

NETA

“GETTING STARTED GUIDE”

Rev 4-21-14

Welcome to New England Trials Association (NETA). This guide 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 is somewhat dependent on each rider’s 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 are:

1. **Arrival time**
2. **Event schedule**
3. **Registration requirements**
4. Key points of contact at an event
5. Accommodations and facilities
6. Miscellaneous tips
7. Riding the loop
8. Riding sections
9. **Safety reminders**
10. Trials schools
11. Youth Class
12. **NETA Rule Book**
13. Clubs and forums

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 a quick snack and drink 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) **“Competition” or “Non-Competition” entry** - Riders may enter a NETA event as a Competition or Non-competition rider. The Non-competition entry is designed for folks that just want to try it and aren't interested or comfortable with competing.
- b) **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 www.americanmotorcyclist.com The cost is \$49/yr. Credit cards may be used for AMA on-line membership only.
- c) **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 www.newenglandtrials.com download the form and send in your membership application at least one month before your first event if possible. The cost is \$30 for renewals (annual members) and \$15 for new members. One day passes are also available for \$15
- d) **Event Fees & method of payment** – All riders age 16 and older are required to pay a \$30 event fee. All minors under age 16 pay a \$15 event fee.
- e) **Method of payment** – Cash or check only (no credit card processing capability)
- f) **Liability forms** – All riders are required to sign a liability waiver form upon entering the event site and the AMA competitor release form at registration.
All MINORS entering a NETA event must complete the “AMA OffRoadMINOR release form” and have it signed by parent or legal guardian at registration. Minors represented by an “Authorized Adult” can bring a copy of the signed AMA form with them to the event. A copy of the form is available on the NETA website. See rulebook for details concerning minors
- g) **Plate number** – All riders must have a number plate with a NETA rider number and line letter designation (i.e. C, B, A etc.) on it in order to compete. NETA rider numbers can be obtained at the event or in advance when obtaining a NETA membership. See NETA rule book for number plate layout.
- h) **Minders** – There is no fee for minders, however, minders must still register as a minder and must have an 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 if needed. Also, minders bikes must comply with local rules & regulations for the given event.
- i) **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. Riders are expected to have their own medical/liability insurance.
- j) **Minors** – All minors must have a parent/legal guardian or Authorized Adult present at all times and 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. **IMPORTANT: See rulebook for details concerning minors.**

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 from the NETA website or by asking at the event.
- b) **Dealers** – There are typically one or more dealers for GASGAS, Sherco, Beta, Ossa and Scorpia 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 or contact the Trials Master in advance to see if food and drink will be available.
- 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 a port-a-potty.
- e) **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 www.newenglandtrials.com

6. Miscellaneous Tips:

- a) **Loop cards** –
 - Loop cards are issued to all riders at registration. Some riders prefer to clip the card to the clutch cable or front brake cable with a small paper binder clip. 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!
 - Loops cards for each loop must be turned in immediately after completing each loop. There will be a designated turn-in site that's usually 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 have high energy snack foods which can be eaten throughout the event between loops
- d) **Time management** – All riders, particularly those riding 5 loops 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. Also, parents/guardians that are competing, riding with, and minding for their child will save significant time by riding the sections before their child.
- 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.

7. Riding The loop:

- a) **Length** –
 - All riders (except Youth Class) ride a loop that's typically two to three miles long, consists of eight (8) sections and are required to ride 3 to 5 loops depending on the class. See Rulebook for loop requirement for your class
 - Youth Class (up to age 12) rides in a separate area that typically consists of 6 sections which are generally located near the pit area within walking distance.
- b) **Signs/direction** – All loops and sections are marked with signs. You are not allowed to go backwards on the loop.

8. Riding Sections:

- a) Be sure not to skip any sections as you will be penalized
- b) Pay close attention to the number of Gates noted at the start of each section and where the Gates are located. A missed Gate 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 inspect each section before riding for any changes that may have occurred.

9. 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 5mph.
 - c) It's recommended that riders wear the appropriate protective gear which includes, but not limited to, riding boots, gloves, 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 your bike prior to an event to ensure everything on the bike is functioning correctly.
 - f) Parent/legal guardian or Authorized Adult (special form req'd) must be present at the event at all times for a minor rider and must accompany the minor if riding the Youth Class or if under age 9. Minors are not to ride around in the pit area unsupervised. **IMPORTANT: See rulebook for details concerning minors.**
 - 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.
10. **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 website www.newenglandtrials.com . The TTC website is www.trialstrainingcenter.com
11. **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 will receive an award 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.
12. **NETA Rule Book:** The NETA rule book contains a complete listing of all the rules and requirements for a NETA event and is available electronically in PDF format off the NETA website www.newenglandtrials.com
13. **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 NETA website www.newenglandtrials.com. 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 www.micapeak.com/lists/mctrials and another is New England Dirt Bike www.nedirtbikes.com Also, be sure to contact a local dealer via the NETA website www.newenglandtrials.com .