

Standards for Recreational-Use Closed-Courses

Department of Public Safety
Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement
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A. Standards for Designing and Maintaining Closed-Courses

In practical terms, a recreational-use closed-course is an area which is designed and managed to provide a safe, controlled environment where properly trained off-road vehicle users 6-13 years of age can operate age-appropriate off-road vehicles.

As per the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* and regulations, organizations wishing to operate a closed course must be accredited by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The following guidelines will be used to accredit closed course operators in New Brunswick.

1. Accreditation

- Organizations seeking accreditation for a closed-course used exclusively for recreation will be required to submit an application form along with any additional information required, to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
- In order to be accredited, organizations shall demonstrate that they carry liability insurance.
- Accreditation is only required if the trails will be open to off-road vehicle riders aged 6 to13.
- When not operating as a closed course these standards do not apply.

2. Access

- Access to a closed course is limited to off-road vehicles only, as defined in the Act.
- Closed - courses must not cross or intersect with public roads.

3. Course Terrain, Obstacles and Hazards

- Keeping in mind that children 6-13 will be operating smaller, age-appropriate off-road vehicles on closed-courses, it is important that the trails be suitable for these types of machines and for the rider's level of ability.
- The traveled portion of trails containing hazardous terrain and obstacles will not be considered for accreditation. The traveled portion of trails that have the following characteristics will not be considered for accreditation:
 - Water (standing or running) over 15 cm deep
 - Unusually steep terrain
 - Large amounts of debris on the trail (such as large logs, fallen trees, or low hanging branches)

4. Signage

- All posted signage **MUST** be approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
- Signage must be displayed indicating that a closed-course is in operation.
- When an existing trail or portion thereof, is being utilized as a closed - course, approved signage must be displayed to indicate all major entry / exit points along the closed-course as well as indicating the point where the closed-course starts and ends.
- Signage must be displayed indicating the point at which a trail intersects with another trail, warning the operator that vehicles could be entering from their (left, right, front).
- Signage must be displayed indicating that a maximum speed of 32km/h is in effect on a closed-course.

5. Speed Limits

- Maximum speed on a closed course is not to exceed 32km/h.
- The operator of a closed-course has the flexibility to institute a lower speed limit if he/she sees necessary for the safety of the riders.

6. Closed-Course Officials

- At such time when a closed-course is in operation, a designated Closed-Course Official will be onsite to help supervise the trails.
- To be a Closed-Course Official, the following minimum requirements will have to be met:
 - Have an approved First-Aid Certificate.
 - Have immediate access to a First-Aid Kit.
 - Have the use of a mobile cellular telephone or a 2 – way radio device to be used to call for assistance in the case of an emergency.
 - Have completed an approved ATV and Snowmobile safety course.
 - Must wear a vest, armband or any other conspicuous piece of clothing, identifying that individual as a Closed-Course Official.
 - Have a good knowledge of the *Standards for Recreational-Use Closed-Courses*.

B. Requirements of Users of Recreational Use Closed-Courses

One of the ways an off-road vehicle recreational closed course can improve safety and reduce environmental and social impacts associated with off-road vehicle use is to manage the behavior of closed-course users.

Operators of off-road vehicles on closed-courses **MUST** be in compliance with: the *Off-Road Vehicle Act*, its supporting regulations as well as any other applicable legislation.

The rules for a closed-course must be clearly displayed at entry points. The rules of use must include but are not limited to:

- Must not operate an off-road vehicle at a speed greater than the posted speed limit.
- Obey all posted signage.
- Additional protective equipment including eye protection, long pants, long sleeves, gloves and boots are required for riders aged 15 and under.
- Do not stray from the designated closed-course area.
- Enter and exit the trail system at approved points only.
- Stop when signaled to by a closed course official, an off-road vehicle enforcement officer or any other law enforcement officer.
- Riders must adhere to course hours of operation as set by the operator of the closed-course.
- Closed-course operators may establish additional requirements to ensure the safety of all riders.

C. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Operators of off-road vehicles in New Brunswick are encouraged to become familiar with the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* and its supporting regulations. The *Off-Road vehicle Act* and regulations apply to everyone operating an off-road vehicle.

Q. What supervision is required?

A. All operators of off-road vehicles under the age of sixteen (16) MUST be supervised in clear view by someone nineteen (19) years of age or older.

Q. What training is required?

A. All operators of ATVs and Snowmobiles under the age of sixteen (16) MUST be in possession of a training certificate issued by an authorized trainer.

Q. Does the supervising adult need to be trained?

A. Yes. The supervising adult MUST have the same training for the vehicle being operated by the person that they are supervising.

Q. Can anyone under the age of 16 operate adult-sized off-road vehicles?

A. No. Persons under the age of 16 may ONLY operate an off-road vehicle that is deemed age-appropriate as defined in the regulation.

Q. Where can 6-13 year olds legally operate an off-road vehicle?

A. Persons 6 to 13 years of age inclusive may ONLY operate an age-appropriate off-road vehicle on a recreational-use closed as defined in the regulation.

Q. Do I have to register my off-road vehicle?

A. Yes. All off-road vehicles MUST be registered.

Q. Do I have to have my off-road vehicle insured?

A. ATVs and Snowmobiles **MUST** be insured unless operated exclusively on property owned by the registered owner of the ATV or snowmobile.

Q. Do I have to wear a helmet while operating an off-road vehicle?

A. Yes. A helmet **MUST** be worn at all times while operating ANY off-road vehicle.