

Trials Guidelines for Covid-19 Social Distancing

Because trials is inherently a “socially distant” sport, a few minor modifications to our norms can make the sport fully compatible with guidelines from government bodies for minimizing the chances for transmission of the virus. Other than the below, the sport can proceed as usual.

1. **Permitting:** Getting the permit for an event from the government (BLM, USFS etc.) or permission from private land holders was previously enough when coupled with insurance for the event. In addition, it is now incumbent on event organizers to consult both orders and recommendations from governments at federal, state, county and possibly city levels. Since these can change rapidly it is recommended to review them two weeks before the event and then again two days before the event so that necessary changes can be communicated to participants before and during the event.
2. **Food:** Participants should bring and prepare their own food. Cookouts and potlucks will no longer be part of the event. Even preparing and sharing hors d’oeuvres for after ride snacks is no longer acceptable.
3. **Greetings:** Handshakes, hugs, high fives and fist bumps are all to be avoided.
4. **Meetings:** During group meetings such as rider’s meetings and awards ceremonies, 6 foot distancing is required. This does not apply to people from the same household/camper/car. Organizers need to adjust their volume accordingly so that people can comfortably hear without crowding. Standing on the bed of a pickup truck can help with projecting your voice. Depending on local orders, awards ceremonies may need to be cancelled and rider’s meetings replaced with posted signage.
5. **Signup:** The 6 foot rule should be applied to signup. This can be done with markers six feet apart in the line (flags, red cups, or cones). Limit one rider at a time at the table. Riders can help keep this moving by having exact change or a check already written out. Holding signup both the night before and the morning of the event can help as well. Clubs that can do signup online are encouraged to do so.
6. **Group Scoring:** For clubs that group score, groups should be kept smaller than normal where possible and have an absolute limit in accordance with current local limits. As of May 1 this limit is 10 for Colorado and 5 for New Mexico as an example. For clubs that score morning/afternoon scorers will still man each section, but riders may punch their own card, with their own punch at each section based on what the scorer calls out.
7. **Spectating:** Spectators are asked to keep to the six foot rule. Organizers and riders are asked to help police this recommendation. Currently there are no true spectators expected at events other than household members of competitors.
8. **PPE:** The decision about wearing masks is left to the individual based on current local recommendations. As of May 1, Colorado and New Mexico recommend masks. As of June 1, New Mexico requires masks in “public settings”. Frequent hand sanitizer use and/or hand washing are required. Participants must supply their own supplies in this regard as supply chain challenges make it impractical for clubs to supply them.