

Dear friends

Just a few words from me regarding my observations as the Assistant COC on the day -

1. Starting order this year seems to be a "problem" and sometimes embarrassing to the organising officials, because again the starting order was changed the Saturday morning early due to a protest that was produced (to the EXCO of the Junior Nationals, but not submitted) the Friday night.
2. The meeting with the Jury President on the Friday & Saturday nights, including Saturday morning, went well and it seemed that the organisers had everything under control.
3. The very effective pit lane marshals again stamped their authority from the start and surely this was the best "slow speed in pit lane" which I experienced in a long time as it seemed non-existing at a stage at Junior National events.
4. The fact that PDI's were used in important positions on the course as Marshals for their third year in a row, is surely a feather in the cap of KORC - I'm sure that NO other Club organising a Junior event can produce the same stats ? I want to mention that the 4 PDI Marshals at the end of pit lane were extremely competent as I did spend a lot of time with them and may I mention the name of Johannes - he'll do any event organiser proud as he respects every competitor and treated everyone the same!
5. Unfortunately with racing their might be the possibility of penalties applied onto competitors - I get the impression from penalised competitors that an aggressive attitude "must be adopted" when approaching the Jury in the hearing? I must exclude the name of Fred and Mr Antigio (Can-am) immediately from this as their behaviour was actually an example for all parents attending a hearing as they acted with great respect when addressing the Jury President, Mr Peet Potgieter!!!! It was clear that from the persons attending the protest hearings that the fault can only be with the marshals and the COC and that the riders "must be seen as always correct" as sugar can't melt in their mouths! (Let me just mention that in swimming the rules are very strict and that my youngest daughter after winning the Butterfly 50m at the SA Games in 2008, was disqualified by officials because of "illegal movement" on the starting blocks - TOUGH LUCK I was told because that's the rule and with tears running down her cheeks, we had to except that the Gold Medal was not hers that day!!!!) It's my personal opinion that it's time that Officials make a stand and refuse that they are made out to be the "bad guys around at events" - I wonder who will act as Officials at events if current MSA Officials are "not available" for an event ?
6. Although a very fast and furious pace by the riders without any injuries - GOOD MARKING IS THE ANSWER

Thank you to surely one of the most experienced Jury Presidents' acting at Off Road racing in SA, Peet Potgieter (nothing beats experience and grey hair) and also to Robby, COC of the day. What I've learned from both of you on the day can't be found in the SSR's, believe me on this one.

I must end my email by congratulating Ian Smith and his team for another well organised event as this was just a reflection of their skills again, as they were also the winners of the best Junior National event for 2009! It was a privilege to act as an Official at the event and I'll be available in future for the said event too.

Regards from Zululand

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