

Beginners Guide to Motorcycle Trials – Part 2

What are Motorcycle Trials?

Motorcycle Trials (also called Observed Trials) are non-speed events ridden on specialized motorcycles.

These trials motorcycles are distinctive in that they are lightweight, low geared, have a tight turning circle and are mostly ridden standing up. Unlike Enduro or Motocross machines they are not built for speed.

The event is split into Sections where a competitor rides through a marked obstacle course attempting to keep his or her feet up on the footrests and to avoid touching the ground.

The obstacles in the course can be natural or manmade. In most cases natural terrain is in woods.

All Sections are laid out to test the skill of the rider, hence four routes for different skill levels.

Marks or points are lost in each section in the following ways:

- 0 = Clean (feet haven't touched the ground within the Section)
- 1 = Dab (a foot has touched the ground once within the section)
- 2 = Prod (both feet have touched the ground once within the section)
- 3 = As many Dabs as you like
- 5 = Stopping or going out of the Section

If a competitor rides through a Section without touching the ground with a foot they have 'cleaned' the Section, score = 0

Rider touches the ground once within a Section then this is a Dab, score = 1

If the Rider touches the ground twice then the score = 2

Rider touches the ground within the Section three or more times this is called 'Footing', score = 3

If the rider fails to complete the course i.e. stops, falls off or runs out of the Section, score = 5

The competitor with the least points at the end of the event is the winner.