

DABBERS TRIALS CLUB RULES v5

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLUB

- Aim of the club: To encourage newcomers to trials of all ages and make them feel welcome. To set up trials that are not frightening to beginners but be a reasonable challenge that will provide a sense of achievement.
The social aspect of the club will be maintained by stopping for lunch break during events and organising social evenings etc.
- Eligibility: Riders of all ages and ability are welcome, although Dabbers events will never be laid out to be challenging to an expert on a modern machine.
The club is primarily a classic trials club that encourages the use of pre-70 and twinshock machines. However, entries from Juniors (under 16) and Veterans (over 70) with modern bikes will be accepted. Riders must pre-enter events and most trials are closed to club members.
- Club involvement: All competing club members are requested to provide assistance during at least one event per season by providing an observer or assisting during setup etc. Observers are the most important people at a trial – without them, the event cannot go ahead.
- Conduct: All riders and officials must conduct themselves in a civilised and light-hearted manner. Un-sportsman like or offensive behaviour towards officials or fellow riders cannot be tolerated at Dabbers events. Should such an incident occur, the Clerk of Course or another appointed official may ask the offender to leave the event. Depending on the severity of the incident, an enquiry may be held and further action taken.

GENERAL

The object of observed trials is to ride specified "sections" with "Start", "Intermediate" and "End" gates. Scoring will be based on the "points-lost" (marks) system. The numerical score will increase from a starting score of zero. Final placement will be the inverse of the numerical score; i.e. the lowest score wins. The sections are laid out in a loop configuration, where the competitor rides each of the sections one at a time to form a lap.

PRE-REQUISITS

1. All competitors must sign on and pay the required entrance fee before the competition begins. Riders under the age of 18 must be signed in by a parent or guardian.
2. Riders must pre-enter the competition as described on the club's website. Entries on the day of the event are not accepted.
3. The competitor's machine must conform to the class entered. A change to a different machine may be allowed if agreed by the Clerk of the Course.
4. Number cards will be issued and these must be clearly displayed on the front of the machine. Number cards are to be returned to the organisers after the event.
5. All riders must wear a correctly fastened crash helmet and boots, and be appropriately dressed (no shorts etc).
6. The Clerk of the Course may appoint a scrutineer to check the condition of machines and riding equipment. If a machine or riding equipment fails to pass the safety and eligibility checks it will not be allowed to compete unless corrective measures have been taken that are to the scrutineer's satisfaction.
7. A "rider briefing" to give final instructions will take place immediately before the event starts. All competitors must attend.

JUNIORS

Juniors are very welcome at all the club's trials. However, there are restrictions as to machine engine capacities as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 7 to 9 year olds | Maximum 80cc |
| 10 to 12 year olds | Maximum 125cc |
| 13 to 15 year olds | Maximum 250cc |

In the interests of safety, the Clerk of the Course or Observers may prevent a rider from competing if he or she is clearly incapable of safely handling the machine.

SCORING

Section Scoring shall begin when the machine's front wheel axle passes the "Start" gate markers and stops when the front axle passes the "End" gate markers. Section points are allocated as follows:

| Error | Penalty Points (mark) |
|---|-----------------------|
| None (clean) | 0 |
| One dab | 1 |
| Two dabs | 2 |
| Three or more dabs | 3 |
| Failure in a section | 5 |
| Section not attempted (observer informed before hand) | 5 |
| Section not attempted (observer NOT informed before hand) | 10 |

A rider is penalised in each section only for the one error that results in the most penalty points. In any given section, penalties are not cumulative, except for the first three "dabs." (Example: If a rider dabs twice before riding out of bounds, the score for the section is 5 points, not 7).

Scoring is further explained in "Definitions" at the end of this document.

THE COURSE

Sections will be separately numbered and should be ridden in numerical sequence. No section may be ridden more than once per lap unless directed by the Clerk of the Course. Riders shall start Lap One at the point designated at the rider's meeting by the Clerk of the Course or his representative. Second and subsequent laps will start at the same point. The route to be taken between sections will be announced before the trial starts. The route will be marked when required.

It is the sole responsibility of the rider to make sure that the required number of laps and sections within the laps are completed. Un-attempted sections will be scored as in the table above.

Veterans (over 70s) can ride one less lap and are considered to have completed the trial. For example: at a 3 lap trial, only the first 2 laps will be scored. They are welcome to ride the final lap if they wish.

GENERAL RULES

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct or offensive behaviour can result in a penalty of 10 points at the sole discretion of any Observer or authorised event official. A serious case of such behaviour will be reported to the Clerk of the Course who may disqualify the rider from the competition.
2. Practice in any marked section before or during the event will result in disqualification of the rider from the event. Riders may stop and inspect sections on foot prior to riding for a score, providing their machine is parked out of the section.
3. Whilst walking the section, a rider that alters a section by moving rocks, making a path, changing the condition of the section, etc. shall be given a score of 5 by the Observer for that section.

4. When a rider leaves his/her machine to inspect the section, the machine does not hold the rider's place in line. When the rider returns to the motorcycle, he/she goes to the back of the line. Failure to do so may result in a 5-point penalty.
5. The rider must obtain permission from the Observer to ride into the section for a score. Failure to obtain permission may result in a score of 5 points if the Observer is unable to monitor the competitor's ride though the entire section.
6. All persons walking the section must immediately vacate when a rider enters the observed section. The competitor riding for a score always has the right-of-way within a section. Failure of others to vacate can be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct.
7. If, whilst riding a section for a score, a rider is severely distracted or his/her line is blocked by spectators, other riders, an animal, blowing debris, etc. The rider may claim an "Obstruction" and request a re-ride. At the discretion of the Observer, a re-ride of the section may be permitted. Any score lost up to the point of the blocking will stand and be added to any score lost beyond that point on the second attempt.

RESULTS

1. Preliminary results may be announced at the end of the event. Official results may be published later by email and/or post if a stamped and addressed envelope was provided by the rider. Results may also be posted on the Dabbers web site. The rider with the lowest number of points will be declared the winner in each classification.
2. In the case of a tied score, the riders concerned will share the position in the results table. Championship points (if applicable for the event) will be awarded to all riders sharing the position. Example: If two riders tie for first place in the class, they will both be awarded championship points for a class win. There will be no second place, and third place will receive points as normal.
3. Retirements: If a rider completes at least one full lap before retiring, the rider will be scored as having finished the event. Missed sections being scored as in the table above. It is the responsibility of the rider to inform the observers of the retirement.

PROTESTS

1. The section Observer is responsible for determining the penalties (if any) for each attempt at the section. If a rider disagrees with the score, he/she may discuss it with the observer, without inconveniencing or delaying other riders, and the Observer will decide if the score is to be altered. Riders will not challenge the Observer's decision further. If the disagreement is not settled in this manner, a protest may be lodged with the Clerk of the Course who will make a final ruling.
2. No competitor may protest another rider's score in a section.
3. Any rider may protest any matter relating to the event. All protests must be lodged with the Clerk of the Course who may ask for the details to be presented in writing. The Clerk of the Course shall render all decisions on protests as soon as possible.
4. Even though preliminary results may be announced on the day of the event, the results shall not become official until all decisions on protests have been finalised and the results have been checked for incorrect calculations.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. **Axle In - Axle Out:** All scoring is to take place as the front wheel axle passes an imaginary straight line between the "Start" markers and all scoring is to cease as the front axle passes an imaginary straight line between the "End" markers.
2. **Clerk of the Course:** The Clerk of the Course is the person with final authority for all aspects of the event, and can perform any of the workers' duties on the day.
3. **Retired or DNF (Did Not Finish):** A competitor who retires before attempting all sections on the first lap is DNF and will not receive points but will be marked as 'R' or 'Retired' on the score sheet.
4. **Observer:** Any event official who is authorised to score a competitor's ride. Observers report directly to the Clerk of the Course.
5. **Riders' Meeting or briefing:** Meeting for all competitors, prior to start time, at which the Clerk of the Course or deputy gives the final instructions for the day's event.

SECTION SCORING DEFINITIONS

1. **Clean:** No points (zero). The rider completes the section with no penalties.
2. **Dabs**
 - Rider removes a foot from the footpeg and touches the ground once or pushes off an object such as a tree, or removes hand from the handlebar to touch or "push off" an object = 1 point (or dab).
 - Leaning against an object such as a tree to prevent a foot touching the ground = 1 point.
 - Rider commits the error above twice = 2 points (2 dabs).
 - Rider commits the error above three or more times, or "paddles" with both feet = 3 points.
3. **Failure** The following examples will result in a score of five points:
 - Rider or machine knocks over a section marker that requires the marker to be reset or repaired. (Touching the markers or boundary tape but not breaking or dislodging it, is not a penalty).
 - Missing a marker: rider completely misses or goes on the wrong side of a marker, including gates within a section.
 - Out of section: machine is ridden outside the boundaries of the section.
 - Backwards motion, whether intentional or not, with or without the rider dabbing.
 - Rider dismounts: both feet to the ground on the same side or behind the machine or falls from the machine.
 - Machine stops moving forwards for more than "a moment" (1-2 seconds).
 - The machine crosses its own track with both wheels (unless the section is so designed and is noted by the Observer or Clerk of the Course).

The following actions are not penalties:

Rider's feet are on the footpegs and hands are on the handlebars when any part of his/her body inadvertently brushes against or is hit by an object.

Rider's foot is accidentally knocked from the footpeg after unintentional contact with a rock or other object.

Machine momentarily (1 - 2 seconds) stops moving forwards without rider committing any other error.