

Overview

Only licensed riders on registered bikes are allowed to go trail bike riding in State forests and State parks in Victoria. The **earliest** you can apply for a motorcycle licence is at **18 years of age**.

Riders under 18 are only allowed to ride on private land and motorcycle club venues such as motocross tracks.

Motorcycle clubs promote safe and responsible riding and most provide coaching for young riders. Although there are an increasing number of cheap motorcycles available, it makes sense to get advice from your local club or motorcycle dealer before purchasing one.

If you belong to a motorcycle club, or have access to private property, properly supervised trail bike riding can be an enjoyable recreation activity for youngsters.

Minors (under 18) and the law

In order to ride safely on public roads, a rider needs to be able to:

- Control the bike on road surfaces of varying quality
- Deal with obstacles appropriately
- Be aware of and predict the traffic movement around them
- Understand and comply with the road rules
- Make safe, split-second decisions.

Taking these safety issues into consideration, government has set a minimum age of 18 years to ride a motorbike on public roads, which includes forest tracks on public land.

- To ride on public roads and forest tracks you need to be licensed and your trail bike must be roadworthy and registered.
- Riding on single tracks in the bush is not a legal alternative. This is an offence for riders of any age as it constitutes 'off road' riding.

Options for young riders

There are a number of legal options for young people wanting to ride trail bikes. These include:

Motor Cycle Clubs – Many clubs run organised events for young riders of all ages and all levels of experience. Most clubs also have qualified coaches

who are ready to help and advise new riders. Access to club venues is usually restricted to organised race and practice days on weekends.

Private property – With the owner's permission, you can ride on private property. However, the local council may have conditions that restrict riding on private property. Contact your council for details.



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Ride parks – A small number of non competitive venues provide a range of riding experiences for all ages, including young riders. They include several tracks, with separate tracks for children on mini-bikes. The fee for entry usually includes some form of insurance.

Contacts

www.motorcyclingvic.com.au

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

For further information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186 or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes>

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