

Mechanics of the Skill Evaluation (February 3, 2007)

General Issues

Is it acceptable to vary from the path of travel (Exercise 17 - Skills Practice) by sending students outside the range through the staging area as an alternate route to return to the middle braking lane? *No – the range cards should be read verbatim or coherently paraphrased so the students have a clear understanding of the prescribed path of travel.*

After running the u-turn, swerving, or braking evaluations, are students allowed a practice run immediately before the cornering evaluation? *No – once any part of the skill evaluation starts, additional practice or coaching is not allowed.*

What defines an “evaluation”? Just the area being scored? Or from the starting point? *For “dropping the m/c” purposes, the evaluation begins when the rider is signaled to begin at the starting point and ends when the rider is signaled to move on.*

How many attempts are allowed per evaluation?

U-Turn, one attempt. Swerving, two attempts under certain circumstances. Braking / Quick Stop, two attempts under certain circumstances. Cornering, one attempt.

A student starts an evaluation but stops before the “scoring” area. Is the student allowed to re-run the evaluation? *This is basically left to instructor discretion and agreement between the instructors based on the specific circumstances of the situation.*

How should instructor error be handled, ie., stopwatch malfunction or instructor inattention? *The student is given the benefit of the doubt, but distance and time cannot be “made up” and reported. If necessary due to an instructor error, a student should be given another opportunity to run the evaluation, even if the student then has more than the maximum number of runs. If the student is allowed “more” runs, it may be a good idea to explain the reason for the extra run to the rest class to alleviate charges of favoritism.*

If the bike tips but the student wrestles it back upright before parts touch the ground, is that considered an automatic failure for dropping the motorcycle? *No.*

What if the foot peg touches down? *You must be able to defend your definition of a “drop” to other students who may have seen the rider “drop” the motorcycle and yet continue on with the skill eval and possibly even pass the class.*

Should scoring be a team effort with discussion, or is one instructor an official scorer? Should both instructors administer the re-test (if one is needed)? *There is no policy that requires two instructors to administer either the original skill test or a re-test. However, if both instructors are available and capable, there is no reason for only one instructor to do so.*

How should spectators be managed If some students express concern but others want them to stay? What if the spectators are instructors who don't leave when asked? *If even one student is concerned, spectators should be respectfully informed they are / may be making students more nervous and asked to leave or at least move further away from the range. Except during a Peer Observation, professional courtesy requires “other” instructors to leave / move if requested. If the instructor refuses, the issue should be reported to the site sponsor or MO coordinator.*

If a student asks, "What did I do wrong?" (or "How did I do?", etc.) during an evaluation, is it considered coaching if you tell them? (and should that be done?) *"Coaching" includes providing feedback to the student and is prohibited once the skill evaluation starts.*

Should stopping distance or acceptable cornering speed be adjusted if it is raining? *No.*

What part of the motorcycle is used for timing? *The leading edge of the front tire.*

Is it okay to put an extra set of cones in the starting (line-up) area for the swerving and braking evals in order to keep a bike length clear instead of backing up the entire line? *Should not be needed for the swerve since the actual "restart" point is the exit of the u-turn area. There are other effective ways to attain the objective of a "clear" bike length at the start of the braking eval which should be used instead of placing additional cones on the range, such as telling the students during the instructions to leave at least a bike length clear in case the rider ahead of them needs to re-run the evaluation.*

Intentional Unsafe Acts

Is leaving a face shield up or not fastening the helmet grounds for failure during the skill evaluation as committing an intentional unsafe act? What about shifting without using clutch? Skidding the front wheel? Foot off the foot peg? Going too fast? *This is another area of instructor discretion and consensus and depends on the situation. Part of the general responsibilities of an instructor is to ensure students are riding with proper safety gear. Some questions you may ask yourself are "Is the student being deliberately / intentionally unsafe? Or have they been warned about the activity (or lack of activity – e.g., faceshield) repeatedly during the riding exercises?" and other similar questions to determine if the student should be marked as failing the skill test, at least partially due to 21 points from an intentional unsafe act or if they should be marked as passing the skill test but failing the course due to errant behavior. In either situation, you should document the circumstances and reasoning on the Student Report Form.*

Can a student who was failed for an intentional unsafe act, but who would have otherwise passed the skill evaluation, be given a retest? *There is nothing in the policy and procedure manual or definitions and guidelines document that prohibits a student from taking a re-test after failing the original skill test solely due to an intentional unsafe act. Site Sponsors may refuse to re-test such a student and should be consulted for their position. Again, document the circumstances and reasoning on the Student Report Form.*

U-Turns & Swerve

If the student rolls off the throttle from the timing cones until they completed the swerve, should that be considered braking? (Engine braking - 5 pt deduction) *Technically, rolling off through the timing zone would be anticipation. Rolling off after the last set of timing cones / at the start of the actual swerve area is braking and should incur the 5 point penalty.*

If the rider just clips one of the cue cones (prior to the hazard) - is this considered hitting an obstacle? *No – hitting one of the timing cones would be anticipation.*

Can you set up an additional pair of cones about four feet ahead of the primary cue cones to prevent the rider from swinging wide to the left in order to lessen the angle of the maneuver? *A better method of managing the situation would be to set up the first set of timing cones during Ex. 17 (skills practice) if riders are swinging wide.*

What is the timing zone? *The 20' area immediately before the cue cones.*

How many attempts is the student allowed? *One attempt for the U-Turn, and up to two attempts for the Swerve under certain circumstances.*

Braking

Should a student lose points if the downshifting is not done simultaneously with brake application? *No – as long as the downshifting to 1st occurred after the cue cones and before the m/c comes to a stop, the student gets credit for the downshifting.*

What is the timing zone? *The 20' area immediately before the cue cones.*

What part of the motorcycle is used to determine distance? *The leading edge of the front tire, to the next highest foot.*

How many attempts is the student allowed? *Up to two under certain circumstances.*

Cornering

How far away from the cue cones can brake application be counted?

If a student applies the brakes upon exit of the first curve, does that count as a brake application prior to entering second (scored) curve?

For "Braking" to count, application of the brakes should occur at about mid-range or after.

What area is used for scoring? *In general, the second curve; deceleration is scored while any part of the m/c is within the timing zone.*

What is the timing zone? *The 135 degree arc, which includes the portion of the arc with solid and dotted/dashed lines (the area 20' past the entry cones and 20' before the exit cones).*

How many attempts is the student allowed? *One.*