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AMA Statement regarding Amateur Motocross Advancement

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- AMA Sports announced today that new rules regarding rider advancement to "A" class amateur motocross competition will not be implemented in 2008. The decision follows a collaborative review process between promoters, congress delegates, OEM representatives and AMA Staff,

2007 marked the first year of implementation for the AMA's National Advancement System in amateur motocross. The goal of the system is to provide a consistent source of enforcement regarding rider eligibility at the "C" class level, and then progress riders through the "B" and "A" class rankings.

"After our review, we felt that many riders were being pushed into our highest level of amateur racing too quickly and that we'd be taking a step backwards after the recent progress we have made in creating a better system," stated the AMA's Director of Motocross and Supercross Ryan Holliday.

In recent years the AMA has undertaken measures to create a more fluid transition through the amateur ranks and into professional racing. One of these measures was to create a clear path of progression from the minibike level to the Schoolboy class, eventually transitioning riders to the appropriate skill level.

"This system was developed by the motocross committee of the AMA Congress and was first utilized at the District level before being applied nationwide in 2007," said Holliday. "The recent changes in the AMA's class structure had an unforeseen negative impact on young riders being advanced into the 'A' class, namely the increase in age limits for the youth divisions, but the exclusion of 'A' level riders in these classes."

A contributing factor was the late release of rider advancement notification. In accordance with the AMA rulebook, advancements were to take effect on December 31, 2007. With the qualifying rounds of the AMA's Amateur National Motocross Championship already underway, as well as many other local racing series, the implementation of the "A" class rule was not in the best interest of AMA members.

"The AMA feels the National Advancement System is a very promising program and we will make the necessary changes through our rules-making body in the AMA Congress later this year to create a fair and simplified ladder of progression regarding rider advancement to the 'A' class," said Holliday. "Rider advancement from the 'C' class to 'B' class will be implemented as planned in 2008."