Regional and National Series News - What's new for the 2013 BMX season?

**SW Regionals - Calendar Dates**

- April 7th  Paignton
- April 21st  Bath *(tbc)*
- May 5th  Tiverton
- May 12th  Tredegar
- June 2nd  Burnham
- June 16th  Bristol
- July 7th  Exeter
- July 14th  Decoy
- July 28th  Cornwall
- August 11th  Bideford

**SW Championships**

- Sept 8  Burnham

**SW Pre Registration**

Race fees have been increased to £15 per rider (novice and expert). £10 for a second bike.

To encourage pre registration £2.40 discount will be offered. Method of pre – registration will be through the British Cycling system. Registration on the day will be still possible.

**SW Regional Age Groups**

All riders will ride their true UCI age group for their first race but if a rider is an exception and want to “ride up” they can **apply one month prior to start of season** by...
letter or email to the committee with the support from their club secretary and input from coach. There will be no change of age category after a rider’s 2nd race.

**SW Communication**

Facebook site now live – South West Region

**SW Number Plates**

Plates will need to have a green background with a specified size as per the BC rules:

10.9.7.1. Plate Height 20 cm Width 25 cm
10.9.7.2. Digits 10 cm high with Line width 1.5 cm

10.9.11. The area of the plate that provides a background for the number must, during the entire duration of a competition, be kept free of markings, stickers or other impediments to the number’s legibility. Riders may not cut, mutilate or put additional stickers or marking on their number plate if it’s provided by the Organiser.

10.9.12 The required background colour must be clearly visible around and in-between all numbers used. The background colour must not be cut down to follow the contours of a number, but may be cut to follow the design of the number plate or to form one straight line defining the edge of the background.

**SW Novice Riding**

If a rider had completed a full season in 2012 as a novice they would need to race in expert for 2013.

If they started the latter part of the season then they can remain in the novice category for one more season. If however they have special requirements or feel they are not competent enough to race with the experts due to special requirements etc then a letter from the club secretary would need to be put forward to the committee one month prior to the start of season for consideration.

**Access to the 2014 British BMX Series**

For 2014 riders must first have gained points at regional level in 2013. This is to ensure that riders learn their trade at regional level first.

**SW Regional Series Ranking Qualification**

The number of races to qualify for ranking/trophy is 1 less than the total amount of rounds. Only 1 round can be dropped.

The cost for buying up rounds for ranking/trophy qualification is £30.00 per round.

Attendance at 5 regionals required to qualify rider for the British Championships.

The cost for buying up rounds for the Brits is as per the BC handbook:
3.2 Dispensation requests should go direct to your region Secretary by a date stated by your region committee. Dispensation may be given for:

3.2.1. Injury or illness with supporting evidence from a GP or specialist. The period of injury or illness must clearly state that it covers a set period of time between April and August of the current year. The period of injury will allow dispensation for each regional event held within that time. A payment of £10 per missed event up to a maximum of £50 must be sent to your region at the time of application. Only application’s with medical proof should be submitted. If no evidence is submitted, 3.2.4 applies.

3.2.4 Riders that have competed in 3 or 4 regional events at Expert level may gain dispensation without reason at a cost of £30 per missed event up to a maximum of 2 events (£60). A letter accompanied by the payment must be made to your region within the deadline stated by your region committee.

British Championships Race Shirt Order

Clubs are responsible to collate information and contact RSD sports direct. Possible zip jerseys maybe available. Please contact Sue Trevascus (Club Secretary) if you wish to purchase a shirt for this event. The design will be the same as in 2012.

British Cycling National Series – Calendar Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>NCC, Manchester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23rd-24th</td>
<td>Round 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Cyclopark, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27th-28th</td>
<td>Rounds 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Perry Park, Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25th-26th</td>
<td>Rounds 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Platt Fields, Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29th-30th</td>
<td>Rounds 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Gosport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elite Racing

For rounds 2-9 in 2013 BC will be trialling a similar system to the A Pro and AA pro categories, except both classes will race together in the Moto and knock out stages before breaking out for two finals. At round 1 only, both categories will race separately.

A category called ‘Championship Men’ will replace junior men as junior was restricted to riders in their 17th and 18th years. The new category is aimed at any rider aged 17 or over (over 30’s are eligible as well) looking to race at a higher level, or they may be looking to use Championship as a stepping stone to Elite.

How will it work?

- The top 8 combined Elite & Championship riders will race the Elite final, so if Championship riders are amongst the top 8 riders overall going into the final stage, then those riders will get to race the Elite final. The 8th (or more)
placed Elite rider would have their final position taken by the Championship rider(s).

- The top 8 Championship riders who haven’t qualified for the Elite final will qualify for their own final. Only Championship riders will compete in the Championship final.

A separate British BMX Series standings table will be published for both Championship and Elite.

The top 8 riders in both categories will compete for prize money.

Both categories will compete in the Time Trial on Saturday as one category.

Prize money will be on offer for the top 3 in the TT. The TT will be a separate competition and will not count for points or seeding positions.

A rider in their 15th or 16th year who wishes to race in Championship (men or women) or Elite, they may apply for dispensation direct to British Cycling.

If a rider doesn’t already have a UCI career number, riders competing in Championship or Elite may apply for a UK career number via: bmx@britishcycling.org.uk. Riders cannot take their 2012 series standing from a challenge category to a Championship/Elite category. If a rider has not requested a career number or do not have a 2012 Elite standing, they must use the last 3 digits of their British Cycling membership number.

Elite riders will race black numbers on a white plate. Championship riders will race white numbers on a black plate.

**Supercross Racing at Round 1**

Last year’s Supercross series was open to all. This year’s Saturday evening race at Round 1 is UCI registered, so this does mean that if you compete as a junior or elite on Saturday evening, you are tied in to racing junior or elite internationally during 2013. If you finish in a UCI point scoring position, then you are also tied into this level of racing for a 12 month period, as UCI points last 12 months. For this event, the top 8 riders in each category will score UCI points.

This is important for any rider considering stepping down to challenge level at the 2014 World Championships. The date for the 2014 World Championship entries opening is unknown, but if you are considering stepping down, and then do not compete in a junior/elite UCI event from May 2013.

**World Challenge Championship Qualification**

Riders wishing to qualify for the 2014 World Challenge Championships will do so by racing in a combination of events, including the British BMX Series, regional series and international events. A rider’s British Cycling ranking will determine whether you qualify, which for 2013 will be a rider’s best 12 point scores. The points table is listed in appendix 4 of the 2013 BMX rule book.
Most riders will get two bites of the cherry to qualify, but if riders are moving into a new multi-year category in 2014, they will need to qualify in 2014. For example, if you are born in 1969, then you’ll be in 40-44 cruiser this year and 45+ next year, so you will need to qualify in 2014. The same scenario could occur in all cruiser categories and 17-24, 25-29 and 30+ men.

If a rider does not take up their spot on the 2014 team, the spot will not be offered to the next rider in the rankings. If you don’t qualify by right, then you will need to apply for dispensation by a set date in 2014.

A rider competing in the elite men category domestically (not internationally) may still qualify for a Challenge category in the world championships. If they are competing in elite men and wish to race Challenge at the World Championships, then they must inform British Cycling as they will need an appropriate age based licence rather than an elite licence.

Full 2013 qualification information will be published prior to Round 1 of the British BMX Series. 2014 qualification cannot have dates set until registration and jersey order deadlines are known. Jersey designs have also changed for 2013, which means that the 2012 world championships jersey cannot be used at a world championships from 2013.

**Elite Teams**

New for 2013 are elite team competitions. In 2013, any team that has at least one championship or elite rider on their roster will be entered into the elite team competition (even if the majority of the team are Challenge category riders). From 2014, the minimum number of elite and/or championship riders will rise to two.

The British Championships in August also doubles up as the club championships, so a reward for the top elite teams will also be introduced.

There will be club, team and elite team standings at the British BMX Series and the British Championships.

**Team and Club Areas**

No club will be allowed more than 6m of trackside space and only the clubs with the most riders competing at national level will be allowed to take up their maximum allocation. This has been a necessary measure due to the increasing amount of gazebos, clubs and riders.

**Standings and Rankings**

A standing is what you gain from competing in a series.

A ranking is what you gain when finishing in a point scoring position in a regional, national or international event. British Cycling Rankings can be found on the side bar from the BMX homepage: www.britishcycling.org.uk/bmx
Moving up between Categories

Rather than restricting riders that can move up to the top two from the British BMX Series, any young rider can apply to: bmx@britishcycling.org.uk to move up a category. The BMX Commission will then make the decision on whether that application is accepted. For 2013 only, the top two from 2012 do not have to apply.

A rider moving up in the British BMX Series will also have to race the same category at the British Championships.

If a rider moves up, they will not have their licence category changed. This is to ensure that the rider that moves up is not unfairly disadvantaged in qualifying for the World Championships. For example, a 9 year old racing in the 10’s in 2013, will retain is 9 year old licence and will also score British Cycling Ranking Points as a 9 year old.

Series Categories

The 17-24 and 25-29 men will be merged and run as 17-29 Men in 2013. 30-34 and 35-39 Cruiser will be merged and run as 30-39 Cruiser. All four categories will still be recognised in the British Cycling National Rankings for world championship qualification purposes. Riders with a series standing in the following 2012 categories may need to have an X after their plate number if it clashes: 17-24 men and 30-34 cruiser.

Access to the 2014 British BMX Series

For 2014, any new rider to BMX must first have gained points at regional level in 2013. This is not a measure to reduce numbers, it is to ensure that riders learn their trade at regional level first.

Handbook

British Cycling will provide a yearly BMX handbook to all riders who attend national events. The handbook replaces the event programme and will cover everything you need to know. The handbook will be available at the national rounds from Round 2.