Food, drink, and T-shirt concessions are a good way for the sponsoring club to make additional profit from the event. They also promote the sport by making it more enjoyable to spectators and competitors alike.

Personnel and Task Outline

Event Workers

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring club to coordinate and report individuals who are working the event to fulfill year end points requirements. One person, usually the Trialsmaster, should be responsible for recording and posting these workers names along with the final results.

Hosting trials requires a significant number of course workers for an event.

If possible, two observers should be posted at each section. One worker observes the ride, while the other is responsible for punching the loop-cards. These duties should remain consistent throughout the entire event. A rider can enter the section while the previous rider's card is being punched although they must be waived in by the observer. This is a particularly useful technique at Novice sections to keep waiting lines to a minimum.

A best practice is to pair up an experienced observer with an inexperienced person to provide the best possible scoring. This will also allow the inexperienced person to gain some knowledge without having the pressure of scoring.

All observers should be briefed on the basic rules before the event.

Another worker is needed to escort the Rookie riders around their loop and help them in the sections. This worker should be a trials rider with some experience and responsibility because he or she may be working with children, providing guidance and promoting the sport.

At least two workers are necessary for signing up event participants. These workers usually also score the event.

If concessions are provided, workers may be needed there also.

Awards

See the NETA rulebook for recommended awards.

AMA Liability Waivers

All riders, workers and spectators must sign an AMA 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 requires that a worker with the liability waiver be positioned at the entrance, which helps to capture every signature. Competitors are required to sign a second AMA liability waiver at sign-up.

AMA Membership

All riders must be current, full AMA members or they will not be allowed to ride at an NETA event. AMA membership must be made available by the sponsoring club at all NETA events.

NETA Membership

All riders must be current NETA members or have valid NETA One-Day Passes to ride at an NETA event. NETA memberships and One-Day Passes will be made available by NETA officers at all NETA events.

Event Day Sign-up

Event sign-up should begin at least 2 hours before the start time.

Event Sign-up

The sponsoring club is responsible for event sign-up.

1. The rider must complete an AMA release form. Keep all copies of the release form. AMA Adult and Minor liability release forms must be ordered when applying for your AMA sanction and insurance applications. Supply order forms are available on the AMA website.
2. If the rider is a minor, all release forms must be completed and signed by a Legal guardian.
3. The rider must complete an event sign-up form.
4. A rider must be an NETA member as indicated by a current NETA sticker on his/her AMA card.
5. A rider must be a current AMA member (as indicated by a current AMA card) in order to be signed up. If not, the sponsoring club must provide and accept new AMA membership applications, collect the current AMA membership fee and submit it along with the application to the AMA after the event.
6. Collect an event fee from each rider - \$10 for Rookie and Youth - \$25 for all other classes
7. Give loop cards to each rider — one for each loop based on class requirements.

Event Proceedings

Significant activities that must be handled during the event are:

1. Mandatory riders' meeting must take place before the start of an event -- usually 10 minutes before the start time. Penalty and disqualification times must be established at this point and cannot change during the event. The number of loops for each class, starting section for each class, and starting point for Rookies should all be discussed at this meeting.
2. Establish and identify the official time clock (usually the NETA clock provided by an NETA official).
3. A place for riders to deliver their loop-cards must be established.
4. Scorekeepers will begin collecting loop cards (after each loop) and recording scores.
5. When the half hour penalty period expires, scores are posted along with a list of event workers.
6. An additional half-hour protest period begins after the scores are posted. The scores are final at the conclusion of the protest period.
7. Awards presentation.

After the Event

After the event, some paperwork and expenses must be taken care of:

1. The NETA Vice President/Scorekeeper will collect the final scores and list of event workers.
2. The NETA Treasurer will collect event fees:

NETA Sanction:	\$50
Loop-cards	@ NETA cost per card
National Rider Fund	\$1/rider

3. The sponsoring club must complete and submit the AMA referee's report. The AMA copy of all the release forms must be sent to the AMA along with the referee's report and any new and unused AMA membership applications plus fees.

4. Refer to the instructions on the AMA website for what to do if an injury occurs at your event.

Thank you for sponsoring an NETA event!

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact any of the following NETA Officers:

<u>Bill McCormick – President</u>	Tel: 401-732-2246
<u>George Truesdale – VP/Scorekeeper</u>	Tel: 401-333-0523
<u>Ron Delgado – Treasurer</u>	Tel: 603-361-3509
<u>Steve Christensen – Secretary/Membership</u>	Tel: 603-924-4363

All Board members can also be reached by e-mail via the NETA website

Visit New England Trials Association’s Official Website at:
<http://www.newenglandtrials.org>