



## **Technical Bulletin #2009-05**

**To:** All AMA Pro Motocross Competitors  
**Date:** July 22, 2009  
**Effective Date:** Immediately  
**Subject:** Staging- new rule

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### **3.13 Staging**

- a.) Thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each moto, a horn will be sounded signaling "first call" and that the staging area is open. Motorcycles must be taken to the staging area to await being loaded onto the gate.
- b.) Twenty (20) minutes prior to the start, the entrance to the staging area will be closed and the starting gate will be loaded. Gate selection may be made by the rider or his designee. Motorcycles not in the staging area by the time of closure will not be loaded on the gate until all other riders/designees have selected their starting positions. Motorcycles arriving late will be loaded in the order of their late arrival to staging.
- ~~c.) Fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start, the entrance to the staging area will be closed. At this time, all motorcycles must be within the staging area or on the starting gate. Gate selection for any rider whose motorcycle is not in the staging area by the time of closure will be held until all other riders have selected their starting positions.~~
- c.) Ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the race, riders will be released for the sighting lap. The sighting lap is optional. Riders may receive repairs in the Signal Area during the sighting lap.
- d.) Four (4) minutes prior to the start, all riders must have completed their sighting lap and re-entered their position on the starting gate.
- e.) Once a motorcycle enters the staging area and is called to the starting gate, the motorcycle will not be permitted to return to the paddock. If the motorcycle is removed from the staging area after this point, the rider will not be permitted to start the race.

### **3.14 Start Procedure**

- a.) Jumping or fouling the gate may result in a penalty or disqualification.
- b.) Each rider may have only one crew member accompany them to the starting gate.
- c.) Riders must quickly make their gate selection.
- d.) Exchanging gate positions with other riders is not permitted.
- e.) Grooming may be done behind the gate, provided no shovels, tools, or other implements (foreign or natural) are used. There will be no grooming in front of the starting gate by riders or mechanics.
- f.) The use of starting blocks or other foreign elevating devices is prohibited. However, natural material found at or near the starting gate may be used for the rider to rest their feet on. Any natural material used for elevation may not be used as a grooming tool.

- g.) Watering of starting lanes by riders or mechanics is prohibited.
- h.) Ramps of any kind may not be formed in the starting lane. (The front and rear tires must be level).
- i.) Motorcycles must be positioned straight and in the center of the starting gate. Riders may not start at an angle.
- j.) If a backstop board is present, the rear tire may not extend past or rest upon it.
- k.) Once the last rider is in the gate and the track is cleared for the start, the Race Director or his designee will direct the Starter to hold up a 30-second sign. The 30-second sign will be held upright for 30 seconds, and then turned sideways for at least five seconds, but not more than ten seconds. During the five- to ten-second interval, the gate will fall.
- l.) In the event a rider needs to make repairs once loaded in the gate, the machine must be pushed back from the start gate to behind the rear restraint before any repairs can be made, so as not to interfere with other competitors.
- m.) All machines should be running prior to the display of the 30 second card. In the event a machine stalls or becomes inoperable after the display of the 30-second card, the machine must be pulled back from the start gate to behind the rear restraint, and any efforts to restart the machine must not interfere with the starting ability of the other competitors.