

Downhill Protective Equipment



Armour Guidelines

MTBNZ have introduced a minimum body armour rule for competitors riding in MTBNZ National and Championship events. This document is to assist riders with the minimum criteria expected; it is not a finite list of acceptable armour as no definitive list is available either from governing bodies or the industry.

MTBNZ recommends affiliated MTB Clubs also adopt these Guidelines for their own activities.

The level of protection is split into two age groups, U15/17/U19 (18 and under) and Seniors and above (19 and over).

U15/17/U19 (age 18 and below)

Guiding Principle: Knee and elbow protection required with short and long sleeve jerseys and pants.

All equipment used should have been designed and sold with the express purpose of being used as protective sports clothing.

Compulsory

1. Full Face Helmet

Requirements

- Single construction full face type
- Safety certified at an ASTM F1147; AS/NZS 2063; CE (EN1078) or Snell (B90 or B95) acceptable level.

Not permitted

- Any helmet without an integral chin guard.

2. Gloves

Requirements

- Gloves giving full finger coverage.

Not permitted

- Partially fingered gloves.

2. Elbows/Forearms

Requirements

- Elbow protectors with the following properties:
 - Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
 - Can be stand alone elbow protectors or as part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.
 - Can be elbow only or combined elbow/forearm protection.

4. Knee/Shin

Requirements

- Knee protectors with the following properties:
 - Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
 - Can be stand alone leg protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.
 - Can be one piece knee/shin protectors or separate knee and shin padding.



Highly Recommended

1. Spinal

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Cover full length of back (spine) from between shoulder blades to tail bone.
- Can be fully, partially or non articulated in design.
- Can be stand alone back protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.

Not Recommended

- Motocross style “roost guards” unless with a specific back protector, not just a rear roost deflector.

2. Shoulder

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Outer shell should be constructed of a solid material e.g. Hard Shell Plastic.
- Can be stand alone shoulder protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.

3. Neck Brace

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Leatt Brace style construction or similar

Seniors and Above (age 19 and over)

Guiding Principle: Flexibility to mix and match:

- Knee and elbow protection not required with long sleeve jerseys and/or pants.
- Knee and elbow protection required with short sleeve jerseys and/or pants.

All equipment used should have been designed and sold with the express purpose of being used as protective sports clothing.

Compulsory

1. Full Face Helmet

Requirements

- Single construction full face type
- Safety certified at an ASTM F1147; AS/NZS 2063; CE (EN1078) or Snell (B90 or B95) acceptable level.

Not permitted

- Any helmet without an integral chin guard.

2. Gloves

Requirements

- Gloves giving full finger coverage.

Not permitted

- Partially fingered gloves.



3. Elbows/Forearms

Requirements

- Long sleeve jersey giving at least 3/4 arm cover, preferably to the wrist, **OR:**
- Short sleeve jerseys worn with elbow protectors with the following properties
 - Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
 - Can be stand alone elbow protectors or as part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.
 - Can be elbow only or combined elbow/forearm protection.

Not permitted

- Short sleeved jerseys (elbow and above), when worn without elbow protection

4. Knee/Shin

Requirements

- Long leg pants giving full cover to the ankle, **OR:**
- Short leg pants worn with knee protectors with the following properties:
 - Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
 - Can be stand alone leg protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.
 - Can be one piece knee/shin protectors or separate knee and shin padding.

Not permitted

- Short leg pants (above ankle), when worn without knee protectors

Highly Recommended

1. Spinal

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Cover full length of back (spine) from between shoulder blades to tail bone.
- Can be fully, partially or non articulated in design.
- Can be stand alone back protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.

Not permitted

- Motocross style “roost guards” unless with a specific back protector, not just a rear roost deflector.

2. Shoulder

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Outer shell should be constructed of a solid material e.g. Hard Shell Plastic.
- Can be stand alone shoulder protectors or part of a protective suit e.g. full body, half body or vest.

3. Neck Brace

Requirements

- Self fastening- does not require auxiliary fastening devices to secure to the body.
- Leatt Brace style construction or similar