

General Rules of the Forest & the HBMTBC Inc.

General Rules

1. You must always wear an approved hard-shell safety helmet that is correctly fitted and enclosed footwear while riding. (Gloves & glasses are optional and highly recommended).
2. Bicycles must be in good working order with functional front and rear brakes, handle bar ends must be plugged and have no sharp edges.
3. All members must display their current ID Tags (or valid Visitor Permits) when riding in our privately-owned off-road venue. *NB: Membership with the Hawkes Bay Mountain Bike Club is also your permit.*
4. Riders must not use abusive or use offensive language, act in an anti -sporting manner, be disrespectful to other club members or ignore club rules.
5. Smoking, and Dogs are strictly **NOT** permitted within the forest at **ALL** times.
6. You must close (securely latch) all gates that you open, & leave all gates as you find them.
7. Treat all tracks as 2-way, except for the select few that are labelled one-way only. Always be prepared for a rider/cattle beast/forestry worker coming the other way.
8. Read, understand and follow all warning signs & any taped off areas, they are there for a reason.
9. All Logging areas & any operational sites are totally out-of-bounds until the site is replanted, or the warning tape & signs are removed by the contractors, and notification of such is made by the landowner.
10. The Pan Pac Mill and bark dump site are strictly out-of-bounds at **ALL** times.
11. You must take all your own rubbish with you and leave only tyre marks.
12. **Runners**
 - a) Runners must be current members of the MTB club, or obtain a MTB Visitors Permit.
 - b) Runners are encouraged to use the forestry tracks and two-way mountain bike trails.
 - c) If runners use a one-way trail, they must run in the direction the trail is used by bikers ie: run down a downhill trail.
 - d) Runners must give way to **ALL** bikers.
 - e) Runners must not run with headphones on or music playing.
 - f) **ALL** users of the MTB Park should be courteous to one another at all times.
 - g) MTB riders should be aware that runners may be on the MTB trails and be prepared to avoid them.
13. All signage is deemed to be read & understood once seen / ridden past.
14. **The Club reserves the right to exclude any person who breaches any of the rules as outlined above or commits any act which would or may endanger any other user of the park or user of trails operated by the Club.**

Disciplinary Procedure & Policy

At **ALL** times, club members are required to comply with the Club's rules, goals, constitution, club or landowner instructions, procedures and policies.

If any member is deemed to have breached any of the above rules (1 – 13), the following disciplinary procedure is to be followed by the Club Committee:

1. Details of any alleged breach/incident to be investigated by a Committee Member (nominally the Chairperson), including discussion with the offending club member(s) to obtain all information, to be outlined in writing.
2. Club Committee to discuss the alleged breach at the following monthly committee meeting, or at a special committee meeting.
3. Depending on the severity of the breach/incident and the decision by the committee, one or more of the following steps will be taken (in order):
 - a) A written warning to the offending club member(s);
 - b) Membership suspension for a set period, determined by the committee;
 - c) Trespass notice issued by landowner, which **bans all access into all commercial forests across the entire North Island for 2 years**, with a copy supplied to and enforced by the New Zealand Police.

Any breach or incident that either jeopardises the HBMTB Club's access to the forest, has endangered the safety of other forest users, or is in breach of the landowner's rules, shall be considered to be a **serious breach of misconduct** and will be dealt with accordingly.
