



# BMX Gate Starter

## Role

The Starter's role is to conduct the start of each race. The starter operates the starting gate, and performs other actions that are necessary and appropriate to assure that each race has a safe and fair start.

## Equipment

There are several brands and types of start gates. Make sure you are familiar with the Gate you are being asked to operate.

It is ideal to have an experienced gate starter show you over the electrics, air system and controls so you become familiar with how it operates.



## Pre-start inspection

Prior to allowing riders on the start gate you should check the following;

1. Drain any water from the bottom of the compressor.
2. Check the compressor has the correct oil level. Start the compressor and make sure it operates correctly. Check that it reaches around 8 bar pressure.
3. Inspect the ram, gate and platform to make sure the grates or mesh is not loose, the welds or fasteners are intact and that there are no sharp components.
4. Turn on the electrics. Operate the gate to ensure it goes up smoothly, apply force to ensure it holds in position and then drops smoothly.

## Procedure

1. If using Radios collect from Registrations or your designated Club Official. If you don't know how to use the radio ask.
2. Prior to raising the gate, look to see that there is no-one near the gate or riders moving into the gate.

3. Watch the riders move onto the gate and allow some time for them to settle into position.
4. Seek acknowledgement from the top stager that all riders are in the correct moto & lane.
5. If using transponders check with scoring to ensure all is ok to start racing.
6. The Chief Commissaire will advise of the race pace for the event.
7. Look to see that riders have their safety equipment in place.
8. Make sure that there are no issues on the track and if there are officials on the track that they are ready for the next group. Allow enough gap on the track to reduce the risk of one group interacting with another.
9. Watch the competitors exit the gate to the 1<sup>st</sup> berm and note any possible interference between them as they progress down the start hill onto the first straight.
10. Be efficient with calling the next group onto the gate to help keep the event running efficiently.



### **The start.**

A BMX race shall be started using a voice box starting system.

Where an electronically controlled starting gate in combination with a voice box supported starting system is used, the recorded commands of the voice box shall be as follows:

**Stage 1:** «OK riders, random start»

**Stage 2:** «Riders ready»

**Stage 3:** «Watch the gate»

For safety reasons, the stop button can be pressed at any time (up to the end of Stage

### **Position on the gate**

The front wheel must be placed against the gate, be grounded and remain stationary during the starter's call (starters call finishes at the end of Stage 3 of the voice call). All riders must start in the designated gate position.

### **Interference on the gate**

Any rider who in any way interferes or attempts to delay or interfere with the start procedure of a moto for a reason not accepted by the Chief Commissaires' panel may be disqualified.

### **Starting Blocks**

Participation (Sprocket) class riders may be assisted at the start. The parent/guardian of a rider who elects to use an interlocking pedal cleat system will not be allowed into staging or on the start hill – that rider can receive no assistance.

Where an interlocking pedal-cleat system is used, the rider must be able to demonstrate the ability to engage and release from the pedals, unassisted, upon any request from an official at an event.

**Mini Wheelers** are not permitted to start off a track's start hill/gate. (They may have their own Mini Wheeler gate).

**BMXA Officials enforce the rules, protect competitors spectators, anticipate & manage reasonably foreseeable dangers, efficiently control & supervise the event.**

### **BMX Officiating Philosophy**

- 🕒 Respect all in the sport as thinking & caring volunteers with differing abilities, roles & goals within the sport.
- 🕒 Communicate with other officials, participants, and spectators to establish shared understanding, knowledge & empathy,
- 🕒 Together with the officials and event administrators participate in shared decisions enforcing the rules that apply in the sport & their means of application.
- 🕒 Promote codes of behavior, which encourage self-responsibility by competitors, officials, coaches & spectators.
- 🕒 Adopt conflict resolution strategies to assist with enhancing the enjoyment of the sport by all.
- 🕒 Promote planning & review processes to evaluate, discuss & agree on rules, conduct of officiating & the ongoing maintenance of the relationship between competitors & officials.
- 🕒 Seek self-improvement through study, performance appraisal & regular updating of competencies