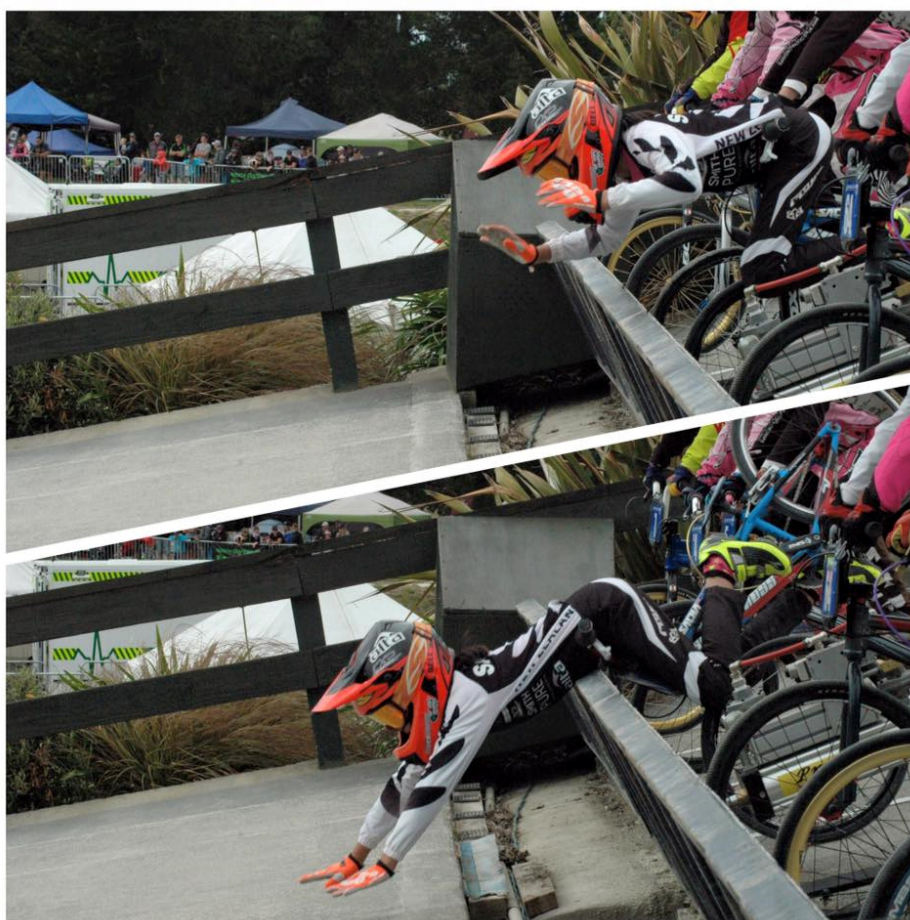




Safety Gate Requirement for BMXNZ Affiliated Clubs

February 2016

After long discussions by the BMXNZ Board & many years of comment within the sport, this new Safety Gate Requirement Proposal is seen initially as a necessity for all BMXNZ sanctioned Major Events. Then the following stepped requirements aim to instigate those necessities within a wider reach of events and then further into all club facilities so to bring the sport up to a better safety standard to protect all riders & users, at the challenge class level of the sport.



New Health & Safety Reforms

Under the new Act, there will be a duty to 'ensure health and safety' across all workplaces and activities.

This means that the organisation must:

- eliminate risks to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable
- if this is not reasonably practicable, minimise those risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

It will still be a case of balancing the nature and extent of the particular risk against the costs and practicalities of protecting against that risk.

The balance will continue to be weighted heavily in favour of health and safety. Remember that accidents are looked at in hindsight, and that, when serious harm has occurred, cost seldom justifies a decision not to do something that could have prevented the harm. For costs to be relevant, they will need to be 'grossly disproportionate' to the risk (this will be included expressly in the new Act).

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2016 Review of existing BMXNZ affiliated club gates

Club	Type	Comments	Events
Whangarei	ProGate singles		2017 NITs
Nth Harbour	ProGate singles		
Waitak	Barrel		
East City	Flat Gate	New install as a Flat Gate	
Raiders	Barrel		2018 NITs
Papakura	Flat Gate	Existing Flat. New Track to be confirmed	
Puni	Barrel	8m Flat Gate	2016 NATs
Hamilton	Barrel		
Cambridge	Barrel	8M to be confirmed	2016 NITs
Te Awamutu	Barrel		2017 NATs
Paeroa	Flat Gate		
Te Kuiti	Flat Gate		
Tauranga	Barrel		
Rotorua	Barrel		
Taupo	Barrel		
Gisborne	Barrel		
Hawkes Bay	Barrel		
New Plymouth	Barrel	To confirm New track type	2018 NITs
Hawera	Flat Gate		
Levin	Flat Gate		
Kapiti	Flat Gate		
Hutt	Barrel		
Wainui	Flat Gate		
Capital	Barrel		
Nelson	Flat Gate		
Nth Canterbury	Flat Gate		
North Avon CHCH	Barrel		2017 SITs
Christchurch City	Barrel		2018 SITs
Kaitangata	Flat Gate		
Alexandra	Barrel		
Dunedin	Flat Gate		
Southland	Barrel		

12	Flat Gate
18	Barrel
2	ProGate singles

32 Total Clubs

Safety Gate Requirement for BMXNZ Affiliated Clubs - February 2016

Stepped Safety Gate Requirements

Requirement Step 1

All BMXNZ Major Meetings from 2016 forward require an either a barrel style safety gate or a single lane individual safety gate for all Challenge class racing.

Reasoning

BMXNZ must take the lead in insuring the safety of its riders, especially the challenge class where 90 % of the sport is under 13yrs old. Initially BMXNZ should take responsibility for its events & then follow through with its affiliated club facilities to update as they hold events or help them gain funding to update.

Events Short Term

All events that have already been allocated in 2016, 2017 & 2018 will be on safety style gates. The exception being the recently completed Souths at North Canterbury. Moving forward this requirement will be written into the Major Event Contracts

Long Term Issues

As per the documented review of affiliated club gates, 38% still have flats gates. Of these, six clubs are looking at new facilities NP, PAK, RO, DN, NN & NC, plus a few like POA & KAP are discussing new ramp options. Other clubs who are looking towards a Norths, Souths or Nationals would have three plus years to update.

Requirement Step 2

All new BMXNZ affiliated clubs or existing clubs with rebuilds pending from February 2016 forward, must install a safety barrel or single lane individual safety Gates for all Challenge Class ramps.

Reasoning

BMXNZ is insuring the short term future of new or updated gates in New Zealand are Safety Style gates, by a BMXNZ affiliation requirement.

Short Term Applications

New tracks under construction in Cromwell & Hurunui will need to confirm their installs should they request affiliation. Pending rebuilds in NP, PAK, RO, DN, NN & NC have ample time to fund for this safety requirement.

Possible Issues

The cost of upgrading to a Barrel type safety is not a consideration under the new Health and Safety reforms. The implication is that cost seldom justifies a decision not to do something that could have prevented harm. Also, cost won't justify a decision not to do something that could have prevented serious harm.

The drop speed of the Barrel type gate isn't an issue specific to this style of start gate. Most of the safety gates in New Zealand comply with the UCI gate speed rules, which suggests it is an operational issue rather than a design one.

Safety Gate Requirement for BMXNZ Affiliated Clubs - February 2016

Requirement Step 3

All Regional Championship Events hold the BMXNZ National Series & Dalliston Events, so from January 2018 forward will require either a barrel style safety gate or single lane individual safety gate for all Challenge class racing.

Reasoning

BMXNZ needs to slowly expand the Health & Safety responsibility to regional events. The process to hold an event can spark the opportunity to seek funding or gain support to update the facility to a safety gate.

Events Short Term

Smaller clubs that hold regional events will be confronted with the requirement, this can be taken as a positive chance to update, or as a hurdle to not having an event. HAW, KAP, WA, are all examples of small clubs holding regional events that will be affected. Any recently installed flat gates will be an issue with this Health and Safety initiative.

Long Term Issues

Understanding the many smaller clubs who may struggle to meet such obligations, BMXNZ will need to support and assist these clubs with their funding applications.

Requirement Step 4

All BMXNZ affiliated clubs from January 1st 2020 forward, are required to use a safety barrel or single lane Safety gates for all Challenge Class use (racing , training & general use).

Reasoning

BMXNZ closes off the issues of old style flat gates in New Zealand, by a BMXNZ affiliation requirement.

Short Term Issues

Identifying smaller & less financially stable clubs that may struggle to complete this task even in this long term time frame, and BMXNZ assisting to begin the updating process earlier.

Long Term Needs

Assisting the last remaining clubs to complete the affiliation requirements.

Safety Gate Requirement for BMXNZ Affiliated Clubs - February 2016

Summary

This gate discussion is nothing new. These issues have been around for some time & there have been many close calls & some injuries, some have been made aware to BMXNZ & others kept quiet. The position that the sport of BMX now sits, with new Health & Safety laws around responsibility of individuals & volunteer bodies puts us in a position that it is our duty to make large steps forward to protect our members and our sport where possible.

As pictured on the front page of this documents at 2016 Souths it is a visual reminder that this step forward needs to be taken as soon as possible. With this staggered approach to eventing & then affiliation requirements, the four year period should be more than ample time to complete the task.

Requirement Step 1 - Major Meeting requirement

Requirement Step 2 - New Affiliated Club & new rebuild requirement

Requirement Step 3 - Regional Meeting requirement

Requirement Step 4 - All Affiliated Clubs requirement

BMXNZ H&S Portfolio



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