

Welcome to the NYOA off-road racing series! We are excited that you want to race with us and want to provide you with the proper information to get you started!

First and foremost, we want you to know that if you chose to come race with us SPORTSMANSHIP and PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY are a big deal to us. You will hear this over and over throughout the entire season. We also have a sportsmanship pledge for riders, spectators, and members that we take very seriously. NYOA is a big racing family and like all families we are made up of imperfect people, but we all share the love for racing and most everyone is ready and willing to help you!

## **Getting Started**

Moms, Dads, or Guardians it is important to remember that YOU are the ones signing the waivers, buying the machine, required gear and paying all of the signup/registration fees. We want you to be as informed as possible so your rider can succeed in our series! Our kids count on us to know all the rules and regulations, even if we don't. If you have a question about ANYTHING we strongly urge you to write an email or message to one of the 6 rider reps. They are there to answer any, and all questions you may have! We want you to know what to expect, how things operate and where you can find important information. The more you know the less stressed you will be, and you'll have more fun!

To get your rider started they will first need a machine to ride. Either a bike or a quad, whichever is their favorite or whichever one you bought them.

### **How do I pick a machine?**

This is a great question! The best place to start is with a machine that "fits" your rider based on height, weight, age, and skill level. Another way to help you choose the right machine is to look at our classes on the registration page. Classes are broken up by motor size, age and skill level and can be found here [nyoa.net/registration-forms](http://nyoa.net/registration-forms).

### **So, what class should my rider or myself be riding in?**

This is where rider reps are a huge asset! Most of them have raced themselves or have kids that race and can help you figure out what class would be best. As a general rule we suggest all riders (any age) start in an entry level class and work your way up. This is especially important for Pee Wee and Mini riders. If a rider's age allows them to choose between Minis and Pee Wees, we highly suggest starting them in Pee Wees. If they are eligible to race in Minis or adults, we again suggest starting them in Minis. This is a great way to let them get seat time on a track and build their confidence while learning how to operate their machine safely. There is more to a race than just riding, which is why we strongly suggest riders start in the youngest class they are eligible for and work their way up. If you find the class isn't right for them, you can reach out to your rider rep to get the next steps in switching classes. If you are over 16 and want to try racing for the first time, we have 5 lines to pick from in the Adult Bike program depending on your machine. And we have a first year, never raced line specifically for those joining the Adult Quad program.

## Personal Protective Equipment/ Race Gear

This is a short list from our rules and regulations section of the rule book that can be found at

<https://nyoa.net/nyoa-rules-%26-guidelines> .

- a) All helmets must be full coverage or full-face models and Snell approved.
- b) Shatterproof goggles or face shields must be worn at the beginning of the event
- c) Boots specially designed and constructed to provide ankle and foot protection will be worn (no sneakers, loafers, etc.) They must be at least 8-inches high with any combination of laces, buckles or zippers.
- d) Protective pants made of durable material and long sleeve shirts must be worn (no shorts, tank tops, etc.)

We do encourage all riders to **NOT REMOVE** their goggles while racing. Roll off or tear off goggles are a huge asset that allows you to keep your vision clear without putting yourself at risk for an eye injury. We have seen multiple nasty cuts from rocks and roost in riders that had goggles on and even more severe injuries on riders that did not have goggles on. This is a major personal safety issue that most riders do not think about. Eye injuries are preventable if you wear the proper protective gear. We also recommend riders to wear gloves to help riders maintain proper grip on their machine and prevent blisters in most cases. We also strongly encourage racers to wear a chest and back protector and neck protection as well.

## Now, you are ready to race, what's next?

Now that you have your machine, proper riding gear and class figured out the next step is to read and get familiar with the NYOA rules and regulations. Found here - [Rules & Regulations](#) . These rules and regulations tell you all about what you can expect on race day, how to prepare yourself and your machine as well as what the expectations are for riders and spectators.

Basic machine prep before each race:

- Brakes. Make sure they aren't worn down and work properly.
- Nuts and bolts. Make sure everything is tightened to avoid falling out during a race.
- Critical components to check.
  - Lug nuts, tie rod ends, ball joints, steering stem nut, calipers, and bearings.
- Controls - Levers and throttle. Can the rider reach and operate them comfortably?
- Tire pressure. Depending on the conditions of the course this should be adjusted for maximum stability and performance of your machine.
- Chain and sprocket. Ensure your chain is tightened correctly and not loose. Also, check to make sure your sprockets aren't missing any teeth or worn down.

Depending on your machine and class there are some modifications that are allowed. Basic things like footpegs and handguards are most often changed and will help your rider feel comfortable on their machine. You can find what modifications are allowed in our rules and guidelines, specifically on page 20. You can also refer to the AMA rule book for more specifics on modifications. **It is YOUR responsibility to know what modifications are or aren't allowed for your class!** Illegal modifications will result in a disqualification if protested by another rider. Also, please note if the rider is on an ATV, they must have a working tether on their quad that must be connected to the rider during the race. The tether is a kill switch that will turn off your machine if the rider and ATV are separated during a crash. This is mandatory to protect all riders and spectators.

## Signing up

After you have read and familiarized yourself with all the rules and regulations it's time to sign up to participate in your first race! If you have never raced in the NYOA series before you will sign

up at the track at the registration table. Registration/race signups are open Saturdays 4:00-6:00pm and Sundays 6:30am-2:00pm. (On Sunday mornings priority is given to Pee Wee and Youth riders to ensure they are registered before their event starts)

Below is the registration fee for each class/age group. These apply to both ATV and Bike races.

AA: \$50

Adult Classes (Afternoons): \$35

Mini Classes (Mornings): \$25

Pee Wee Classes (Mornings): \$20

Gate fee for over 10 years: \$20

10yrs and under FREE

This fee must be paid at every event to participate in that race. Once you are an established member you can register online ahead of time! Be sure to join our NYOA Facebook group for registration links & information about the upcoming event. ([Facebook- NYOA Information Group](#))

Each rider must also have a valid AMA membership. This can be purchased online on the AMA website or at your first event. Prices range from \$20-\$50 depending on your needs. This is an annual membership. Riders will also need to purchase a transponder at their first event for \$10. This will allow them to be scored during the race. This transponder can be used every year, even if you switch classes. (Just be sure to talk to registration about moving classes) **Riders under 18 must present a birth certificate when registering for the series.**

If possible, we encourage riders and their pit crew to come on Saturday evenings to register. Not only will this save you time on Sunday morning, but it also gives you an opportunity to walk the track and know where everything is. **We strongly recommend youth racers and parents walk the track before their rider's race.** This will help you know if your rider is able to complete the course and if you need to go to a certain section to help out. It is also a good opportunity to find different lines in tricky sections and know what is out there. Walking the track ahead of time also allows you to bring up any safety concerns to the promoter before the race begins. If you see a safety concern or a section of the track that might be an issue, please **find a worker, the promoter or rider rep** to voice your concerns. This will give the promoter and crew proper time to make adjustments before the race starts.

## Let's go racing!

You are now ready to line up for your first event with NYOA! The most important thing to remember is **SPORTSMANSHIP at all race levels!!** Unsportsmanlike conduct by the rider or their crew will NOT BE TOLERATED. A rider could be subjected to a disqualification if anyone in their crew violates the code of conduct outlined in our rules and regulations.

### Expected riding skills.

Riders should be able to maintain control over their machine while riding on uneven terrain and age-appropriate obstacles. Riders should be able to brake, turn, maintain proper speeds and be able to hold their line or move over for other riders. It is also helpful if riders know how to start their machine. Even if they can't do it themselves, it will help whomever helps to get them going again if they can explain how to start their machine.

### What we expect from each rider during their race

- Ride/race in control. Know your limits and don't ride over your head.
- Spectators are everywhere. They should not be on the course but keep an eye out.
- Be a good winner and gracious loser.
- Be responsible for you and you're riding.
- Sportsmanship before, during and after your race

## Going to the start

When leaving your pit area to head to the starting area your machine must stay in 1st gear and you are to ride **SLOWLY. SLOWER THAN RIDING A PEDAL BIKE.** This will help keep dust down and keep spectators safe on your way to the line. Be on the lookout for kids running or riding pedal bikes. It's easier to stop quickly when you are going slow. **NO DOUBLE RIDING and you MUST wear a helmet.**

When you arrive at the starting area you must go through the TECH INSPECTION tent. Workers here will make sure your numbers are displayed in the correct spots, you have the proper equipment and that your transponder is working correctly. ATV's will also be required to show that their tether is properly working.

After passing through tech inspection, you need to find your class/row. Rows go in ascending order from the front starting with row 1. On one side of the starting line there will be stakes with signs to show riders where each class should line up. The beginning digit of your race number represents what row you will start in. (525 would line up in the 5th row.)

## Starting procedures

All races are dead engine starts except for the Pee Wee bike and ATV classes. Rows will start one at a time, being released by the worker with the green flag at the front of the starting area. A complete and detailed description of the starting procedures can be found here on page 14 [Rules and Regulations](#) .

## Passing and racing

During your race you will most likely be passed by other riders and hopefully passing other riders yourself. Please read the information below on how to pass and get passed safely. We have a lot of riders of varying speeds and skill levels on the course, especially in the afternoon races. These guidelines will help keep everyone safe and make racing enjoyable for everyone.

### If you are **PASSING** someone

When you are approaching a slower rider start looking for a passing lane around them.

When you are within passing range, you may **RESPECTFULLY:**

- Yell "NOT IN YOUR CLASS" to the rider in front of you. This way they know they won't be losing a class position by letting you by.
- You can also rev your engine a few times to get their attention and then yell again.
- Yell what side you will be passing on. "ON YOUR RIGHT or ON YOUR LEFT" will let the rider know which side you will be passing them on. This will help them hold their line and avoid collisions.
- Once you make the pass, be courteous and yell back "THANK YOU". It's a small gesture that is gratefully appreciated by the slower riders.
- **You may never bump, hit or use profanities when passing another rider. Please use sportsmanship!!**

### If you are **GETTING** passed

While on the course you will have faster riders come up from behind you looking to make a pass. It is important to know how to safely let them by you to avoid collisions and further issues

- Listen for the revving of an engine or yelling from other riders. They should yell what side they will be passing you on. ("On the right or on the left")
- If they yell what side they are passing you on, HOLD YOUR LINE. This means stay on the side of the track you are currently riding. Don't go left to right or right to left, continue straight.
- If you are in a tight section where there isn't room to pass, acknowledge the rider behind you. This can be a quick thumbs or helmet nod to let them know you heard them.
- Move over as quickly as possible. Pull over to the shoulder of the track to let the faster rider past. Check to make sure no one else is coming and then you can re-enter the course and continue on.

- **DO NOT RIDE OVER YOUR HEAD TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM PASSING YOU.** This can result in injuries, collisions, and poor responses from the faster riders. It's best for everyone to let the faster riders by as quickly as possible.
- After the faster rider has passed you, you can race forward with them by following closely and taking the same lines as them as long as you can. This will help you improve your skills and lap times.

### **Encountering a bottleneck**

A bottleneck is when there are machines in the main line of the trail that are either stuck or disabled preventing riders from passing through. Specific rules for bottlenecks can be found on PAGE 20 of the rules and regulations. **SLOW RIDERS TO NOT COUNT AS BOTTLENECKS! Do not ram into or hit other machines in a bottleneck.** This can cause extensive equipment damage and injure riders unnecessarily. This is reckless riding, and you can be penalized for it!

### **Sweepers**

While out on the course you will see what we call sweepers. They will usually have an event t-shirt or safety vest on, and their machines will have arrows on their number plates. The sweepers ride the course to ensure safe riding conditions and provide medical attention to riders if needed. **It is not their job to help you finish the race.** If you are pulled over, they will stop to check on you, but they will not fix or tow out your machine.

If your machine becomes disabled during the race, get out of the main racing line as soon as possible. This will keep you and other riders safe. **STAY WITH YOUR MACHINE.** Once the race has ended workers will come out onto the track to tow out any disabled machines. They cannot tow machines that don't have a rider.

### **SCORING TENT**

At the end of every lap, you will pass through the scoring tent/area. The scoring area starts at the NO PASSING ZONE sign. **You must be in control of your machine and prepared to stop if instructed by scoring** when entering the scoring area for the safety of staff and spectators. The scoring team asks that you SLOWLY ROLL through scoring. This will prevent stalls and riders hitting each other in the scoring area. The only time you will be required to stop is if the scoring team can't see your racing number. Your number should be clearly displayed on the left and right chin area, and the center back of your helmet. During muddy races, a scoring team member will stop you & wipe your helmet so they can write down your number. Clearly yelling your race number can also help the scoring team. **DO NOT SPEED OR ROOST IN THE SCORING AREA!** Speeding can result in injuries to workers and spectators and roosting causes severe damage to our equipment. We have lost 4 monitors in just this past few seasons due to unnecessary roosting in the scoring area. Repeat offenders will be subject to penalty.

### **After the race**

Once you have received the checkered flag you can pull over in the staging area to catch your breath and get some water. Once you are ready to go back to your pit area, **you must put your helmet back on!** The same rules for heading to the start apply when going back to your pit. **NO DOUBLE RIDING, SLOW FIRST GEAR.**

Results will be posted near the registration trailer 30-45 minutes after the race has been completed. Protesting procedures and award information can be found here on PAGE 18 [Rules and Guidelines](#). Results will also be posted on our website ([www.nyoa.net](http://www.nyoa.net)) under RESULTS within 3 days of the event.

If you still have any remaining questions or would like clarification on anything listed above please reach out to any of the rider reps found using the contact us link on the website. <https://nyoa.net/contact-us> Please be sure to read ALL OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS before participating in an event with us. I didn't know is not a valid excuse for unintentionally breaking a rule.

