



## **BMX VICTORIA INC. Council Meeting 2008**

### **AGENDA ITEM: Victorian Racing Calendar Options for Change**

#### **BACKGROUND**

BMX Victoria's number of licenced riders is growing steadily and has done so for the last 4 or so years. Over that period the attendances at individual race meetings has not grown - if any generalisation can be made it would be that attendances are dropping.

At the February 2008 Council meeting, it was resolved that the Calendar should be reviewed, with a view to reducing the number of open race meetings, and options presented at this coming Council meeting.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

The premise of this proposal is that the sport would be better supported if there were:

- Less open race meetings, but more effort applied to making them quality events
- More quality club meetings
- More opportunities for families to combine BMX Racing with other sports
- More opportunities to avoid open race meetings clashing with other Significant Events (Easter, Bathurst V8's, AFL Grand Final)

Other considerations include:

- Less open race dates allows greater opportunity to schedule regular State Coaching Clinics, where elite riders would provide intensive skills training for riders of all abilities.
- Less open race dates allow our essential officials more freedom from working at race meetings. The probability of becoming entrenched as a "full time" official is a great disincentive to potential new officials.
- The ability to include appropriate seasonal breaks: At present we have no mid/late winter break which is highly desirable in Melbourne, and it is arguable that the start in February and finish in late November are too far into hot weather.
- Reduction in travelling: With a greater emphasis on club racing, most families would expect to spend less time and money travelling to other clubs, and spend more time at their local club.

The proposed options are all based on the following race meetings being regarded as "Fixtures":

- Track Attack, because it is a series of National significance and relevant to riders all over the country and even to New Zealanders.
- Royal Childrens Hospital event, because it has a long history with Victorian BMX and is our only charity day.
- ACT Titles, because this also is an event of National significance and valuable high-level racing experience for Victorians.
- Vic v SA, because this offers valuable high-level racing experience for Victorians and because it supports our far-western clubs who suffer the tyranny of distance more than most.
- Interclub and State Championships, because they are the pinnacle of state racing.

## **GENERAL NOTES**

These options are presented with a draft calendar to illustrate the concept.

The allocation of dates to particular clubs would be the subject of a proper draft calendar, prepared in accordance with the concept and rotating the dates allocations annually – again according to the concept.

Clubs and their delegates to the Council meeting are therefore urged to concentrate on the overall concept of each option and the advantages (or disadvantages) which it offers, and not to concentrate on which dates their club may (or may not have) according to these examples.

It is also noted that variations of these concepts are possible: Without re-opening the considerations to every possibility imaginable, one or two “in principle” qualifications could be made to one of these options.

In summary, the Options provide:

Option A (Autumn, Winter, Spring series’): 20 open race meetings, plus the “fixtures” which occupy 7 weekends, a total of 27 weekends for open race meetings

Option B (1 open per club per year): 16 open race meetings, plus the “fixtures” which occupy 7 weekends, a total of 23 weekends for open race meetings

Option C (The Way We Are): 30 open race meetings, plus the “fixtures” which occupy 7 weekends, a total of 37 weekends for open race meetings

Note that these counts do not include the National Titles.