



Date: July 2015

## Observers

### Introduction

The 1990 RTTC National Council Meeting passed a motion which expressed deep concern at the level of accidents in time trials, especially where riders are wholly or partly at fault. The National Committee were called upon to take action.

During this time a District Committee had instituted its own “*Observers Campaign*” for the following reasons:

- There was a feeling that to wait until an accident had occurred and then taken action was akin to “*closing the stable door after the horse had bolted*”
- Whilst disciplining a rider for dangerous riding following an accident is a necessary action to take, it would be much better to prevent the occurrence in the first place
- It was decided that the role of an Observer be established and the fact that an Observer would be present at the event shall be published on event start sheets. The role of an Observer(s) being on the course would not only ‘catch’ competitors in the act of dangerous riding, it would also present a strong deterrent to would-be offenders.
- Observers would record any misdemeanours they witnessed during the event and inform the Event Organiser as soon as is practicable to enable any disciplinary action to be taken within CTT protocols and timescales.

### The use of Observers

An Observer is usually appointed by the event organiser. The Observer’s role is to observe and to witness the actions of competitors whilst taking part in an event.

Those affiliated clubs promoting Type A (Open) or Type B (Club) events should appoint at least one competent Observer. Type A events start sheets shall indicate a warning to competitors that Observers are being used in the event and their names are also published. Observers must wear a Hi-viz sleeved garment conforming to EN471, EN1150 or ISOEN20471 at all times when on any section of the course being used. Where a course has a particular section where a manoeuvre by a competitor has to be taken with extreme care, it is considered good practice to place an Observer to have a deterring effect on would-be offenders.

**ALL RESPONSIBLE PROMOTING CLUB OFFICIALS CAN ACT AS OBSERVERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY ASKED TO DO SO. HOWEVER, THEY MUST WEAR A HIGH-VIZ GARMENT.**

### What to do when observing an offending rider

Normally the only action that the Observer has to take is to record the competitor’s race number and the details of the alleged offence. The Observer would report the alleged offence to the event organiser at the end of the event, who will submit a written report to the District Secretary where the event took place.

### The Role of the District Secretary

The District Secretary will write to the competitor informing them of the alleged offence and await a written reply from the competitor before taking further action. The District Secretary will include in the allegations the necessary timescales the alleged offender will be required to adhere to, and dependent upon the severity of the alleged offence, of any appropriate disciplinary action that may be taken.