

# 2008 Team USA Trial des Nations Rider's Guide

## INTRODUCTION

The **Trial des Nations** is the annual Observed Trials **World Team Championships**.

Each team participating in this event is authorized to have four riders representing their country. The Championship is determined by totaling the best three individual rider's scores per section for each country. The lowest combined team score will be declared the victor. The USA men's team will participate in the "A" class, which is considered to be the premier class in the World Championship for Observed Trials.

The women's Trial des Nations team competition for women consists of up to three riders representing their country. This TDN Women's Team Championship will be determined by totaling the best two individual rider's scores per section from each country, with the lowest total score being declared the victor. The team selection process for both men and women will be similar.

Candidates who feel that they can be an integral part of a **TEAM** effort representing the United States at the Trial des Nations are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for a position on the **TEAM**. You must be able to put aside the concept of individual competition that dominates rider attitudes at every other Trials event. Although individual scores are important, only the Team result is posted. Therefore riders must...

### THINK "TEAM"

If you know you can add value to the USA TDN Team effort in any position i.e. (Team Mom, Scheduling, Minder, Fundraising, etc) let us hear from you. Please let the Team Manager know as soon as possible. Please review the following Team information and requirement pages.

## **RIDER COMMITMENT**

By accepting a position on the TDN team a rider agrees to bring to the TDN the highest level of commitment. The funds raised to finance the TDN team come from the hard-earned work of donors solicited over many hours all over America. In return for this effort, team members must have the appropriate level of commitment and desire to perform at their best for their country. Also, they must be willing to commit to assisting in the USA TDN fund raising effort.

## **TEAM SELECTION**

The 2008 United States **Trial des Nations Teams** rider committee consists of Bruce Bolander (NATC C.O.O), as well as 4 other members, Howard Galbreath (CA), Leo O'shea (MA.) Shan Moore (OK), and Stan Hensley (CO)

The **TEAM** will be selected using the following criteria:

1. Only candidates who have filed a **LETTER OF INTENT** (LOI) with the NATC postmarked before March 31, 2008 shall be considered. There are **NO LOCKED IN** positions on the **TEAM**. Every rider must earn the privilege to be on the team each year.
2. LOI riders who finished first and second place in the previous years National Championship class or women's class will be top candidates to be selected for the team.
3. Support rider candidates shall be the previous years Expert or High School Class Champion and won that title in a decisive manner and having participated in at least two Pro class competitions prior to the last National of the 2008 series.
4. The committee will select a team to represent the United States using the above criteria and the riders' participation in previous National and World Championship meets such as the American World Trials. Additionally, the riders selected, including

their support personnel, will have demonstrated their ability to work well with others generating a supportive, enthusiastic and competitive team spirit. The selection process will result in choosing riders who the committee feels will be the most successful team.

5. The team will be selected after the first set of Nationals in Colorado, May 2008. An announcement will be made shortly thereafter. This is designed to insure the maximum amount of time needed to make all of the fundraising goals and motorcycle and logistical arrangements required for a team of 10-15 people.

## **RIDER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Each rider or minder wishing to be considered for the United States **Trial des Nations** team shall file a **LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)** with the NATC before March 31, 2008. Any LOI postmarked after that date shall be considered invalid.
2. Each rider selected for the team must personally arrange for a motorcycle to be available at the event. This should be coordinated through the U.S. importer of your current brand. The motorcycle (and Minder's bike) should be available at the site the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the event. Written confirmation with the (1) name of motorcycle provider, (2) name of the person responsible for delivering the motorcycle (with cell phone, telephone, fax contact) and (3) date/location of delivery, must be provided to the Team Manager NO LATER than **August 1**.
3. Each team member must be available and able to travel with the team from the United States departure point and commit to 7 to 10 days for the trip for TDN weekend of September 27-28, 2008 in Andorra.
4. Each rider is required to possess enough mechanical ability to perform basic maintenance on their motorcycle. These skills include setup and break-in of a new bike (if available), tire changing, oil change, carburetor and air filter cleaning, changing clutch plates, brake pads and bleeding brakes. If a rider is unsure

of his/her skills in these areas, they should find someone to teach them before they go to Europe

5. Each rider is required to bring one set (2) of tie-down straps, a fanny pack with enough of their own tools to do any trail-side repair that may become necessary and a tire repair kit. Also, it would be advisable to bring some basic spare parts, handlebars and levers, master link, foot pegs, throttle, brake pads, cables, etc. This is a team event but you need to be able to take care of yourself. **COME PREPARED.**
6. Riders must have a valid driver's license in their possession issued from the state in which they reside.
7. You will be responsible for any personal expenses not covered by the TDN Support Fund.
8. All team members must fill out any forms that may be required by the Team manager, AMA or the organizer for the event.
9. All team members shall be willing to assist with autograph sessions and assist in other TDN fund raising activities.

### **RIDER'S BEHAVIOR**

During the entire trip, event riders, their family and/or friends must keep in mind that they are representing the United States of America and the USA Trials community and therefore, act accordingly and responsibly.

### **REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM**

If, during the course of the trip or the Trial itself, a rider's, their family member's and/or friend's behavior becomes detrimental to the team effort, that rider may be removed from the USA TDN team at the sole discretion of the Team Manager and not allowed to begin or complete the event.

## **DRUG TEST**

The FIM conducts random drug tests at the TDN. Any rider or minder who feels there is a chance that they may not pass the drug test should inform either the AMA representative or the Team Manager prior to accepting a position on the team. Any rider or minder who fails a drug test will be banned from any future USA TDN teams.

## **MINDER**

All minders must be FIM licensed & insured (exactly the same) as the rider. The team support funds generated by the team and AMA will pay the license and insurance fees for a total of 5 minders who will support both the men's and women's teams entered.

## **AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION**

1. Issue FIM licenses for team members & minders.
2. When available, ship team color helmets to team members prior to TDN departure.
3. Process all **Trial des Nations** entry forms.
6. Provide a jury representative for the American riders.

## **TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Communicate to the Team members all manner of operations.
2. Coordinate and direct team minders and support personnel.
3. Assist in administration and distribution of team support funds.

## TRIP CHECK LIST

### DOCUMENTS: (must have)

- Valid U.S. Passport
- FIM License
- FIM Anti-Doping Code form signed by the AMA.
- Medical Insurance Forms
- Other forms (Team Mgr.)
- Airline Tickets
- Current Drivers License

### RIDING GEAR: (must have)

- Team Helmet
- Jersey
- Pants
- Jacket
- Gloves
- Boots
- Socks

### TOOLS & SPARES: (MINIMUM RECOMMENDED)

- Fanny Pack
- 8/10" Crescent wrench
- Folding Allen (metric) set
- Slotted screwdriver
- Phillips screwdriver
- Tire repair kit
- Tire irons
- 21" tube
- Handlebars
- Foot pegs (left & right)
- Carburetor jets
- Control cable(s) you have previously broken
- Water bottle and carrier (for on the loop)
- Two (2) tie down straps
- Chain breaker
- Master links (2)
- Short length of chain
- Tie wraps
- Valve core tool
- Tire lube
- Tape (elect/duct)
- Levers (left & right)
- Brake pads
- Spark plug

### PERSONAL CLOTHING:

- As required by the trip duration (don't over pack)
- Blue Jeans for podium (faded and torn jeans are not allowed)
- Team apparel will be provided at the event by Team Manger.

**OPTIONAL ITEMS:**

Camera

Anything you can't do without (extra money)

Comfort foods – May not be available in the host Country

**NOTES**

## NOTES