

2023 D-4 TRIALS RULES

The District 4 Trials Committee (Committee) is the governing body for Observed Trials competition within the American Motorcyclist Association District 4 (D-4). All D-4 points events must be held within the D-4 boundaries, unless a vote of the membership approving an out of district event is held prior to the start of the last event of the previous year. The purpose of the Committee is to further the sport of trials in D-4 by providing an annual series of competition events and the guidance necessary for uniformity. All AMA sanctioned D-4 trials events will be governed by the current AMA and N.A.T.C. observed trials and competition rules, and the rules deemed necessary by the Committee. Rule changes may be recommended during the competition season by organizers or competitors. Written proposals may be made to the Chairman by a sponsor and two cosigners. The Chairman will make the proposal at the next riders meeting, but it will not be voted upon until the following event. A majority of Committee members at the voting event will enable the rule. Minor amendments to the rules (clarifications, etc) may be made by unanimous vote of committee members in attendance at a D-4 meeting with at least 15 members present. All D-4 trials Committee officers, chairman, assistant chairman, chief scorekeeper, secretary/treasurer, rules secretary, publicity person, clerk of the course and any other person elected to carry out designated responsibilities must be 18 years of age, an AMA member and a D-4 trials Committee member. The fiscal year of the Committee and the annual term of the officers shall commence at the conclusion of the annual Committee Awards Banquet, or the 1st day of March of the new season, whichever occurs first.

I. COMPETITION AND AWARD ELIGIBILITY

A. Requirements to compete in a Committee Championship Points Event:

1. Be a current member of the AMA.
2. Either be a member of the Committee (\$10.00 annual fee) or pay a \$5.00 waiver fee at each event. Individual trials Committee membership shall expire on the day prior to the first event of the current trials season.
3. Abide by all Committee rules.
4. Present all membership cards at each event.
5. Competitors under 18 years of age must provide a signed, notarized release, on the prescribed form, from their parent or legal guardian.
6. All competitors are required to attend the riders' meeting.

B. Requirements for points and award eligibility for D-4 Championship:

1. Be a current member of the Committee.
2. Work and not compete in the required number of events. (per §. III.E.)

C. Requirements for records:

1. The Chairman or his/her designee will maintain the record of each competitor for the purpose of tabulating advancement and/or championship points, including a record of required work.
2. A standard results sheet will be provided for each event.

D. Points Schedule:

1. All competitors will receive points based on their finishing position:

1st 20points	9th 7points
2nd 17 points	10th 6points
3rd 15 points	11th 5 points
4th 13 points	12th 4 points
5th 11 points	13th 3 points
6th 10 points	14th 2 points
7th 9 points	15th 1 point
8th 8 points	

E. Championship Classes

1. Expert
2. Advanced
3. Intermediate
4. Novice
5. Sportsman (35 or older on the day of event) (See § IV.C.1.a.5 on Pg4)
 - a. Advanced
 - b. Intermediate
 - c. Novice
6. Senior 45 (45 or older on the day of event)
 - a. Advanced
 - b. Intermediate
 - c. Novice
7. Vintage I any twin shock or rigid frame, drum brake, air cooled, SI line.
8. Vintage N any twin shock or rigid frame, drum brake, air cooled, SN line.
9. Vintage R any twin shock or rigid frame, drum brake, air cooled, Rookie line
(See § IV.C.1.a.4 on Pg4).
10. Rookie (Any new rider).

F. The minimum number of riders constituting a class will be one (1). If there is only one rider he/she will receive the first place trophy and first place points.

II. ADVANCEMENT AND SEASON CLASSIFICATION

A. Riders may start the season in any class.

1. Riders may contest the Expert Class but must earn an Expert Classification.
2. To earn an Expert Classification riders must finish in the top 75% of the Expert Class Championship Competitors Series plus required works, based on current Expert riders competing in a full season.
 - a. Full season is based on the total events minus * required works, minus throw away events. (per § III E)
 - b. 75% will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

<u>Qualified Riders</u>	<u>Position to Qualify</u>
2	1st
3	2nd or better
4	3rd or better
5	4th or better
6	5th or better
7	5th or better
8	6th or better

B. Riders may change classes (up or down) anytime.

1. Championship points will be counted for the class a rider has the most finishes in or the higher class if equal in number.

C. Must be a D-4 Committee member to contest Championship Series.

1. A rider must inform the points secretary that they are riding for championship points or not riding for championship points at the first event that they ride that year and cannot change their decision for the rest of the season.

III. CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS.

- A. Awards will be provided to all riders meeting championship requirements.
- B. The top fifteen finishers from Expert to Advanced class combined will have their position reserved for them at each sanctioned event the following season. A standardized number plate will be provided. The number plate will bear finishing position for the year, class, name, and District 4 New York and AMA logos.
- C. Championship Awards will be based on the riders' best finishes in 2/3 of the total sanctioned events held during the season rounded to the nearest whole number

EXAMPLE

14 events	9 count	2 works	3 throw	13 events	9 count	2 works	2 throw
aways			aways				
12	8	2	2	11	7	2	2
10	7	2	1	9	6	2	1
8	5	2	1	7	5	1	1
6	4	1	1	5	3	1	1
4	3	1	0	3	2	1	0

- D. In case of a tie on Championship Points at it the end of the series, the greatest number of wins, then seconds, thirds etc. will break the tie.
If a tie still persists, then the lowest combined score of all events ridden by both riders will break the tie.
- E. Riders, competing in the Championship Series of 8 or more events are required to work and not compete in two events each season to receive a year end trophy, regardless of the number of events ridden.
A series of 7 or less events requires the rider to work 1 event.
 - 1. Work credit will only be given for being an Organizer, Assistant Clerk, Scorer or Observer at an event. If a circumstance occurs that will prevent a rider from being able to work the event day, it is the worker's responsibility to inform both the Organizer and the Chairman so that suitable alternate work requirements can be satisfied. The Organizer will furnish the Points Secretary a notification of alternate work signed by the Organizer and the Chairman.
 - 2. The duties of the Publicity person, will be considered work for the purpose of receiving Championship points, sit out events still apply.
- F. A rider who starts an event may not be given credit for working that event. Starting defined as still signed up to ride at start of riders meeting.
- G. The Secretary will maintain a list of riders who chose specific work events at least two weeks before the event.

IV. EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Equipment:
 - 1. A machine inspection may be held at the discretion of the event organizer.
 - a. All bikes must meet the following to be allowed to compete in any event.
 - 1. Adequate muffler as compared to similar motorcycles make, engine, year and are not to exceed 88Db (A) at 50 feet or 99 Db (A) at 20 inches
 - 2. An identification (number) plate must be displayed on the front of the motorcycle. Class

designation letter/s a minimum 3" high and ½" stroke width on a contrasting background is required. The class letters are: E-expert, A-advanced, I- intermediate, N-novice, R-rookie, SPA-sportsman advanced, SPI-sportsman intermediate, SPN-sportsman novice, SA- senior advanced, SI- senior intermediate, SN- senior novice, VI- vintage intermediate, VN- vintage novice and VR-vintage rookie. Sponsors name, artwork, decals, etc. must not compromise the class designation visibility

by the section observer.

3. No broken levers (must have ball or rounded ends).
4. Properly working throttle and brakes.
5. The same motorcycle must be used for the entire event and be presented at the finish under its own power or that of the rider.
6. Properly functioning engine kill switch.

2. Helmets.

- a. All competitors and workers must wear AMA or FIM approved helmets, with properly fastened chinstrap while riding at an event. Failure to do so will result in disqualification or loss of work credit.

3. Observers should refuse entry into the section of any competitor or machine not in compliance with equipment requirements.

B. Awards

1. Awards at each sanctioned event.
 - a. All classes first place.
 - b. Additional awards and/or certificates may be given by the

organizer.

C. Course

1. The actual number and arrangement of sections, loop, etc., is left to the organizer of the event.

The following minimums must be met.

a. Sections.

1. Minimum of 7 sections, maximum 10.
2. Minimum of 40 total attempts.(sections x loops) expert, advanced, intermediate, novice,
 - a. Rookies should have a minimum of 20 attempts on beginner level sections.
 - b. Vintage should have a minimum of 30 attempts on beginner or a combination of beginner and novice sections. (see § IV C.1.a.4.)
3. Must have an adequately marked line for each class within each section.
4. At the discretion of the Clerk of the Course, if necessary to provide appropriate challenge for the more experienced riders in the Senior and Vintage classes, a combination of sections from the nominal class and the next higher class may be used. The higher class sections may not exceed ½ the total. i.e.: Senior novice could use 5 novice and 3 intermediate sections.
5. All Sportsmans classes shall use the above criteria (§ IV.C.1.a.4)

b. Loop.

1. Loop must be arranged to provide best possible flow for all competitors, (keep bottle necks to minimum).
2. Loop should stay under five miles in total length. Riders must start at their assigned Sections, thereafter to be ridden consecutively. Skipping sections is not allowed.

2. Technical Considerations:

- a. No two way traffic on any single track—permissible for short distances on wide trails when visibility is adequate.
- b. Provide clear and adequate route markings.

- c. Provide notice of difficulties.(steep hill, creek crossing, etc.). The sign should say:
slow-technical area.
 - d. Provide sufficient space between section and loop to allow parking, entrance, and exit.
 - e. Avoid trails that cross each other.
 - f. Keep spectators in mind.
 - g. Sections should allow room to safely recover from error.
3. Sections must be ridden a sufficient number of times by the clerk or designee to establish their suitability and to "settle" at least one line so early competitors are not at a disadvantage.
 4. Keep in mind the effects of weather on both the sections and the loop. Provide in the layout for alternatives.
 5. Section Marking.
 - a. Organizers should use D-4 provided markers for consistency.
 - b. Markers and ribbon should be placed 4 to 12 inches high when possible.
 - c. Minimum section width should be 48 inches, at handlebar height.
 - d. Start markers must say **START**, finish markers must say **FINISH**.
 - e. Organizers must use NATC style gate system;
 - A gate is defined as a right and left marker placed at an approximate right angle to the Intended travel and is class specific, it must have the appropriate class designations on both markers.
 1. Right and left shall be identical or form a set and be unique to each class;
 - Black arrow on White background to say EXPERT, E or X
 - Red arrow on White background to say ADVANCED or A
 - Blue arrow on White background to say INTERMEDIATE or I
 - Green arrow on White background to say NOVICE or N
 - No arrow on White background to say ROOKIE or R
 2. Complete section boundaries should be established by either ribbon or natural obstacles.
 3. Use of gates should be kept to a minimum. Use the gates of other classes to restrict where they can ride as well as their own gates to tell them where they must go.
 - f. Sportsman, Senior and/or Vintage course as designated under §. IV.C.1.a.4. must have a sign placed at the start of the appropriate section(s) so indicating, (i.e. SN=I or SPI=A or VR=N, etc.)
 - g. The observer must maintain the boundaries and markers in the condition presented to the first rider. Repair or replace any misplaced markers or tape. Materials should be available at the section.
 6. Organizers should design the sections to take the following number of points from the third place finisher in each class: Novice (15-25), Intermediate (20-30), Advanced (50-60), Expert (50-60).
 7. Special circumstances must be approved by the Chairman or if warranted by a Committee vote.
- D. Start and Finish Times:
1. Sign up till 11:30AM.
 2. Observers Meeting 11:15 AM. Observers must be on site and check in with the clerk by 11:00 AM.
 3. Riders Meeting 11:45 AM. Riders not in attendance will not be allowed to start the event.
 4. Events start at 12:00 noon.
 5. All points events will last a minimum of four and one-half hours, unless extended by the organizer
and announced at the riders meeting.
 - a. Events will be extended by a grace period of 15 minutes with a one point penalty assessed per
minute up to 15 full minutes. Penalty time not to start until after last whole minute.
 - b. Any rider who finishes after the grace period will be considered a non-finisher.
 - c. The finishing time cannot be changed after the start of the event unless conditions

present

a serious danger to competitors.

1. Organizer and Chairman must make the change.
2. Chief Scorer must not hand out any more scorecards until designated restart time.
3. Observers must be notified to close their section until established restart time.
- d. A digital clock with the correct time will be provided by Chief Scorer to establish the official time.
 1. A synchronized second clock in the last section will determine the rider's finishing time to prevent speeding into the scoring area. The timing of the last lap will start 15 minutes before the end of the event, not including the grace period. Section officials must stay on duty until the end of the grace period unless relieved by the course clerk. (See IV.D.5.a.)
2. A rider finishing the trial with no penalties should have his time recorded at the last section or the start/finish.

E. Observers:

1. The organizer is responsible for providing the appropriate number of observers for the event. Since each D-4 rider is responsible for working a given number of events for a Championship Season they provide a good source for workers.
2. Observers must attend 11:15 observer's meeting. Observer's missing the meeting may be replaced and lose work credit.

F. Entry fees:

1. \$20.00 US for Committee sanctioned events. All Committee events must be AMA sanctioned and insured. All necessary eligibility requirements must be met.
2. Non points events at organizer's discretion.

G. The Clerk Of The Course is responsible for all facets of the event and is to enforce all D-4 and AMA rules. The Clerk accepts all protests and is responsible for scoring. The Clerk must forward all required paperwork to the Committee Points Secretary.

1. If by majority vote of Committee Member Competitors present, the event was not up to recommended or acceptable Committee standards, the event may be considered a non-points event. The Clerk will be fined the sanction fee. This is handled as a protest against the organizer and must be submitted in writing within 15 minutes after the grace period ends.
2. Expenses for supplies and observer refreshments are limited to \$25.00 per event. All expense claims must be accompanied by a corresponding receipt or bill. No expenses paid without verification.
3. Any other expenses, port-a-pot, food etc must have prior chairman approval.
4. An event will not be considered a points event until all requirements are met

H. Organizers should consult the AMA Rule Book pertaining to Observed Trials and the N.A.T.C. guidelines for Observed Trials Organizers and Competitions. Available free @AMA, 13515 Yarmouth Dr. Pickerington, Ohio, 43147 (614)856-1900 www.AMADireclink.com.

I. Drug and Alcohol use is prohibited before and during the event. The penalty is disqualification from the event or loss of work credit.

J. A rider may not practice in any part of a section prior to the start of the event or be on a loop if closed. After finishing- i.e. Completing the required course, a rider may not ride in any section or part of the loop that is still under competition. Penalty is disqualification. Spectators must walk.

K. Officials of the event shall be the only non-competitors riding on the loop.

L. When differences or conflicts are not defined by D-4 Rules, the order of precedent shall be:

1. NATC/AMA Rules.
2. FIM Rules
3. The next higher level addressing the issue shall be the authority. Precedence thus established will be considered in affect until formally changed by the Committee members.

2021 D-4 SCORING RULES

Any and all scoring rules used by the observer within a section while a rider is competing, per D-4 Scoring rules § III Definitions, shall be in compliance with those used by the NATC unless singled out and voted otherwise as exemptions by the D-4 Trials Committee membership.

I. CHECKING OFFICIALS

A. The Checking Official at each observed section must be stationed so the entire section is clearly visible.

If the section requires more than one official, penalties will be called to the official at the section's end.

B. Officials may not be changed during the event in order to keep scoring consistent.

C. Officials must position themselves in such a way to always remain visible to the riders.

D. Officials must give each rider a clear signal to enter the section.

II. SCORING

A. Scoring will start when the front axle passes the start markers and will stop when the front axle passes the finish markers.

B. A rider shall be penalized only for error committed which carries the greatest number of penalty

points. Penalties shall not be cumulative in any section beyond the first 3 points. C. Punch-type scorecards will be carried by the rider.

Cards must not obstruct the view of the rider's number plate.

D. Scoring will be based on the FIM Trials Scoring System.

	<u>ERROR</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
0 faults	0 POINTS	
1	1	
2	2	
More than 2	3	
Failure	5	

Missing a section 10

III. DEFINITIONS.

A. Clean;

No error, no penalty.

B. Faults;

1. Each intentional contact of the rider or his/her machine with the ground or an obstacle (rock, tree, etc.).

Tires, foot pegs, and engine protection plate are exceptions. A rider may maintain balance with a tire against an obstacle or stop while the skid plate or foot peg is resting on an obstacle with the engine running. Note; feet on the pegs "toe dabs" count as footing.

2. Foot rotation counts as one point.

3. Sliding the foot counts as three points.

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

C. Failures;

1. Rider begins a section without official's acknowledgment.

2. Not riding the line designated for the rider's class.

3. The machine moves backwards with or without the rider footing.
4. A marker is passed by either tire on the out of bounds side of the marker. Floating a tire over a marker is a failure. Note; a marker is defined as a class split or gate.
5. Any displacement, breaking, or knocking down of markers or boundaries by direct contact of the motorcycle or rider, requiring that the marker or boundary be reset to its original position, is a failure.

Touching a boundary is not a failure.

6. The machine touches the ground with the front, rear or both wheels outside a boundary.
 - There must be ground visible between the boundary and tire.
 - a. It is permissible to float one wheel over a boundary.
 - b. Jumping a boundary with both wheels is a failure.
 - c. Breaking a ribbon is a failure.
 - Note; A boundary is defined as a marker or ribbon used to define the section limits for all classes.
 7. The rider dismounts from the machine and has both feet on the ground on the same side of or behind the machine. (Legs behind rear axle)
 8. The rider makes hand contact with any part of the machine, other than the handlebars, when footing, while stationary.
 9. The rider receives outside assistance.
 10. The rider changes the condition of the section.
 11. The engine of the machine stops with footing or any part of the machine, except one contact point on each tire, is used for support, without forward motion.
 - a. A restart in balance accumulates 0 points.
 - b. Coasting out of a section with a dead engine results in no added points except when footing.
 12. The handle bar is used for support and the machine is beyond 45° from vertical.
 13. The machine does a complete loop crossing both its own tracks with both wheels.
 14. The front axle passes through start or finish markers more than one time per ride in a section.
 15. Riders may not ride through a gate specifically marked for a higher or lower class unless also marked with the class they are competing in.
- D. Exemptions;
1. There is no mandatory whistle used.
 2. There is no time limit within a section.
 3. There is no first loop time limit.

IV. OTHER PENALTIES.

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct, 25 points at official's discretion. Subsequent occurrences during the current season will result in disqualification from the event and/or AMA disciplinary action.
- B. Not attempting a section:
 1. Must wait in line and be recognized to report to Observer, 5 points.
 2. Missing section, 10 points, Un-punched sections are considered missed.
 - a. If un-punched spaces exceed 10% of designated rides, the rider will be considered a non-finisher.
- C. It is the rider's responsibility to see that their scorecard is properly marked, (for both time recording and punching) and turned in on time. Lost scorecards result in disqualification.
- D. Altering a section of an event, before the start - disqualification.
- E. Exceeding the 5 mph speed limit, also failure to keep both wheels on the ground in the pits: 1st offense is 25 points, 2nd offense is disqualification during the same season. Only the clerk of the course (referee), chairman, assistant chairman or chief scorer can issue this penalty either as a result of direct observation or complaint by at least 2 credible witnesses.
- F. Riding backwards on the loop or short cutting is prohibited for everyone. Penalty is disqualification or loss of work credit.

V. PROTESTS.

- A. The protest committee shall be comprised of at least three people. Chairman, Organizer, and Rules

Secretary. If one of the above is not available candidates should come from, in the following order; Asst. Chairman, past Chairman or Rules Secretary, Committee Members.

- B. Protests must be written and must specify the pertinent rule infraction. They must be submitted to the scoring table within the 15 minutes following the grace period. A \$10.00 fee must also be submitted with the protest and if the protest is denied the money will be deposited into the committee treasury.
- C. Riders may not protest another rider's score.
- D. If a rider is severely distracted by circumstances beyond their control, or their line is blocked by other riders, spectators, animals etc. they may claim an obstruction. At the discretion of the observer an immediate re-ride of the section may be granted. During a re-ride the section shall be scored from the point of obstruction onwards to the end. Any points lost prior to the point of obstruction during the original attempt will stand and still be counted along with any points lost during the observed part of the re-ride.

VI. TIES.

- A. In case of a tie the ranking will be based on the most number of cleans, then ones, twos or threes will win. If a tie still exists, then the furthest clean 1, 2, 3 — then the earliest finish time determines the winner.

VII. OBSERVER AND SECTION PROTOCOL.

- A. The observers job is to score the riders attempt, to maintain a fair and safe contest by enforcing the rules and maintaining order in the section. The observer is responsible to and supported by the Organizer of the event in all appropriate actions concerning his/her duties.
- B. The observer must not advise, coach, or assist any rider in his/her section.
Helping a rider out of your section after a failure in order to keep the section moving is permitted.
- C. If you are unsure of your decision and have no competent witnesses, you must give the rider the benefit of the doubt.
- D. If a rider argues with your decision, give a brief reason for your decision then politely explain to him/her to file an official protest and leave the section.
If the rider becomes argumentative or abusive, advise him/her of the additional 25 point penalty he/she will receive. If the rider persists enact the 25 point penalty by punching out the sect #.
Riders refusing to surrender their scorecard must be reported to the Clerk of the Course. Failure to surrender scorecard to an observer will result in disqualification.
- E. Expedite each rider's ride. A rider may only attempt the entire section after a failure on the first loop. After the first loop send the rider out of the section the quickest way possible.
- F. Riders altering the section beyond your tolerance should be reminded that any further actions will result in a five. You must remain in control of the section.
- G. The observer must maintain the boundaries and markers in the condition presented to the first rider. Make sure you are aware of all markers and understand each line. Repair any damaged markers or tape. Materials should be available at the section.
- H. There is no line of sight rule. A rider may loop out between markers as far as they want unless restricted by tape.
- I. Call for the Clerk of the course or Assistant Clerk if a problem arises.
- J. A rider may request a re-ride if distracted while in a section due to problems beyond the riders control. The re-ride is at the Observer Officials discretion. See § V.D. under protests
- K. A rider is responsible for his/her score.
Any disagreements must be cleared up immediately after a ride is completed.
Problems that can not be solved in a timely fashion must be handled with a written protest.

VIII. RADIO PROTOCOL

- A. Radios are for official or emergency use only. Non essential communication between sections is not allowed.
- B. The radio is your responsibility while you are on duty. Make sure they are returned to the scoring table at the end of the event.

D-4 OFFICERS

2023

CHAIRMAN; _____ MARK MURPHY 585-749-4632

ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN; _____ GEORGE BRINKWART 585-472-2577

COMPETITION SECRETARY; _____ STEVE FEDORKA 315-497-3408

RULES SECRETARY; _____ RICHARD FREER 585-610-5424

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