

NETA “GETTING STARTED BROCHURE”

Welcome to New England Trials Association (NETA). This brochure is designed to provide newcomers with an overview of the key things that a trials rider should consider and account for when competing in a NETA event. Be advised that although this brochure covers most of the key items it does not necessary cover all of them as this somewhat dependent on each riders personnel circumstances. Further, the NETA rules provided in this brochure are subject to change without notice and are for general guidance only. All riders should familiarize themselves with rules in the current NETA rulebook prior to entering a NETA event.

The Topics covered in this brochure include:

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1. **Arrival Time:** It's recommended that riders arrive at the event site by 8:30am if possible to allow ample time for getting set up, registration, riding the loop to inspect sections and having time to have a quick snack before starting the event.

2. **Event Schedule:**
 - a. Registration time – Registration time is from 9:00am to 11:00am, however, it is highly recommended that riders (especially those riding the Youth Class) register ASAP as the line can become very long.
 - b. Riders meeting – There's typically an announcement made to all the riders (accept youth) at 10:45am which covers any changes that have been made to section/loops, start/end times, etc. Riders should make a point to hear this announcement. (NETA rules say attendance is required.)
 - c. Start/end time and grace period – All classes (except youth) start at 11:00am and end at 3:00pm. All riders are allowed a 30 minute grace period but are penalized ½ point for each min after 3:00pm and are disqualified if they arrive after 3:30pm. The Youth A & B classes start at 10:00 am and run about 1½ hrs depending on the number of riders.
 - d. Awards – Scores are posted up till 4:00pm and awards are typically presented from 4:00pm to 4:30pm. All grievances must be addressed and resolved before 4:00pm.

3. **Registration Requirements:**
 - a. AMA memberships – All riders are required to have a valid American Motorcycle Association (AMA) membership card which may be obtained at the event or in advance from the AMA website. The cost is \$39. Credit cards may be used for AMA membership only.
 - b. NETA memberships - All riders are required to have a valid NETA membership which may be obtained at the event; for advanced NETA membership go the NETA web page, download the form and send in your membership application at least one month before your first event. The cost is \$30 for annual members and \$10 for new members. One day passes are also available for \$5
 - c. Event Fees & method of payment – All riders (except minors riding Youth and Beginner Classes) are required to pay a \$25 event fee. Minors riding Youth and Beginner Classes pay a \$10 fee.
 - d. Method of payment – Cash or check only (no credit card processing capability)
 - e. Liability forms – All riders are required to sign a liability waiver form upon entering the event site and another AMA waiver at registration. All minors require signature from parent or legal guardian.
 - f. Plate number – All riders must have a number plate with a NETA rider number on it in order to compete. NETA rider numbers can be obtained at the event or in advance at the time of NETA membership. Number plate layout must conform to the NETA rule book.

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- g. Minders – There is no fee for minders, however, minders must still register as a minder and must have a AMA membership, NETA membership (or day pass), sign all liability waivers, and have yellow MINDER card covering their number plate. This card will be provided at registration. Also, minders bikes must comply with local rules & regulations for the given event.
- h. Insurance Coverage - Be advised that NETA's insurance coverage (through the AMA) is for liability coverage to NETA and the hosting club only. It does not cover injury or medical payments to the riders unless a lawsuit is placed and won. Each rider is expected to have his own suitable medical/liability insurance protection.
- i. Minors – All minors must have a parent or legal guardian present at all times and same shall comply with all town, state, and federal laws and statues pertaining to minors participating in an observed trials event for the location of that particular event.

4. Key points of contact at an event:

- a. Trials Master – All questions concerning a specific event should be addressed to the “Trials Master or Clerk of the Course” whose name may be obtained in advance from the NETA website or by asking at the event.
- b. Dealers – There are typically dealers for GASGAS, Sherco, Beta, Montesa and Scorpa at each event with some spare parts and/or technical advice to offer. Ask around if you need help locating them at the event.

5. Accommodations & Facilities:

- a. Food & drink – Don't count on it ...Bring your own.
- b. Parking – Parking varies from event site to event site but all are able to accommodate trucks and trailers. Some can accommodate RV's but one needs to contact the hosting club in advance to be sure. It pays to arrive early to secure a good parking spot.
- c. Lodging/camping – Riders need to do their own research for locating nearby lodging. Camping is available at some events but riders need to contact the hosting club in advance to be sure.
- d. Toilets- All event sites will have at least a port-a-potty.

- 6. **Important website:** The New England Trials Association (NETA) website is the primary source for New England trials riders. This site provides the event schedule, directions, event results, NETA rules & forms, fees, POC info, and much more. The site is <http://www.newenglandtrials.org/>

7. Miscellaneous Tip:

- a. **Loop cards** –
 - i. Loop cards are issued to all riders (including Youth) at registration and these are best carried around the neck with a neck chain having a clip. Making a small slot in the top of each card for the clips provides extra security. Some riders prefer to clip the card to the throttle cable with a paper binder clip. Either way, only one card is clipped at a time and the rest stowed in a secure location until needed on the next loop. Do not lose your cards!
 - ii. Loop cards for each loop must be turned in immediately after completing each loop. There will be a designated turn-in site that's generally located near the registration area.
- b. **Refueling** – Riders should start with a full tank and refuel again before the third loop to avoid running out fuel while on the loop or in a section. Bring at least 1 extra gallon of fuel.
- c. **Hydration/nutrition** – Riders are encouraged to stay well hydrated during and an event and this is best accomplished by carrying a hydration pack such as a Camelbak. Nutrition is equally important so riders should carry high energy snack foods in a fanny pack which can be eaten throughout the event, such as before or after completing a section. Gu Gels and alike serve well for this purpose.
- d. **Time management** – All riders, particularly those riding 5 loops in the novice/intermediate lines, should try to ride the loop and check out all the sections in advance to save time. Be advised that you may only “WALK” the sections prior to the event and that you may not alter them in any way without the approval of the Trials Master of that event. Novice and Intermediate riders (riding 5 loops) should plan to hydrate and eat during the event as discussed above to save time.
- e. **Maintenance** – Riders should bring a basic tool box and carry a small tool kit for minor field repairs. These should include spare levers, tire pump and pressure gauge, flat repair kit, tie-wraps, spark plug, master link, screw driver and wrenches.

8. Riding The loop:

- a. **Length** –
 - i. Novice/intermediate & Advanced/expert riders ride a loop that's typically two to three miles long, consists of eight (8) sections and are req'd to ride 5 loops. Senior riders ride 4 loops.
 - ii. Juniors typically ride the same sections as novice/intermediate but are required to only do three (3) loops. Juniors ride the B line but must follow the C – Splits when provided.
 - iii. Beginners typically ride their own loop which consists of 5 to 7 sections that are ridden 4 to 5 times.
 - iv. Youth ride in a separate area that consists of 6 sections which are generally located near the parking area.
- b. **Signs/direction** – All loops and sections are marked with signs. You are not allowed to go backwards on the loop.

9. Riding Sections:

- a. Be sure not to skip any sections as you will be penalized
- b. Pay close attention to the number of splits noted at the start of each section and where the splits occur. A missed split is an automatic 5 points.
- c. Loop cards are occasionally mispunched by the checkers and should always be checked by the rider, and corrected if needed, before proceeding to the next section.
- d. It's best to check each section before riding for any changes that may have occurred.

10. Safety Reminders:

- a. You **MUST** always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle at ANY time at an event or you risk being disqualified.
 - b. You must adhere to the noted speed limits in the parking/pit areas which are typically 15mph.
 - c. It's recommended that riders wear the appropriate protective gear which includes, but not limited to, riding boots, knee pads, elbow pads, and glasses.
 - d. Bring a basic first aid kit as not all events are equipped with first aid supplies.
 - e. Go through bike prior to an event to ensure everything on the bike is functioning correctly.
 - f. Parents or legal guardian of a minor rider must be present at the event at all times and preferable within sight in the case of youth and beginner riders. Kids are not to ride around in the pit area unsupervised.
 - g. You are advised to inspect all sections prior to riding them and if the section appears beyond your ability, you should not ride the section and should ask the checker to score you a 5.
11. **Trials Schools:** A variety of trials schools are often available in New England and at the Trials Training Center (TTC) in Tennessee for all riding levels. Trials schools are very beneficial to new riders and their availability is often posted in the NETA Newsletter and TTC websites. The TTC website is <http://www.trialstrainingcenter.com/>
12. **Youth Class:** This is an introductory program geared towards young kids (typically age 10 and under) that already know how to ride a motorcycle but have no trials riding experience and/or have bikes that aren't specially designed for trials. This is a non-competitive class with no year end points. All riders receive a medallion for participating in the event. Parents or legal guardians should be present to support and assist their child as needed. The youth class offers an "A" line and a "B" line with the A line being the harder line.
13. **NETA Rule Book:** The NETA rule book contains a complete listing of all the rules and requirements for a NETA event and this book is available electronically in PDF format off the NETA website <http://www.newenglandtrials.org/>
14. **Clubs and Forums:** There are a variety of trials clubs in New England that participate and support both NETA and Non-NETA events. New riders can greatly benefit from joining a club in their area and meeting fellow riders. A listing of the various clubs that participate in NETA events can be found on the event schedule on the NETA website. There are also a variety of Trials forums where riders can get answers to many questions regarding riding gear, bike performance/maintenance, riding tips, etc. The Trials MC-List is one of those forums <http://www.micapeak.com/lists/mctrials> Another is www.nedb.com.