

Veteran Officials' Session

OBRA Officials Training

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1. Significant Recent Rule Changes

1.1 (2009) Align Cyclocross age changes with USA Cycling

Change:

- 6.5 - AGE GRADED CATEGORIES
- A rider's racing age shall be his or her age on December 31 of the current year. All references to age of riders, race age groups, or age class shall be interpreted as referring to racing age. The following terms refer to specific age groups.

Racing Age Age Group

- Under 10 Youth
- 10-18 Junior
- 19-22 Under 23
- 23-29 Elite
- 30+ Master

However, a rider's cyclocross racing age shall be his or her racing age on the first of January that is included in the same cyclocross season

Youth riders may enter only youth races. A youth race is a race held only on a closed course that is open only to riders with racing ages below 10.

1.1.1 Discussion

Although the change is focused on clarifying Cyclocross age, it is a full rewrite of this rule. Previously, only Masters and Juniors were identified. The new rule defines youth, under 23, and elite.

With the new youth designation comes new restrictions about who and where a youth field may race.

For cyclocross age groups, this may not be the finalized language. Some work was being done to clarify the rule and make it more understandable.

1.2 (2008) Mixing of classes and categories

Add:

- 6.6 Mixing of Classes and Categories
 - 6.6.1 Eligibility. No rider may race in a category other than that which is stated on his or her membership.
 - 6.6.2. Women may enter any race for which they are eligible by age, category, and any performance requirements and may enter categorized races

for men that are up to one category lower than their women's category, or in the case of category 1 women, up to two categories lower.

- 6.6.3. Mixing of Classes. An organizer may offer races for combined classifications and categories but the categories in a given race must be the same for all age groups. All riders shall race the same distance unless there is a distance handicapped start for separate groupings of riders.

1.2.1 Discussion

Although much of this was assumed in the past, the passage of this entry makes it a hard and fast rule. It says 3 major things:

1. You can't race in other fields.
2. Women can race in men's field, 1 category down (cat 3 woman, can race cat 4 men).
3. Promoters can mix categories.

1.3 (2008) No hand drawn numbers

Add:

- 8.7 Hand drawn numbers are not allowed.

1.3.1 Discussion

Let's make it easier on everyone. If you don't have your number, use a temp/rental number.

1.4 (2008) Set protest time for internet result posts

Change:

- 12. - PROTESTS
 - 12.5 Any protest about the order of finish must be lodged within 15 minutes of posting if posted at the race or within 24 hours if posted on the internet. There is no fee required for a protest about the results. In stage races or series races results may be protested until the end of sign in of the following stage or the next race in the series. For the final race in stage races or the last race in series events and for all other races, if there are no protest within 15 minutes of posting the above time frame the results will may be considered final.

1.4.1 Discussion

With advances in technology, and the complexity and size of some races (think large cyclocross), posting timely results at the race site are not always possible. This modification allows results to be posted online and sets a 24 hours window for protests to be made.

This extends the time that we are responsible for modifiable race results. The race is no longer a closed matter at the time we leave the race venue.

1.5 (2008) Restrict crossing the finish-line

Add:

- 15. - ROAD RACING
 - 15.1 - INDIVIDUAL ROAD RACE
 - 15.1.2 - General rules.
 - Riders may cross the finish line only while racing.

1.5.1 Discussion

This is intended to make the judges lives easier. Riders will (should) only cross this line once. This solves a host of problems with the Lynx system, and minimizes other kinds of mistakes.

1.6 (2008) TT riders must ride on the right

Add:

- 15.5.9 In a time trial riders will ride as close to the right side of the road as practical.

1.6.1 Discussion

This may have come from the large debate about TTT riders crossing the center line. Needless to say, it is a major safety issue. TT's are almost never held on closed roads. Riders are riding with traffic, and they need to ride predictably and safely.

1.7 (2007) Last 3 K rule in stage races

Change:

- 15.6.16
 - To mandate officials announce whether the finish would be considered an 'uphill' finish at the beginning of the event. If it is uphill, the 3 km rule does not apply.

1.7.1 Discussion

The 3 KM is not in effect on hill finishes in stage races. With this rule, we must make this known at the start of the race. If we haven't declared it, we may not be able to enforce it.

1.8 (2007) Racer radio restrictions

Add:

- 7.5 - Non-handheld radios with only one earpiece providing communication with coaches, managers or other riders may be used only in road races that include Cat 1 or 2 riders and do not include Cat 4 or 5 riders. Audio playback devices are specifically prohibited.

1.8.1 Discussion

This rule defines both the kind of radio that can be used and where they can be used. Fields that have only CAT 1/ 2 riders, and might include CAT 3's could use race radios. If it's a senior road race, where all 23-29 year olds race in the same field, radios would not be allowed.

What does this mean for more open category races, such as time trials? Are radios allowed if categories are isolated by time?

1.9 (2007) Remove short sleeve jersey restriction

Delete:

- Rule 9.2.1 mandating that jerseys must cover the shoulder and shorts must be mid thigh.

1.9.1 Discussion

Just something to be aware of.


2. First View: Code of Ethics

unofficial draft

The following code is generally accepted by all sports for their officials and is adapted here for cycling officials.

- Cycling officials will maintain the utmost respect for the sport of competitive cycling.
- Cycling officials will conduct themselves honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of their position.
- Cycling officials must maintain impartial and fair judging of sports competitions. Without equivocation, race decisions which are slanted by personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.
- Cycling officials have a responsibility to continuously seek self-improvement through study of the game, rules, mechanics and the techniques of race management. They have a responsibility to accurately represent their qualifications and abilities when requesting or accepting officiating assignments.
- Cycling officials will honor assignments or any other contractual obligation.
- Cycling officials will strive to achieve maximum teamwork with fellow officials.
- Cycling officials have an obligation to treat other officials with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to criticize other officials publicly.
- Cycling officials shall protect the public (fans, administrators, coaches, athletes, et al.) from inappropriate conduct and shall attempt to eliminate from the officiating avocation/profession all practices which bring discredit to it.

3. First View: Penalty Matrix

Road Racing Rule Enforcement							
Updated 1/29/2008		Increasing Severity 					
Type of Rule Infraction - Road Racing, Only	Warning	Relegation - loss of position in group	Relegation - loss of position at finish	Fine	DQ	Suspension	Notes
Racing Rules per OBRA section 15.1							
Centerline violation							
Traffic law violation while outside the caravan							
Illegal handup							
Littering							
Inteference from lapped rider							
Unauthorized finish line crossing							
Feeding outside the feed zone							
Feeding from other than right side of the road.							
Pacing from caravan vehicle (<100 m)	1st					2nd	
Pacing from caravan vehicle (>100 m)						1st	
Being pushed by or holding onto vehicle for long time (> 100m)				\$30			Charged to team manager or rider
Pushing by team personnel							
Pushing from bystanders							
Pushing between riders							
Finishing for a place after not completing the entire race.					Y		
Reporting to start line with unauthorized clothing or equipment					Y		Prohibited from starting
Riders on different laps working together (road race...ok in crits)							
Misconduct per section 11.2							
Unsportsmanlike conduct						1 2	If severe, Suspension may result after 1st offense.
Theft							
Fraud							
Illegally affecting race outcome							
Dangerous riding							
Abrupt motion interfering with another rider's forward progress							
Abrupt motion interfering with another rider's forward progress (<i>intermediate sprint</i>)			1st & 2nd offense		Upon 3rd offense		1st and 2nd offenses are different for RR and SR. 3rd offense is DQ for both RR & SR.
Abrupt motion interfering with another rider's forward progress (<i>final sprint</i>)							
Foul or abusive language							
Pushing or holding another rider							
Failure to follow a referee's order							
Completing any part of the course without a bicycle							
Equipment maint issues resulting in dangerous condition							
Riding on course when not entered into event.							
Pacing from rider or vehicle in another event.							
Rider interfering with official vehicle attempting to pass						1 2	If severe, Suspension may result after 1st offense.
Team vehicle passing without permission				1st: \$30,			3rd: Vehicle ejection from race
Team vehicle not allowing official car to pass				2nd: \$60			
Failure to sign in							
Signing in for another rider				2nd: \$10,			
Failure to wear required jersey (i.e. leader's jersey)				3rd: \$20			
Racing with modified numbers							
Violating any of the OBRA racing rules							

4. Event Scenarios

4.1 Scenario 1

While working as the Comm2 official for the Pro 1/2 field at the Willamette stage race on the Wolf Creek stage, you notice several riders from the same team drop back to assist their GC leader with a flat, presumably to tow him back. You also notice their Team car stops, but you lose sight of them as you continue down the road around all the curves and corners. A few minutes later, the team van appears, but you cannot see behind it. You see all the riders from that team appear on the left side of the lane, then proceed over the centerline (double yellow in this case). As they pass you, your window is down and you hear them yelling "Go to the front". They proceed to pass everyone in the peloton and then they pull in at the front.

4.2 Scenario 2

You are working as Comm1 driving in front of the chase group on the 3 Summits stage for the Cat 3 Men at the Mt. Hood Stage Race. You notice in your rear view mirror that one of the riders is clearly over the centerline in the middle of the oncoming lane. This rider was on the front of the group before they changed lanes. They appear to be sitting up and trying to remove clothes. It's windy, but the road is straight for a mile or two, and the pavement is smooth and they are going slightly uphill...not very fast. Once they're done adjusting themselves, they move back over and continue riding without incident. No riders file protests and they gained no advantage with this maneuver.

4.3 Scenario 3

You are the CR at the Harrisburg Criterium and the Pro 1/2 men are racing. The pit is wheels in/wheels out...not neutral. A rider with a flat pulls into the pit. He mentions he does not have wheels in the pit, then proceeds to grab a wheel, install it and keep racing. The wheel's owner, who is a former team mate of the first rider (with no love lost between them, I might add) files a written protest immediately after the race.

4.4 **Scenario 4**

You are working the Banana Belt #2 Pro 1/2 field when you get a report from several of the riders that one of the top riders took a feed from someone standing on the centerline. The rider never left their lane, but the feed was from the left side of the road. What do you do? (Alternate: Your lead driver sees this exchange. How might this affect your ruling?)

4.5 **Scenario 5**

The same rider in question from scenarios 3 and 4 is up to his old tricks again, and manages to sign up and get into a race without paying for it. One of those, "check's in the mail". The promoter allows him to enter the event taking him at his word. The promoter comes to you later that week after pulling the rider from the results and giving them a big fat "DQ" after not receiving the entry fee, and not receiving any sort of explanation from the rider. What to do?

Appendix A - Rule Changes

2009 Changes

Misconduct

Add:

- 11.4 - Misconduct may be punished after the expiration of the protest period. Only the Board of Directors may impose punishment under the rule.

Align MTB Categories align with USA Cycling

Change:

- 6.3 - MOUNTAIN BIKE CATEGORIES
 - Cat 1 (current Expert and Semi-pro): Racing skills, strength, race experience, and stamina have reached an exceptional level; racing is very competitive. Riders must have a racing age of at least 15 to race as a Category 1 in the endurance disciplines.
 - Cat 2 (current Sport): Racing reflects improved skills, strength, race experience, and stamina. A rider must advance to Cat 1 after placing in the top five in five races.
 - Cat 3 (current Beginner): Racing is for the entry-level rider. Racers have limited racing experience and have a lower fitness and skill level than in Category 2. After placing in the top five in five races, a Cat 3 racer must advance to Cat 2.

Align Cyclocross age changes with USA Cycling

Change:

- 6.5 - AGE GRADED CATEGORIES
- A rider's racing age shall be his or her age on December 31 of the current year. All references to age of riders, race age groups, or age class shall be interpreted as referring to racing age. The following terms refer to specific age groups.

Racing Age Age Group

- Under 10 Youth
- 10-18 Junior
- 19-22 Under 23
- 23-29 Elite
- 30+ Master

However, a rider's cyclocross racing age shall be his or her racing age on the first of January that is included in the same cyclocross season

Youth riders may enter only youth races. A youth race is a race held only on a closed course that is open only to riders with racing ages below 10.

2008 Changes

Change in penalty assignment scope

Change:

- 2.12 Penalty - a punishment for infraction of the rules. Penalties may be applied to clubs/event organizers (or their designees) , individual riders or teams. Unless otherwise specified in these rules, penalties are at the discretion of the Chief Referee.

Upgrade/Downgrade redirection

Change:

- 6.1 - UPGRADING AND DOWNGRADING
Upgrading and Downgrading guidelines for road and mountain bike racing will be published by the Executive Director. Ability categories provided by other organizations will be recognized by these guidelines."

Mixing of classes and categories

Add:

- 6.6 Mixing of Classes and Categories
 - 6.6.1 Eligibility. No rider may race in a category other than that which is stated on his or her membership.
 - 6.6.2. Women may enter any race for which they are eligible by age, category, and any performance requirements and may enter categorized races for men that are up to one category lower than their women's category, or in the case of category 1 women, up to two categories lower.
 - 6.6.3. Mixing of Classes. An organizer may offer races for combined classifications and categories but the categories in a given race must be the same for all age groups. All riders shall race the same distance unless there is a distance handicapped start for separate groupings of riders.

Modify accepted helmet standards

Change:

- 7.1. - HELMETS
Every rider warming up or racing while at the race venue shall wear a protective, securely fastened helmet that satisfies at least one of the following helmet standards:
 - US Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z90.4
 - Snell Memorial Foundation Standard "B" or "N" series
 - American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard F-1447
 - Canadian Standards Association standard (CSA) CAN/CSA-D113.2-M
 - US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

- European Committee for Standardization (CE EN1078) standard for bicycle helmets

Track: clarify handlebar rule

Change:

- 7.9 - RULES SPECIFIC TO TRACK RACING
 - 7.9.2 For timed trialed events:
 - Riders may use upturned or forward pointing handlebars or bars that provide support for the forearms (i.e. cow-horn, tri bars, etc.) except in Team Sprint.

No hand drawn numbers

Add:

- 8.7 Hand drawn numbers are not allowed.

Set protest time for internet result posts

Change:

- 12. - PROTESTS
 - 12.5 Any protest about the order of finish must be lodged within 15 minutes of posting if posted at the race or within 24 hours if posted on the internet. There is no fee required for a protest about the results. In stage races or series races results may be protested until the end of sign in of the following stage or the next race in the series. For the final race in stage races or the last race in series events and for all other races, if there are no protest within 15 minutes of posting the above time frame the results will may be considered final.

Clarify appeals process

Change:

- 14. - APPEALS

A member may appeal a suspension or referee ruling by sending a request of appeal to the OBRA Executive Director who will convene a meeting of the OBRA Board of Directors within ten days of the receipt of the letter (telephone conference calls or Internet contact acceptable). The OBRA Board of Directors will collect information from appropriate sources and then either uphold or remove the suspension or referee ruling.

Restrict crossing the finish line

Add:

- 15. - ROAD RACING
 - 15.1 - INDIVIDUAL ROAD RACE

- 15.1.2 - General rules.
 - Riders may cross the finish line only while racing.

TT riders must ride on the right

Add:

- 15.5.9 In a time trial riders will ride as close to the right side of the road as practical.

Track: individual pursuit starts and finishes

Change:

- 16.3.7 - INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT
 - .
 - Starts.
 - .
 - (b) The start shall be by gunshot, start tones or other audible signal. .
 - (c) The starter within the first 30 meters shall call a false start should either rider move forward before the gun is fired start is signaled or if either rider is pushed.
 - .
 - Finish.
 - .
 - (c) In all rounds, if neither rider catches the other, then a single gunshot shall may be fired when the first rider finishes and another may be fired when the second rider finishes."

Remove redundant section

Delete:

- 18.0 COMPETITION PROTESTS
- Renumber following rules.
- This rule is redundant. Protests are covered in 12. -PROTESTS

2007 Changes

Added Super D discipline

Add :

- Create a 2nd mountain bike discipline by separating out downhill/super d into their own tracking field

Last 3 K rule in stage races

Change:

- 15.6.16

- To mandate officials announce whether the finish would be considered an 'uphill' finish at the beginning of the event. If it is uphill, the 3 km rule does not apply.

Anti-doping changes

Change:

- Summary: Section 18
 - Delete website from Rule book.

Add:

- Statement: This list is subject to change at any time and it is the athlete's responsibility to be familiar with the current list

Racer radio restrictions

Add:

- 7.5 - Non-handheld radios with only one earpiece providing communication with coaches, managers or other riders may be used only in road races that include Cat 1 or 2 riders and do not include Cat 4 or 5 riders. Audio playback devices are specifically prohibited.

Remove short sleeve jersey restriction

Delete:

- Rule 9.2.1 mandating that jerseys must cover the shoulder and shorts must be mid thigh.