



Interaction between Referees, Club Officials, and Riders

SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

We want our races to be successful and trouble-free. Some of the key factors in determining success are:

- the safety of riders, officials, spectators, and the general public;
- minimising inconvenience to the general public;
- competitive racing;
- consistently meeting expectations in the management and delivery of events.

Of course, there are other important considerations such as handicapping, race promotion, prizes, and presentations to name a few.

A race can only be a success if riders, race organisers, and referees work together and treat one another with respect. While the emphasis of these groups may vary, no group can work independently of the other. To this end the following protocols are to be adopted:

EXPECTED PROTOCOLS

1. For every event there is a single, designated **Referee in Charge** (RIC), and all communication with and from the Referee Panel must be sanctioned by that person.
2. For every event there is a designated **Race Director** (RD) who represents the host club and its various officials for the event.
3. AVCC has determined that the RIC
... shall be in control of an event, and shall have the power to direct all riders, officials, members, marshals and other involved persons. The controlling referee shall have the power to penalize riders, officials and members from the time he or she arrives at the race precinct and until such persons are clear of the precinct following the end of an event and to such time as the referee is able to interview the person(s) involved and the dispute is resolved.
4. In the week prior to a race, the RD submits a **pre-race information sheet** to the RIC and to other officials (assistant referees, marshals, first-aiders, timing system operators, finish line judges, etc) who will be acting at the race. The RIC can advise the RD of any additional conditions to be met, and officials can contact the RD with any questions or concerns before the race.
5. A **pre-race briefing** should be held on race day and should include the RIC, referees, marshals, first aider/s, and the RD. This ensures that all information about the course, marshals, road closures, and signage is current, correct, and known to all.
6. The duties of each referee, official, and the RD must be spelled out so that everyone is clear on their duties and those of the other officials.
7. The **start line rider briefing** should be discussed to ensure it is comprehensive in regard to race rules, course hazards, and other relevant information.
8. Immediately after the race all referees, officials, and the RD should meet **for a race review**. This is the time to raise any reports of potential breaches of rules as well as observations that might lead to better/safer events in the future.
9. **Imposition of penalties**
 - a. *It is noted that AVCC Racing Rules allow referees to impose penalties on riders, officials and members. For simplicity the following sections refer to all of these as "riders".*

- b. Any referee officiating at the race may impose penalties. They must however inform the RIC (at or before the race review) of their intentions prior to informing the rider involved. It is for the RIC and the referee observing the indiscretion to agree which of them will advise the offending rider. If more than one referee has noted a single rider breaching racing rules on separate occasions during the race, it is suggested that the RIC leads all subsequent activities.
 - c. In determining a penalty, the RIC/referee should take account of the following:
 - i. pertinent observations by referees or other officials;
 - ii. mitigating circumstances claimed by the accused rider;
 - iii. the perspective offered by other riders who witnessed the indiscretion;
 - iv. the rider's previous 12-month's history;
 - v. SAMCA's list of maximum penalties.
 - d. Prior to notifying the accused rider of any penalty, the referee and RD must determine whether that penalty would change the race results. If so, presentations should be held over until any appeal is completed.
 - e. It is the RD's responsibility to ensure that other club officials are advised of the penalty and the need to delay presentations until advised that it is appropriate to continue.
 - f. The referee should take the offending rider to a private area, and in front of a third party (RIC, another referee, or the RD), inform the rider of their penalty and right of appeal. SAMCA's Racing Rules and Penalties require that riders must not disrespect or abuse officials. In return, it is essential that referees and race officials maintain a polite and calm manner when advising riders of transgressions and penalties.
 - g. If the rider has left the venue the referee should obtain the rider's contact details from the RD, and then contact and notify the rider as soon as practically possible.
 - h. In the event that the rider does not answer, a message informing them of their penalty should be left with a request that they return the call to obtain further information.
 - i. Penalised riders should be told of their right of appeal. Those riders who leave the venue and do not return the call prior to the prize giving will forfeit their right to appeal.
 - j. Should a rider choose to exercise their right of appeal, the RD will convene a panel in accordance with SAMCA and AVCC requirements.
10. An accurate and complete **Race Day Check List (RDCL)** must be submitted according to SAMCA and AVCC requirements. It must include names of all referees and officials, together with details of penalties imposed (including warnings) so that a central SAMCA registry can be kept current. Appropriate information can then be distributed to clubs and to referees for future reference.

The sharing of information between all referees and RDs will minimise the chance of misunderstanding. It will lead to greater consistency. Riders are understandably concerned at perceived inconsistencies in our management. Greater communication between referees, and between RDs and referees will help to eliminate these inconsistencies, whether they be real or imagined.

Successful events are a result of what referees and RDs do but also the respect the riders have for referees and race organisers.

The following is a detailed guide for referees that incorporates the protocols discussed above.

WHEN A RIDER BREACHES A RACING RULE.

The referee must:

1. note rider's number, location, details of breach, and other riders in the vicinity.
2. as soon as possible, advise RIC of intention to impose a penalty.
3. after notifying RIC, advise RD of intention to impose a penalty.
4. in the presence of a third party (ideally RIC, RD, or other official), advise rider of what was observed and how this is in breach of racing rules.

5. invite the rider to give their perspective of the incident and any claimed mitigating circumstances.
6. advise the rider that further investigations will take place and that they should not leave the venue.
7. determine if there were any independent witnesses (including other riders or officials, but not spectators) and seek their observations of the incident.
8. review the offending rider's previous 12-month's history and any previous penalties.
 - if the rider has committed a similar breach within the past 12 months, the penalty should be more severe to discourage any further breaches.
 - if this is the first breach in the 12 month period, the penalty may be less severe.
9. regardless of past history, the penalty should reflect the seriousness of the present indiscretion and be consistent with SAMCA's list of maximum penalties.
10. advise the RIC and RD of the proposed penalty to ensure that presentations and published results take account of that penalty.
11. If the rider is still at the venue, speak to them in the presence of a third party. Advise the nature of penalty:
 - informal warning;
 - formal warning;
 - formal warning and disqualification;
 - disqualification and suspension;
 - disqualification and monetary fine;
 - disqualification, suspension, and monetary fine.and their right of appeal.
12. If the rider has left the venue, advise RD so that presentations can go ahead. Ask the RD for rider's contact details and phone them as soon as convenient. Advise the rider of their penalty and right of appeal.
13. If the rider is not available, leave a message advising of their penalty. Under these circumstances the rider has forfeit their right of appeal.
14. Should the rider choose to exercise their Right of Appeal, advise the RIC and RD immediately so that an Appeal Board can be convened.
15. Ensure that complete details of the penalty are recorded on the RDCL.