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SERIES INFORMATION

SERIES & EVENTS

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- Red Bull Straight Rhythm
- the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship at Loretta Lynn's Ranch
- the FIM Motocross World Championship
- the SuperMotocross World Championship

PRO CLASS NAMES*

- Lucas Oil Pro Motocross: 250 Class, 450 Class
- Monster Energy Supercross: 250SX, 450SX
- FIM Motocross: MX2, MXGP

** For the 2006-2012 supercross seasons, use Supercross Lites and Supercross (the latter being the premier division). Prior to that, the standard "125cc class" and "250cc class" are fine.*

⇨⇨ PRO TEAMS (2023)

250 Class/250SX

- ⇨⇨ Monster Energy Yamaha Star Racing
- Honda HRC
- Red Bull KTM
- Monster Energy/Pro Circuit Kawasaki
- Rockstar Energy Husqvarna
- Troy Lee Designs/Red Bull/GasGas Factory Racing
- FXR/Chaparral Honda Racing
- Gas Monkey Energy/AJE Motorsports
- AJE Motorsports/Motul
- ClubMX
- JMC Motorsports Racing
- Manluk/Rock River Yamaha/Merge Racing
- Phoenix Racing Honda
- PR-MX Pelletier Kawasaki
- SGB Racing/Maxxis/Babbitt's Kawasaki

- TiLube Honda Racing

450 Class/450SX

- Monster Energy Yamaha Star Racing
- HEP Motorsports Suzuki
- Honda HRC
- Penrite Honda
- Red Bull KTM
- Troy Lee Designs/Red Bull/GasGas Factory Racing
- Monster Energy Kawasaki
- Rockstar Energy Husqvarna Factory Racing
- Rocky Mountain ATV/MC-KTM-WPS
- SmarTop/Bullfrog Spas/MotoConcepts Honda
- PR-MX Pelletier Kawasaki
- SGB Racing/Maxxis/Babbitt's Kawasaki
- Team Tedder

BIKE MODELS

These are the predominant professional models; youth/amateur models will follow the same naming conventions.

- **Honda:** CRF450R, CRF250R
- **Husqvarna:** FC 450, FC 350, FC 250 (four-strokes); TC 250, TC 125 (two-strokes)
- **Kawasaki:** KX450, KX250 (*The F has been dropped as of 2019*)
- **KTM:** 450 SX-F, 350 SX-F, 250 SX-F
- **Suzuki:** RM-Z450, RM-Z250
- **Yamaha:** YZ450F, YZ250F
- ⇔**GasGas:** MC 250F, MC 450F

Next: Racer X Illustrated *Word Counts*

RACER X ILLUSTRATED WORD COUNTS

- **Columns:** 650 (Pull Quote 15-20)
- **Racer Exposure:** 450
- **Pit Pass Sidebars:** 100
- **Riders' Meeting:** 450
- **Garage Build:** 500
- **The Feed:** Main letter (280), Letter of the Month (90), Spoken (90)
- **Vintage Vault:** 100
- **One Race, One Page:** 650 (Pull Quote 15-20)
- **X Rated:** 400
- **Inside Motocross:** 100
- **10 Minutes With:** 1,100-1,200
- **2 Tribes:** 750 Words
- **Noise:** 20 Quotes (including 1 featured quote) + 3-5 DMXS Bytes

Next: Style Basics

STYLE BASICS

We use a modified form of Chicago style, based on the *Chicago Manual of Style* (as opposed to, say, AP style or MLA style). Writers don't need to memorize the book—that's the job of a full-time editor—but here are some basics to keep in mind when you're writing.

ABBREVIATIONS

State names and months of the year should be spelled out in running text. When space is an issue—tables, graphics, etc.—use the two-letter postal abbreviation for states.

The supercross season opener takes place on Saturday, January 6 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, California.

For **names containing initials**, in a break from Chicago style, we run the two letters together with no space or punctuation: RJ Hampshire, JH Leale, etc.

Also going against Chicago style, we **do not spell out abbreviations in place names**: St. Louis, Missouri; Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania.

CAPITALIZATION

Think about the terms **motocross** and **supercross** just like you would *baseball* or *golf*: they're lowercase when used generically but capped in the context of an official series or class name.

Capitalization of the word **nationals** should follow a similar pattern: lowercase in general use (*racing supercross*; *racing the nationals*), capped in a more official context (*the Anaheim Supercross*, *the High Point National*, *AMA Motocross*). The term *outdoor nationals* should be written all lowercase.

For a company name to be spelled in **all capital letters**, it must be an acronym. For example, GEICO—the Government Employees Insurance Company—is only spelled in all caps. Watch out for companies that just want to make their name stand out in a wall of text.

What about programs?

When we're working on souvenir programs, some of these rules can go out the window. Amsoil prefer to be AMSOIL? That's cool. General rules of grammar apply, but companies can be stroked a little extra.

When referencing **class champions**, cap the full championship title (*the 2017 Lucas Oil 450 Class Pro Motocross Champion*) but lowercase otherwise (*the former supercross champion; the 450SX champion; the Lucas Oil Pro Motocross champ*)

Quick-Reference Class Guide

AMA Supercross: 450SX Class or 450SX; 250SX Class or 250SX

AMA Motocross: 450 Class, 250 Class

Generic, either/or: 450 class, 250 class

COMMAS

We use what's commonly called **the Oxford comma**—the comma that comes just before the final conjunction in a list.

Dungey took wins in San Diego, St. Louis, and Atlanta.

When listing more than two items that contain commas themselves, separate each item with semicolons.

The amateur action will take place January 21 in Anaheim, California; January 28 in Glendale, Arizona; February 25 in Tampa, Florida; and March 4 in Atlanta, Georgia.

ITALICS

Only italicize *Racer X* or *Racer X Illustrated* when referring directly to the magazine. When used as a modifier (a Racer X hat, the Racer X booth), use plain Roman type.

The following are always italicized: the titles of books, films, TV shows, video games, and magazines (including, controversially, so-called "digital magazines"). Smaller units of those things—like songs or TV episodes—go inside quotation marks.

The famous *Seinfeld* episode "The Contest"; "Airbag" from Radiohead's *OK Computer*.

This month's *Racer X Illustrated* had a great Reason for Being and a hilarious feature called "Only in Paris."

As you can see in the example above, the titles of magazine columns and sections—Reason for Being, Racerhead, The Goods—are written in standard Roman text.

Also, always use italics when referring to a word as a word.

Italicize the word *italics* to be clever in your example.

Here's a cheat sheet:

Italicized	Quotes	Plain (Roman)
● Book titles	● Articles	● Articles
● Magazines (<i>ESPN the Magazine</i>)	● Book chapters	● Columns (Voice Box)
● Movies	● Songs	● Companies
● Newspapers	● TV episodes	● Networks (ESPN)
● Podcasts		● Stores
● Ships/vessels		● Websites
● TV shows		
● Video games		

Online and Social: In cases where italics aren't possible or preferable—Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.—use all all caps instead:

A new GYMKHANA film is on its way.

New in this month's RACER X ILLUSTRATED.

BRACKETS AND PARENTHESES

When adding material to a quotation, always use square brackets.

“That was crazy,” he said. “Whatever [Canard] had for breakfast that morning must have been extra spicy.”

In standard running text (like right now), plain old parentheses are the way to go. (If a sentence is fully contained in the parenthetical statement, like this one is, the closing punctuation goes inside the parentheses.)

NUMBERS

Since we deal with a lot of numbers as a sports-related magazine, we deviate from Chicago style here. Generally speaking, we **use digits for any number greater than ten**. There are exceptions, but you’ll be safe if you follow that guideline.

What are those exceptions? Mostly physical measurements and percentages.

Only 7 percent of applicants were admitted.

Rider numbers always use the following format: #1, #99, #872. The champion runs the #1 plate.

If a sentence begins with a number, however, it’s always spelled out.

Twenty-seven years ago, this level of fitness was unheard of.

Two thousand seventeen was Ryan Dungey’s final year as a pro.

QUOTATIONS

The Golden Rule for Quotations: Never, ever change somebody’s words unless you clearly show where the change was made. Retain the exact wording, whether it’s grammatically perfect or not.

Regular quotes go inside standard quotation marks.

"This isn't about saving money for either side," JGRMX team manager Jeremy Albrecht says. "Coy got excited and wanted to do it."

Single quotation marks are only used inside standard ones.

"So he said to me, 'You know, why can't an editor just fix this?'" he explained.

Single quotes never appear on their own; use them only for nested quotations like the previous example. (Brits tend to reverse this.)

Any **changes made to quotations** or previously published material must be made in square brackets.

"It would probably be the same with Ricky [Carmichael] if he were in the same boat at the end of his career," Alexander said."

WEBSITES

When practical, use the construction "racerxonline.com" in all lowercase letters. (Chicago style currently includes the full "http://www." but I think that's absurd.)

In other cases—referring to team sponsors, for instance—you may need to use a shortened form: Amazon.com, AutoTrader.com.

Certain well-known sites, like eBay, can get by without an extension.

Next: The Big List

THE BIG LIST

PROBLEMATIC PROPER NAMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jimmy Decotis ● ⇄⇄Roger De Coster ● ⇄⇄Marc De Reuver ● Todd DeHoop ● Yves Demaria ● Ryder DiFrancesco ● Derek Dorresteyn ● Micky Dymond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tarah Gieger ● Stephan LeGrand ● Ben LaMay ● ⇄⇄Brian Lunniss ● Mike LaRocco ● Ryan Morais ● Jo Shimoda ● Cody VanBuskirk

- **a la** In the style of
- **ABC's Wide World of Sports**
- **all caps** For a company name to be spelled in all capital letters, it must be an acronym. For example, GEICO—the Government Employees Insurance Company—is only spelled in all caps. Watch out for companies that just want to make their name stand out in a wall of text.
- **all-in** (fully committed)
- **all right** (not *alright*)
- **all time** (*the all-time best but the best of all time*)
- **AMA 250 Motocross Champion/AMA 450 Motocross Champion**
- **amid** (not *amidst*)
- **among** (not *amongst*)
- **Amsoil**
- **Angel Stadium** (not *Angels Stadium*)
- **anytime**
- **anyway** (not *anyways*)
- **arenacross** No caps when used generically—use it just like *football* or *hockey*
- **arm pump**
- **Arma** supplements (not ARMA)
- **AUS-X Open** Not technically an acronym, but lowercase just looks weird
- **back burner** Not *back-burner* or *backburner*; it's just the stove's rear burner.
- **backyard** (noun or adjective)
- **Baker's Factory** Aldon Baker's Florida training facility
- **Bam Bam** Justin Barcia's nickname

- **bench-racing**
- **Blu Cru** (Yamaha amateur support team)
- **bona fide/bona fides** (adjective/noun)
- **brand-new**
- **canceled**
- **catch-22**
- **ClubMX**
- **the CMRC Rockstar Energy Drink Motocross Nationals** (Canada)
- **concerted effort** Is made "in concert"—as in, with other people. One person can't make one.
- **de facto**
- **die-hard** (adjective)
- **diehard** (noun)
- **Dirt Wurx** (SX track-builders)
- **double spaces** Don't use them.
- **dragon's back** (racing obstacle)
- **drivetrain**
- **e-bike**
- **East Coast**
- **email**
- **emoji** (singular and plural)
- **every day** (noun; *I ride every day*)
- **everyday** (adjective; *it's an everyday occurrence*)
- **FaceTime**
- **factory** Use *factory Honda*, etc., to denote an OEM-supported team (unless *Factory* is part of the official team name)
- **fairy tale** (noun)
- **fairy-tale** (adj.)
- **Feld Motorsports** (formerly Feld Entertainment, formerly Feld Motor Sports)
- ❖❖ **fiancé** is a man
- ❖❖ **fiancée** is a woman
- **fill-in** (adj.)
- **Fly Racing**
- **footpeg(s)**
- **freerider/freeriding**
- **GasGas**
- **gearhead**
- **GEICO** (all caps—it's the Government Employees Insurance Company)
- **godsend**
- **guess what** It's not a question, so it doesn't get a question mark—use a period or colon instead
- **Hi Flyers** motocross trading cards
- **hillclimb**

- **hp** Abbreviation for *horsepower* (lowercase)
- **Infront Motor Racing** Current GP promoter (formerly Youthstream)
- **internet**
- **jumbotron**
- **kick-starter**
- **LITPro** (LIT stands for "Life Inspired Technology")
- **long shot**
- **longstanding**
- **Loretta Lynn's Ranch**
- **Loretta Lynn's** (the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship)
- **Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championship**
- **manmade**
- **mash-up**
- **matchup**
- **Mini Os** (the Thor Winter Olympics)
- **minibike**
- **the Monster Energy Cup**
- **Monster Girl**
- **motocross** No caps when used generically.
- **Motocross des Nations** (from 1947 to 2003)
- **Motocross of Nations** The current-day event, as of 2004; previously the Motocross des Nations. **MXoN** on second reference is fine.
- **Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania**
- **MXoN** The Motocross of Nations
- **nonprofit**
- **off-road**
- **off-season**
- **okay** Preferred to OK
- ***On-track Off-road*** "Digital magazine." Italicized.
- **papier-mâché**
- **photo shoot**
- **predominantly** (not *predominately*)
- **premix**
- **preseason**
- **PulpMX**
- **the PulpMX Show**
- **push-ups**
- **rabble-rouser**
- **racetrack**
- **the Ranch** Acceptable shortened form of Loretta Lynn Ranch.
- **Red Bull Straight Rhythm**
- **reins** You take the reins; kings and queens have reigns.

- **résumé**
- **rider numbers** Use the # sign and digits with no space in between (#7, #101, the #1 plate).
- **Road 2 Recovery**
- **rock star** The energy drink is stylized as one word; otherwise, it's two words.
- **the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship at Loretta Lynn Ranch** On first reference; Loretta Lynn's thereafter.
- **roller coaster**
- **rulebook**
- **Saint-Jean-d'Angély, France**
- **screenshot**
- **sellout crowd**
- **set up** (verb)
- **setup** (noun)
- **side by side**
- **SmarTop** (intercap new as of 5/19)
- **smartphone**
- **snow bike**
- **spacing** Always use single spaces, never double.
- **sprinter van** Or a Sprinter if it's the real Mercedes model.
- **Stacyc**
- **Stank Dog** (not "Stankdog") Gared Steinke
- **Stark Varg**
- **the States** Shortened form for the United States of America.
- **stepping-stone**
- **stick and ball sports** Sports with sticks and/or balls; *stick-and-ball sports* would mean you've got both a stick and a ball.
- **the Super Bowl** (NFL)
- **the Superbowl of Motocross** (first SX race)
- **supercross** No caps when used generically.
- **supermini**
- **swingarm**
- **T-shirt**
- **TAG Heuer** Techniques d'Avant Garde Heuer, believe it or not
- **Terrafirma** Freeriding video series.
- **THOR** Torsten Hallman Original Racewear (after years of being Thor, the company is going back to the acronym form).
- **the THOR Winter Olympics** (Mini Os)
- **three-peat**
- **tractor trailer**
- **Tuff Blox** (Tuff Block)
- **the Vets MXdN** (British vet race at Farleigh Castle)

- **visa** You buy stuff with a Visa; you get into France with a visa.
- **Vital MX**
- **wake-up call**
- **warm-up**
- **website**
- **weeklong**
- **West Coast**
- **who's who**
- **winner's circle**
- **world-beater**
- **yeah** (not *yea*, not *yah*)
- **Youthstream** Former GP promoter; now Infront Motor Racing