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Appeal against decisions of Appeal Panel of Motorcycling New Zealand dismissed

The Sports Tribunal heard an appeal against two decisions by Motorcycling New Zealand's Appeal Panel ("the Appeal Panel") involving motorcyclists from other teams to those of the Biggles Racing Team ("the Appellant"). The Appeal Panel in both cases had overturned infringement notices issued to two riders.

The Appellant sought to have the decisions of the Appeal Panel overturned because it contended it had a right to be involved in those internal appeals and was denied natural justice.

The Tribunal considered that the critical issue in the case was whether the Appeal Panel was correct when it ruled that the actions of the stewards were outside of their jurisdiction.

The Tribunal determined that the clear and ambiguous words of Motorcycling New Zealand's Rules meant that the stewards' powers only operated within the days of a meeting or until matters raised at a meeting have reached a conclusion. This meant that the inspection of the bikes outside of race meetings was not lawful.

Therefore, the Tribunal dismissed the appeal.

The decision in this case is available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Biggles Racing Team v Motorcycling New Zealand* (ST 08/20). Copies can also be obtained directly from the Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).