AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

COMPETITION BULLETIN

13515 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147
(800) 262-5646 • www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com

To: AMA Supercross Competitors
From: American Motorcyclist Association
Date: 12/18/2025
Subject: CB2026.02.SX, 2026 AMA Supercross Rulebook Updates

The following summary identifies changes and additions to the 2026 AMA Supercross Rulebook.

SECTION 1 - SPORTING REGULATIONS

1.2 LICENSES AND CREDENTIALS
- 1.2.15 AMA LICENSE APPLICATION TYPES
  - a. Rider License
    1. To be eligible for an AMA Rider License, a Credentialed Participant at a minimum must:
       - i. Be at least ~~16~~ ***17*** years of age.

1.4 CODE OF CONDUCT POLICIES
- 1.4.2 SPORTS BETTING POLICY
  - f. **FIXING/BRIBING/COLLUSION**
    - ***4. Competitors compete for individual and manufacturer championships, as well as race wins. However, in rare circumstances, a rider may find it beneficial to yield a position to support their own or their manufacturer's/team's overall objectives in the overall championship standings or race outcome. Such decisions must be strategically justified and serve the team's position in the championship or race.***
      - ***i. Any Competitor choosing to relinquish a leading position must do so while adhering to all rules and safety regulations.***
      - ***ii. Any attempt to manipulate results for reasons unrelated to legitimate race or championship advantages is strictly prohibited.***
      - ***iii. Any attempt to manipulate race results will be reviewed by Race Direction and may result in penalties.***

1.6 RACE RULES AND PROCEDURES
- 1.6.14 FLAGS AND LIGHTS
  - g. Black Flag
    1. Indicates a problem with a motorcycle***, rider's performance*** or ***safety concern*** ~~a disqualification~~.

1.7 TIMING & SCORING PROCEDURES
- 1.7.4 LAP DEFINED
  - a. Lap: A Lap is defined as the completion of a single circuit around the racecourse, as designated by AMA. A lap will only be considered full and complete when it starts and ends at the officially designated ~~Start /~~ Finish line. For the first lap of a race, the lap is defined as ~~a full-course circuit completed from~~ the Rider's start position to the officially designated Finish line. ~~If the distance from the start positions to the Finish line is less than 50% of the track distance, the lap will not be considered complete until the second time each Rider crosses the Finish line.~~ Official Race distance and positions are only updated for Riders at the completion of a Lap.

1.8 AMA SUPERCROSS RULES
- 1.8.1 EVENT OVERVIEW
  - a. The AMA Supercross Championship events are organized according to an established procedure/model:
    1. Standard Format:

450	250
~~Free Practices~~	~~Free Practices~~

2. Triple Crown Format:

450	250
~~Free Practices~~	~~Free Practices~~

1.8.4 MOTORCYCLE USAGE

~~b. For Practice sessions, Riders may choose to start with either of the motorcycles that have been approved at Technical Inspection for that Rider.~~

1.8.5 STANDARD COMPETITION FORMAT

~~a. Free Practice~~

~~1. If Free Practice sessions are included in the Event Schedule, they will be timed, and lap time reports will be published.~~

1.8.6 TRIPLE CROWN COMPETITION FORMAT

~~a. Free Practice~~

~~1. If Free Practice sessions are included in the Event Schedule, they will be timed, and lap time reports will be published.~~

1.8.7 QUALIFYING PROCEDURES

~~d. Under special circumstances, free practice times may be used to determine qualifying positions.~~

1.8.9 ALTERNATE PROCEDURES

a. Standard Format

2. ~~In the 450 class only,~~ A rider who is currently in the top ten ***(10)*** in points ***in the 450 class or the top five (5) in points in the 250 class*** who fails to make the Fast 40 in ***timed*** qualifying ~~practices~~ may request an exemption to be put in the ~~450~~ Heat Race.
   i. To be eligible for this exemption a rider must:
      a) Currently be in the top ten ***(450 class) or top five (250 class)*** in championship points.
      b) Record at least one officially timed lap during ~~a practice or~~ ***timed*** qualifying ~~practice~~.
   ii. The first non-qualified rider will be placed on the 21st gate pick in the first Heat Race. A second non-qualified rider will have the 21st gate pick in the second Heat Race.
   iii. Up to a maximum of 2 non-qualified riders can be placed in each Heat Race. They will be placed in their respective Heat Race in priority of their fastest recorded qualifying time.
   iv. ***At an East/West Showdown, in the 250 class, a rider who is currently in the top five (5) in their regional class points who fails to make the top 20 in timed qualifying may request an exemption to be put in their respective regional 250 Heat Race. Up to a maximum of 2 non-qualified riders can be placed in each Heat Race.***
   v. If all riders are present for the ~~450~~ Last Chance Qualifier and there are more than 22 riders, the 23, 24, 25, and 26 positions will be started in a second row.

b. Triple Crown Format

3. ~~In the 450 class only,~~ A rider who is currently in the top ten ***(10)*** in points ***in the 450 class or the top five (5) in points in the 250 class*** who fails to make the Fast 40 in ***timed*** qualifying ~~practices~~ may request an exemption to be put in the ~~450~~ Last Chance Qualifier.
   i. To be eligible for this exemption a rider must:
      a) Currently be in the top ten ***(450 class) or top five (250 class)*** in championship points.
      b) Record at least one officially timed lap during ~~a practice or~~ ***timed*** qualifying ~~practice~~.

1.8.10 STARTING PROCEDURES

c. **Defined Start Violations and Penalty Options**

1. Jumping or Fouling the Gate

i. A rider who jumps or fouls the starting gate may result in a penalty***, including but not limited to*** a one lap penalty or disqualification, ***based on the severity of advantage gained as deemed by Race Direction.***

ii. ***If a one lap penalty is applied, the racer will become the highest finishing rider with one lap less than the number of laps the rider completed. If multiple riders receive this penalty in the same race, the penalties will be applied starting with the lowest finishing penalized rider.***

2. Unauthorized Grooming
   i. Any grooming of the starting area in front of the front leading edge of the starting gate may result in a penalty if Race Direction determines the action to be ~~blatant~~ ***intentional***.
3. Other actions that may result in penalties as determined by Race Direction, including but not limited to:
   i. Slamming or forcefully impacting the gate.
   ii. Scratching, defacing, or damaging the gate surface.
   iii. Use of unauthorized tools or devices for grooming.
   iv. Starting at an angle or outside the designated start lane.
   v. Forming ramps, grooves, or berms in the starting lane.

1.8.11 RESTARTS AND RED FLAG PROCEDURES

f. Riders who are unable to remove themselves from an incident area under their own power and / or demonstrate behavior requiring medical attention, causing any session being red-flagged, may not resume on-track activity until ***medically*** cleared ~~*by the Chief Medical Officer as medically fit to compete*~~. ***Such riders must report to the Mobile Medical Unit and obtain clearance from the Chief Medical Officer confirming they are fit to compete before returning to any subsequent competition session. This rule does not apply when a red flag is issued for reasons unrelated to a specific rider's injury.***

l. When a race is stopped after the leader completes three (3) laps but prior to ~~time expiring~~ ***one minute (1:00) remaining*** on the race clock, the following procedures will apply:

m. When a race is stopped ***on or*** after ~~time has expired~~ ***one minute (1:00) remaining*** on the race clock but prior to the checkered flag being displayed, the race will be deemed complete, and the following procedures will apply:

SECTION 2 - TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

2.2 GENERAL EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

2.2.1 MOTORCYCLE HOMOLOGATION RULES

f. Importation quantity deadlines:
   1. Minimum ~~200~~ ***25*** units ~~by March 1st of~~ ***prior to approval for competition in*** the current season.
   2. Minimum 400 units by ~~June~~ ***April*** 1st of the current season.

2.4 MOTORCYCLE TECHNICAL RULES

2.4.2 ELECTRONICS AND TRACTION CONTROL

b. Electronic transmitting of information, including radio communication, to or from a moving motorcycle, is prohibited with the following exceptions:
   4. Any radio communication equipment used at the official request from the AMA.

2.4.7 FORKS AND SHOCKS

b. For the 250 class, the replacement and modification of forks and shocks are limited as follows:
   6. Retail prices of approved forks and shocks may not exceed the following cost exclusive of all taxes. (The forks and shock assemblies must be complete and functioning assemblies, not only the controlled parts.)
      i. Both fork legs (less triple clamps): ~~$6,300~~ ***$7,500***
      ii. Shock assembly: ~~$2,500~~ ***$3,000***

2.4.15 NUMBER PLATE REQUIREMENTS

a. Number Plate Colors:

1. 450: White plates, black numbers
2. 250: Black plates, white numbers
3. 450 SMX & 250 SMX Champions: Purple plate, lime numbers
4. Current points leader in each class:
   - i. Red plates, white numbers
   - ii. SMX Champions: Red plates, lime numbers
   - iii. If one or more Riders are tied for the points lead in a class, all tied riders will display the red plates.
   - ~~iv. At the first event of the season, the current 450 and 250 class champions will be considered the points leader and compete with the red plate.~~

2.4.16 FRONT NUMBER PLATES

c. Holes may be perforated in the number plate in the spaces between the printed numerals. Perforation of the numerals themselves is strictly prohibited.

2.5 TECHNICAL INSPECTION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.5.7 CATASTROPHIC CRASH IMPOUND AUTHORITY

a. ***The AMA reserves the right to impound any motorcycle and or personal protective equipment (helmet) involved in a catastrophic crash for safety or technical investigation.***

b. ***Definition: A "catastrophic crash" can be any incident resulting in but not limited to:***

1. ***Significant structural or mechanical failure,***
2. ***Rider incapacitation or medical transport, or***
3. ***Major collision with barriers or infrastructure.***

c. ***Procedure:***

1. ***At the direction of Race Direction, the motorcycle and/or protective equipment will be transported to a secure impound area under the supervision of Technical Officials.***
2. ***No team member may alter, repair, or remove any part prior to authorization.***
3. ***The AMA may retain the motorcycle or components for inspection, testing, or evidence collection indefinitely.***
4. ***The machine remains impounded until released by the Technical Manager or Safety Committee.***
5. ***Refusal to comply with or tampering with an impounded motorcycle will result in disqualification and potential suspension.***

d. ***Impoundment for investigation does not imply fault but promotes compliance, integrity, and rider safety.***

SECTION 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

3.1 VIOLATIONS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

3.1.8 AT-TRACK AND ON-TRACK VIOLATIONS

e. **On-Track Violations and Penalty Table**

2. The On-Track Violations and Penalty Table provides guidelines for violations of the rules in Section 1.6: Race Rules and Procedures or Section 1.8: AMA Supercross Rules which occur while a rider is participating in a competition session, including but not limited to:

On-Track Violations and Penalty Table	*1st Offense*	*2nd Offense*	*3rd Offense*
***Aggressive/reckless riding*	~~Warning~~ ***5 Points + Fine***	***10*** Points + Fine	***15*** Points + Fine

Offenses for aggressive/reckless riding cover the entire ***SMX* season.

f. License Penalty Point System

1. ***The License Penalty Point System is designed to enforce progressive disciplinary measures for repeated or serious violations of competition rules, conduct expectations, or technical regulations.***
2. ***Race Direction may assign penalty points to a rider's AMA Supercross License either in conjunction with a penalty under the AMA Supercross Rulebook or for an independent violation.***
3. ***License penalty points remain active on a rider's license for 12 months and expire on the anniversary date of the original infraction.***
4. ***License Penalty Point Designation:***

Violation Category	*License Penalty Point Value Assignment*
At-Track	*1-3 Points*
On-Track	*1-3 Points*
Technical	*1-3 Points*
Code of Conduct	*1-3 Points*

5. ***Automatic Point Threshold Penalties:***

Active Points Total	*Mandatory Sanction*
5 Points	*Official Written Warning and Meeting with AMA Race Direction*
10 Points	*Start next Main Event or Triple Crown Race with last gate selection*
15 Points	*Automatic loss of 10 Championship Points + Fine*

6. ***A rider's License Penalty Points reset to five (5) after they reach fifteen (15) points and serve the mandatory sanction.***
7. ***The License Penalty Point System applies to all AMA Supercross, AMA Pro Motocross, and SMX Playoff rounds.***

g. At-Track and On-Track Penalty Options

1. Not all potential violations are covered in the tables above. Race Direction may impose one or more of the following penalties for violations of other rules at-track and on-track procedural rules which are not listed in the tables:
   i. Warning
   ii. License Penalty Points

2027 AMA SUPERCROSS RULEBOOK UPDATES

** Effective with the 2027 AMA Supercross Rulebook: **
To be eligible for an AMA Rider License: Be at least ***18*** years of age.

** Effective with the 2027 AMA Supercross Rulebook: **
Starting blocks must be silver or black in color ***and may not exceed 4 inches in height***.

** Effective with the 2027 AMA Supercross Rulebook: **
It is required for all competitors to wear chest and back protection. The protector may be worn under or over the jersey.

** Effective with the 2027 AMA Supercross Rulebook, the maximum sound limit will be set at: **
For pre-race inspection: Max. ***109 dB/A***
For post-race inspection: Max. ***110 dB/A***