

# High Plains Trials Association Manual & Rule Book



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## **High Plains Trials Association**

The **High Plains Trials Association** (HPTA) is an organization comprised of motorcyclists and their families promoting the sport of MotoTrials in the High Plains area. The HPTA is committed to providing a family oriented and environmentally friendly venue allowing riders to develop the skills required to compete at a national-level while ensuring friendly competition and a safe and good-time for all.

While MotoTrials can be a very challenging and dramatic sport, the HPTA provides classes for riders of all skill levels.

The HPTA is a chartered club of the American Motorcycle Association (AMA).

Riders are expected to recognize the dangers of motorcycle riding and ride and act responsibly. Competitors in an HPTA Event, their guests and spectators are liable for their own actions and behavior and must accept the risk of motorcycle riding and other activities.

## **Membership**

The HPTA annual membership fee is \$25.00 per household. This is to defray administrative expenses. Membership forms are available at each HPTA Event.

Membership responsibilities include adhering to the guidelines established in this document and participating in HPTA activities (scoring/setting events, work days or other volunteer roles).

## **MotoTrials**

A MotoTrial (formerly known as Observed Trial) is a test of balance and control on a motorcycle which emphasizes the rider's skill and ability to control the bike in a technically challenging off-road environment.

The competition takes place on a course made up of a series of observed sections. Each section along the course contains obstacles to challenge the rider such as turns, hills, rocks, and logs within the boundaries of the marked section. At each section an "observer" or "scorer" judges the ride and assigns penalty points for infractions such as a loss of balance or other failures to successfully negotiate the obstacles within that section.

Although the competition typically has a time limit, it is not a test of speed.

Based on the nature of trials motorcycles and the competition, environmental affects is minimal.

## Board of Directors

The HPTA elects officers that make up the Board of Directors. Officers hold a minimum term of one year and are elected by the club members annually. Board positions are in effect from the day after the first event of the year until the end of the day of the first event of the next year. The intent is to make sure that the first event is run by the old board and the new board takes over thereafter. This ensures that the first event provides a time for transition and that the new board does not take over their duties until they have had a chance to have a transition meeting with the old board, if necessary.

Board meetings shall be run with agenda items & consensus for voting. There shall be a public portion at rider meetings in which club members may discuss various topics. The following officers are elected by the club members:

### President

- **(Duties that have a *direct* and *immediate* impact on HPTA)**
- Schedule Club Activities & Events.
- Represent HPTA at Official Functions.
- Conduct Board Meetings as needed.
- Obtain permits and AMA Sanctioning for each event, 90 days ahead of time when possible (so that the event can be advertised in the AMA magazine).
- Coordination of all AMA documentation, including referee report & memberships (accompanies the sign-up box).
- Record HPTA Event Results, Scoring & Series Points (accompanies the sign-up box).
- Maintain and update the HPTA Manual & Rulebook accordingly.
- Maintain an “up to date” membership list.
- Keeping an accurate and accessible e-mail list of all club members.
- Ensure all duties of other Board members are accomplished on time and accordingly, even if the President must perform the duty.

### Vice-President

- **(Duties that have a *direct* and *indirect* impact on HPTA)**
- All President duties, in absence of the President or as delegated by the President.
- Endorse and Organize the Saturday evening campground potluck.
- Maintenance of Scoreboard. This includes bringing the board(s) to each event.
- Create, maintain, and post the HPTA Event sign for each event.
- Take photos at each event for HPTA website.

### Secretary

- **(Duties that have a *direct* and *indirect* impact on HPTA participants)**
- Monthly newsletters containing (i.e. events, announcement of the next event, commentary, advertisements, interviews and other information).
- Maintain the HPTA Website with current news, events, photos, etc.
- Minutes of board meetings.
- Maintain and coordinate trials master Boxes & Supplies for each event or delegate as needed.
- Notification of events or other necessary email. **Emails shall be sent ‘bcc’ to respect members’ privacy.** Emails shall be professional and kept short and to the point.

### Treasurer

- **(Duties that have a *direct* impact on HPTA costs and funds)**
- Management of Financial Transactions & Accounts and Treasurer Report at Board meetings.
- Coordinate cash box w/ proper change at Each Event and collection following event signup.

- Provide and maintain a budget for expenses (to minimize expenses for supplies, awards, trophies, etc.).
- Purchase and provide more than enough supplies for each club event (ribbon, cards, flags, bags, markers, pens, punches, etc.) and make available to the box keeper as requested by the box keeper or reimburse as necessary.
- Coordinate & supply Year-End overall awards including plaques and apparel (if appropriate), and within budget (if there is budget).

### **Trials Master (volunteer per event)**

- **(Duties that have a *direct* impact on HPTA individual events)**
- Responsible for conducting the event signup (procedures & documentation).
- Ensure AMA liability waivers are signed by everyone at the event.
- Mark the loop safely for beginner class and identify the section areas at least 1 day prior to the group setting.
- Sweep the loop after each event to ensure all markers and materials have been collected.

### **Safety Clerk**

- **(Duties that have a *direct* impact on HPTA event safety or perception of HPTA safety)**
- Inspect the loop and each section for safety, level of difficulty, adequacy of marking, and compliance with HPTA policies. Safety Clerks may require and/or make changes to the loop and sections. Unresolved matters will be brought to the attention of the Club President as-soon-as-possible. Safety Clerks should verify any changes prior to the event.
- Safety Clerks may ride in an event they inspect; but they are not permitted to pre-ride the sections for their class.
- Enforce safety policies as required per AMA and/or per the event insurance.

## **Association Funds**

Two HPTA members shall be named on, and have access to, HPTA bank accounts. Expenditures from this account exceeding \$150.00 shall be pre-approved by the President and Treasurer.

## **HPTA Classes**

### **Advanced Class:**

This class is intended to be comparable to the upper-class levels of the AMA/NATC National Event. The rider should have the skills required by the HPTA Sportsman Class and include an ability to precisely place the front wheel so as to negotiate the obstacles at an angle to the path, even on a steep descent.

### **Sportsman Class:**

This class is intended to be comparable to the Clubman class level of the AMA/NATC National Event. A rider at this skill level can negotiate steep hills and off-camber turns, use “un-weighting” techniques to clear logs higher than the skidplate; and, can climb obstacles of a moderate height so long as a steep drop-off does not immediately follow.

### **Amateur:**

A rider at this skill level can attempt the most basic obstacles including logs, rocky terrain, hills of moderate difficulty, and tight turns. Most riders at this level can overcome logs or small rock ledges by lofting the front of the bike but cannot precisely place the front wheel.

### **Novice:**

A rider at this skill level has the ability to ride small obstacles which can be ridden over without the ability to loft the front wheel. The emphasis for section layout for this level rider should be on basic turns, simple hills and cambers, and basic control of the bike.

**Beginner:**

This is an “Entry” level class with obstacles similar to a trail-ride. The emphasis in this class includes riding while standing, basic control of the bike, and becoming familiar with scoring rules.

**Additional Classes**

**Juniors:**

In order to promote the sport of trials and consistent with the “family-fun” concept, it is desirable to have some very simple sections, set independent of the competitive loop and near the campground. These sections can be ridden by competitors (generally 8 years of age or younger) on small wheeled bikes. *It is the responsibility of the parents* of the Junior Class riders to set the sections for the Junior riders and to conduct and score the Junior riding event.

**Other Classifications:**

The HPTA may also include classes specifically for riders of a certain minimum age, or for vintage machines manufactured during a certain time period.

**Championship Series**

HPTA MotoTrial events are open to AMA Members wishing to participate. Competing riders are eligible to receive daily event awards as well as 2-day overall awards.

The High Plains Championship Series is limited to HPTA members. You must be an active club member, and in good standing, to receive championship points or year-end awards. You must compete and finish at least half of the events in the particular class of the annual series to be eligible to receive an award for that class (i.e. out of 7 total events, you must compete in, and finish, at least 4 events).

Year-end finishing position, for each competitive class, is determined by the sum of points awarded in 75% of the events held. (i.e. 8 events scheduled, 6 events held, score is determined by the sum of the best 3 finishes in the class). Any fractional figures are to be rounded up or down accordingly (.5 is rounded up to the higher figure).

Championship points are awarded as follows:

Placed	Points
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	10
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	8
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Place	Decrease 1 point per position
11 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Decrease .1 point per position
20 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Decrease 0.01 point per position

## End of Year Tie Breaker

In case of a tie on Championship Series points (“Best of” Points) at the end of the year, total points earned in the additional events (Total Points) will be used as the tie breaker.

If still tied then the rider with the most wins in head to head, then seconds head to head etc.

If still tied then the rider who finished better in the first event in which the two riders rode head to head will win.

In the event of multiple ties, apply the above rules in the order stated until a rider is out of the tie, and then continue until proper placements are determined.

If riders are ties throughout all above options, then the total number of overall dabs taken throughout the year in all events ridden head to head will determine the final placement.

## Annual Meeting

An annual meeting will be held each year to present the Year-End awards to the membership, solicit trials masters and elect Board Members for the coming year. HPTA will hold meeting, on the day of, after the group setting of the Hair of the Dog Classic scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> event of the year and no earlier than 7 days prior to Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than 7 days after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

The meeting will consist of a pot luck meal and an awards presentation to include:

- An overall award to each class.
- Specialty awards to acknowledge top performers & outstanding individuals within the club.
- Board Member elections.

## HPTA Trials Event

### Event Scheduling

Events are scheduled as not to overlap with New Mexico Trials Association two-day events, Mountain West Vintage Trials Association events, or other two day events close by (i.e. National & World Round trials events). Exceptions must be approved by the Board who will determine whether scheduling overlap will hinder the rider turnout and adjust with the premise of scheduling for the largest turnout possible. The season point series shall begin with the annual Hair of the Dog event and end in December.

### Pre-Event Activities

#### Setting an Event

The course layout and marking is the responsibility of the person(s) designated as Trials master. The trials master should endeavor to establish a course which will be fun and challenging for all skill levels and which will not contain impossible obstacles or extreme hazards. Assistants shall be assigned to assist Trials master if needed; this position is intended to aid in learning to how to set future events.

The course should consist of a minimum of 8 sections laid out in a loop to be ridden 3 times. The Trials Master has the discretion of adjusting the amount of sections as well as the number of loops as necessary. It is the intent to be scored on a minimum of 24 rides by the end of the event.

The “loop” or trail which comprises the course connecting the sections should be established before the sections are chosen and set. The loop shall be clearly marked so riders can follow the course in the direction intended. The course shall be marked with ribbon and signs. It is a good idea to use different color ribbon or a combination of colors to denote separate loops set for a single event. Signs should be used to clearly define the direction of travel and assist

riders with clarity of the loop. Two-way traffic on a single lane path is not recommended, but if applicable it shall be clearly marked. An “X” shall be placed to mark caution or technical parts of the course.

### Setting the Sections

The sections should be made up of natural obstacles such as mud, rocks, water, logs, climbs and descents, etc. Wherever possible, natural boundaries such as creek banks should be used.

The section begins with an obvious “START” gate indicated by the section number. The sections progress through gates of 4-foot minimum width marked with HPTA supplied materials. Where practical, the gates should be placed square to the path of the section and firmly attached. Ribbon should be firmly placed no more than 12” above the ground wherever possible.

Interior class gates within the section may be marked to reduce the width of a section or to define the different routes for riders competing in different skill classes. Each gate has a minimum width of 4 feet. A piece of ribbon can be placed between the gate and the section boundary ribbon or another gate to further direct the riders.

The section boundaries and markers must be reasonably maintained in the condition presented to the first rider. No rider should be allowed to ride the section until it is repaired. Repair materials should be readily available.

The sections must not be so long or difficult that bottlenecks occur. The sections must not contain impossible turns, ascents, descents, nor be unreasonably difficult.

Commonly, the section will contain obstacles beyond the TM’s ability however; all other portions of the section should be clerked to ensure gates are positioned within view of the rider, obstacle approaches are adequately “prepped” and unsafe or fragile portions of the section are eliminated (bark on a log, tree limb at eye level, etc.).

Continuous (Double) sections are not allowed.

### Clerking the Sections

The Safety Clerk, accompanied by the trials master, shall inspect the loop and each section for safety, level of difficulty, adequacy of marking, and compliance with HPTA policies. Safety Clerks may make and/or require changes to the loop and sections. Unresolved matters will be brought to the attention of the Club President as-soon-as-possible. Safety Clerks should verify any changes prior to the event.

### Previewing Sections

Once ribbon has been laid for a section, the area is considered “closed” to everyone other than the trials master and Safety Clerk. Sections may be inspected, on foot, by competitors but may not be disturbed or altered in any way. No competitor (regardless of class) may ride any section prior to an event. Any persons found making changes to sections other than the Trials Master and clerk will be disqualified for that event. At the Boards discretion said person will be allowed to compete as usual during the next events.

## Event Day(s) Activities

### General

All riders, workers and spectators must sign the 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 may require that someone with the liability waiver be positioned at the entrance of the venue in order to capture every signature. All riders are expected to help ensure waivers are completed by the riders family and friends.

Consistent with AMA Rules, prior to or during an event, everyone involved in any fashion with an event including Trials Masters, riders, minders and observers must not consume or be under the influence of intoxicants (including alcohol) or drugs. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the rider.



All motorized vehicles, including motorcycles, are limited to slow controlled speeds (approx. 5 mph and low gear), for safety, in the pit and campground areas. For competitors, penalties will be assessed as described in Appendix A - Scoring -Additional Penalties.

Helmets (motorcycle safety approved) are required to be worn by anyone operating a motorcycle and participating at an HPTA trials site.

### **Rider's Qualification and Responsibilities**

Riders are not required to have a current HPTA membership.

Riders are to ensure their AMA membership is current and to have the membership card available at sign-up.

The rider should have a number plate clearly indicating the class to be ridden within the section, or announce to the observer(s) the class to be ridden.

Riders shall be responsible to notify a Board member upon injury. An injury form must be completed by the rider & the President or a board member immediately following the event.

Riders must be physically able to control & properly function a motorcycle.

If a rider has not competed in a previous event, the course Trials Master may request an example of the rider's abilities and can refuse entry or modify that rider's entry class if they think a rider is not qualified.

### **Machine Requirements**

HPTA does not require competitors to finish the event on the bike they start on.

The motorcycle must be a "trials type" machine equipped with a working engine kill switch, working brakes, ball ends on handlebar mounted levers and "trials type" tires.

A USFS *type* Spark Arrestor must be installed whenever competing on a motorcycle at an HPTA trials event unless specifically informed otherwise.

### **Event Scoring**

Various events may find it necessary to employ various methods for observing. The system utilized will be defined by the Trials Master prior to the riders meeting (group scoring, etc.).

#### **Preferred method**

Group scoring - One or more classes will make up a group which rides together and scores each other. Groups are assigned by the Trials Master. Groups can start on any section the first loop as long as they ride the sections in consecutive order. The second and third loops may be started at section one.

Groups shall be organized to ensure all riders enjoy the event as best as possible. Riders shall be grouped according to minder, family, skill level, and preference of riding. Rider/minders shall be together as requested. People with children shall be grouped with their children and other families with children. Skill levels may be grouped accordingly as requested. Rider's preferences may be grouped together (slower riders, faster riders, personal preferences, etc.).

Each group will be responsible for pulling one or more sections at the conclusion of the event. The sections assigned to each group are defined by the Trials Master on a sign-up sheet at the sign-up table.

It is the responsibility of the Trials Master to pull the loop and sweep all the section areas for material removal.

**Alternate methods**

Peer scoring - One or more classes who ride together with an individual observer accompanying the group to score all the riders in the group or an individual(s) posted at each section.

Scoring – Lower class riders score upper class sections and vice versa.

To ensure consistency of scoring, observers should not be changed during the event. Observer’s should show a raised, balled fist and announce rider in a loud voice to authorize a rider to start riding the section.

The checking officials at each observed section should be stationed so the entire section is plainly visible. When more than one observer is required, penalties will be called to the observer at the end of the section.

Any course official, including a section Head Observer, has the authority to close a section or part of the loop for unforeseen reasons such as natural disasters or rider injury. In cases where a portion of the riders have ridden a section before it has been closed, scores for those rides will be thrown out of the days total.

Observers/groups/riders shall pull sections at the completion of the day. Sections shall not be pulled until notified of the completion of the trials by a Trials Master.

**Rider Sign-Up**

The event Trials Master is responsible for sign-up.

Safety material and/or an individual shall be posted at the signup table during the course of the day in case of injury, disqualification, or rider class adjustments.

Event sign-up shall begin at least 1 hour before the event start time.

Each rider must complete an AMA release form (liability waiver). If the rider is a minor, all release forms must be completed and signed by the legal guardian.

Riders must present a valid AMA membership at each event or submit an application with payment to join the AMA at the event signup. Riders not able to present a valid AMA membership will be required to fill out an application and pay for membership.

Collect fee for the event as follows

Event	One Day	Two Day
Adult Member (18 and over)	\$25.00	\$45.00
Minor Member (17 and under)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Adult Non-member	\$30.00	\$60.00
Minor Non-member	\$20.00	\$40.00
Junior class is free for all events		

Have riders fill out event class sheet in their respective class.

Have riders fill out event scorecards and return them until the riders meeting.

Following Sign-up, Trials Masters shall give the HPTA Treasurer all monies immediately following the completion of sign-up.

## **Rider's Meeting**

A mandatory riders' meeting must take place before the start of an event -- usually at the start time. If a time limit is to be enforced, this must be announced during the meeting. A description of the loop and any important event factors shall be explained and with any questions answered at this time.

## **Competing**

### **Section order**

A rider may begin their day on any section; but, must continue the loop in sequential order.

### **Changing Class**

A rider may request to alter their signup class within the first 3 attempted sections. The rider must return request this change to the Trials Master if possible or change their card class at a minimum. Once a fourth section has been attempted, the rider may not alter the day's class.

### **Scorecards**

Riders are responsible for their own scorecard and must carry their scorecard and present it to the section observer for marking at the completion of their ride in that section. It is the rider's / group's responsibility to verify that each section is punched correctly.

### **Protest**

Disagreement with an observer's scoring must be noted and settled, if possible, without inconveniencing or delaying other riders, while the situation is fresh in everyone's mind. Scoring protests will not be heard if the observer was not made aware of the conflict immediately after the section attempt. If not resolved, the rider may make a specific protest, in writing, to the Trials Master within 10 minutes after the end of the event as described below.

No person may protest another rider's score.

## **Sweeping the Loop**

Near the end of each session, the Trials Master is responsible for notifying the observers/riders/groups when to "pull" the sections. Once a determination is made the Trials Master should advise the scorers which rider will be last through their section. The goal is to minimize the amount of time unnecessarily spent. It is unacceptable to wait to sweep the loop until the last rider has turned in their card.

## **Posting the Scores (Event Board)**

Riders are to determine their own score separately from the final scoring personnel to ensure accuracy. After the rider and Trials Master agree on a final score and it is placed on the scoreboard, the score is considered final for that event and will not be changed. There will be no post-trials review of scorecards to change results. Riders may trade-in original cards if the scores are becoming unreadable, or are otherwise damaged.

## **Protest Period**

A ten minute protest period begins after the scores are posted on the Event Board. All rider scores are final at the conclusion of the protest period and cannot be changed by any action.

Trials Masters, along with the Safety Clerk and one additional board member, will serve as protest jury if needed during events.

## **Award Presentation**

Following each event, or the end of a two day event, a ceremony shall be held to present awards and make any important announcements for activities and club events.

Event awards shall be presented to the top 3 places in each class. Awards shall be selected by the board. Examples include: plaques, metals, ribbons, etc. Awards are presented to all riders regardless of HPTA membership status.

A token for Trials Master efforts *may* be given to the Trials Masters as gratitude and shall be selected by the board, *if within budget*. Examples include: Engraved mugs, glasses, etc.

## Post Event Activities

After an event:

The Vice President shall collect the final scorecards & scoreboard(s).

The Secretary shall collect signup box for restocking.

The President shall collect completed liability waivers, minor releases and the AMA copy of imprinted release forms and submit the AMA referee's report following each event. The liability waivers, minor releases and the AMA copy of imprinted release forms must be sent to the AMA with the referee's report.

Trials Masters shall be responsible to pull their loop markings and make sure all sections are cleared and free of any debris or event markings. Trials Masters shall also be responsible for general venue clean-up, this includes: raking section ruts caused by riders, cleaning up trash, clearing debris, and making sure the venue location is left in good condition following an event.

## Scoring Procedure

The scoring method outlined below is (generally) consistent with the scoring rules used in the AMA/NATC National Championship events. Note that HPTA generally lags NATC by one year on new rules in order to see if they are retained.

Scoring shall start when the front axle passes between the start markers and stop when the front axle passes between the end markers.

Penalties are assessed by an observer in each section as follows:

### **Dab (fault) = 1, 2 or 3 points**

One Dab 1 point

Two Dabs 2 points

Three or more Dabs 3 points

A dab is defined as each contact (used for support) of any part of the rider or his machine (with the exception of the tires, foot pegs, and engine skidplate) with the ground or an obstacle (tree, rock, etc.). Contact includes "Toe Dabs" which is a rider's foot, while on a foot peg, making contact with the ground in such a manner as to propel the machine in an upward or forward direction or used for support, or leaning on an object with shoulder/arm/leg.

Contact may occur either inside or outside of the boundaries.

It is the scorer's responsibility to distinguish between contacts used for support versus incidental contact.

Foot rotation counts as one point. Rotation can only occur at one rotation spot and cannot transfer heel to toe or vice versa. There is no additional penalty for multiple rotations as long as the foot does not slide or transfer the rotation spot.

Sliding a foot counts as three points.

Both feet placed on the ground simultaneously counts as two points.

## Failure = 5 points

A rider may report to the observer and receive a five for that section, even though they do not attempt it. If a rider fails to make a reasonable attempt in more than 50% of the total number of sections they will be considered a non-finisher (DNF). The determination of a “reasonable attempt” is the decision of the observer.

The rider or minder alters the condition or gates of a section.

The rider assists the machine or improves their position while stopped & footed with either hand in any way other than with the handlebars.

The rider receives outside assistance while in a section (i.e. catching or minding the machine).

The rider or machine makes direct contact with a gate resulting in displacement of the gate requiring an observer to replace the gate.

Both axles, with the front wheel preceding the rear wheel, must pass through the start gate and all other gates for the class, except only the front axle is required to pass through the end gate.

Riders may only pass through a gate (for the class) one time per section attempt.

The rider passes, with a tire on the ground, in either direction through a gate of another class, breaking the plane of the gate;

A gate for a class other than your own constitutes a marker. It is permitted to float one wheel over a marker but not both tires, i.e., jumping the bike over a marker is a failure.

In the case of running over a taped boundary, there must be ground visible between the tape and the tire and the tire must be on the ground on the out-of-bounds side of the tape.

The motorcycle does a complete loop, crossing its own track with both tires. Similar to crossing a taped boundary, there must be ground visible between the tire track and the tire and the tire must be on the ground on the out-of-bounds side of the track.

The engine stops while dabbing (shoulder/arm/leg leaning, footing, etc.) or while any other part of the machine, except for the tires, is used for support, without forward motion. The motorcycle must be moving forward while footing with a dead engine to avoid a five (5).

If the handlebar is used for support *and* the motorcycle is beyond 45-degrees from vertical.

The machine is moving backwards with or without the rider footing.

The rider dismounts from the machine and has both feet on the ground on the same side or behind the machine. Behind is defined as no part of the bike being between the rider’s legs.

Only the greatest penalty, as defined above, shall be counted for the section. However, the following points may be added:

## Additional Penalties

Sections are to be ridden in designated order only. The penalty for missed sections or sections ridden out of order is ten (10) points per section. Any section not ‘punched’ is considered to be a missed section. It is the responsibility of any observer noticing a missed section to punch the rider’s scorecard.

If a section is ridden more than once per loop, the rider will receive a 10 point penalty. An exception exists for the Beginner Class. With the approval of the Trials Master, the Beginner Class may ride each section 3 times and finish the event in a single loop.

Practice in any of the sections before or during the event will result in disqualification of the rider from competing in the trial. With the approval of the Trials Master, the rider may ride the event as “non-comp”.

A rider must present a scorecard to the Trials Master, within 10 minutes of the completion of the trials, to be considered a finisher. If a scorecard is not presented, the rider will be considered a non-finisher and no score will be posted.

If blank or unmarked sections on a scorecard exceed 25% of the total number of sections, the rider will be considered a non-finisher.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, offensive behavior or language, by a rider will result in a penalty of 25 points. The penalty can be given at the sole discretion of any observer, Trials Master, or Board Member. Penalty points are in addition to the points accumulated during a rider’s section attempt.

Exceeding slow & controlled speeds is a 5-point penalty assessed before, during or after the event. The penalty can be given at the discretion of any observer, Trials Master, or Board Member.

A rider cutting the course loop or going backwards on the course loop may be disqualified at the discretion of the Trials Master or the Safety Clerk.

## **Obstruction**

Obstruction is deemed to have occurred when a rider, attempting a section is prevented from completing a bona-fide attempt due to some unauthorized obstruction. If a rider claims obstruction the section observer’s/group’s decision as to whether a re-ride is permitted is final. The rider will then be permitted to attempt the section again from the beginning.

## **Tie Breakers for One Day Event or Two-Day Overall Finisher**

In each class, the order of finish is determined by the low score. In the event of ties, the rider with the lowest score will prevail. If the riders are tied on score, the rider with the most cleans will prevail, and if still tied then the rider prevails who has most ones, twos, threes or fives in succession.

If still tied, the Trials Master, after consulting with available Board Members, will determine if a “Ride-Off” is practical. The decision to hold a ride-off must be made before evaluating additional tie-Breakers. Factors to consider include weather conditions, available sunlight, podium placement, rider’s condition, End-of-Year standings, event location, etc.

- If a “Ride-Off” is to be held the Trials Master will designate a section(s) which are to be ridden and the number of attempts required. A coin flip will be used to determine which rider starts. If both riders agree, a coin flip can occur to designate a winner without performing a ride-off.

- If a “Ride-Off” is not to be held the tie will be broken by the first point taken, starting from section one (regardless of where a rider started) in the order that the card is punched which may differ from the order the scores were earned (in case a scorer punches out of order);

If still tied, after following all steps above, both riders shall be considered tied for the event . Equal points shall be awarded to both riders according the respective finish. No points shall be given for the position following a tied position (i.e. in the event of a tie for second place, both riders shall receive 12 points, the next rider position will receive a 4th place finish of 8 points).

## **HPTA Land Use**

HPTA is fortunate to have several excellent riding areas with a variety of terrain. In order to stay in good standing with each area to ensure continued use each person attending a HPTA event is asked to adhere to the following items:

- Haul out your trash and any other immediate trash that was there previous to event.
- Do not create ruts or do unnecessary damage to the area. Fill in any ruts and replace natural items that were used for camping.
- Pets are welcome at events. The pet owner(s) shall pick up their pets' waste promptly if in the camping area or anywhere that would cause issues to the public. For safety, pets are required to be restrained so as not to either purposely or inadvertently harm other animals or people. In such a case that a pet is not restrained or breaks free of their restraints, the Board (or other Board Members by majority) reserves the right to ask the owner of that pet not to bring the pet(s) to the events again (for the safety of others and their pets). If the owner(s) refuses to comply with the request of the Board majority, the owner(s) will not be allowed to participate in any HPTA event, or Board or Member decision, until the request is completely satisfied. Safety and reduction in HPTA liability is absolutely paramount.
- Please ride slowly in the pits. Safety is paramount!

All HPTA areas available are public areas. Be respectful of other riders, facilities, and trails that other riders have established. Haul your own trash out.

Any events held at BLM sites must be pre-approved by the BLM and cleared for archaeological sites and environmental impact. The President handles this.