

Big Money Rally 2017

Tips for Scoring Success

All who wander are not lost



After riding to a bonus there is nothing worse than messing up the photo and seeing that solid red line around your submission when you look on the BMR web site. As scorers we feel bad when we have to score a submission red (deny points) so here are a few tips to ensure you get all the points you submit.

Ensure that you know which type of bonus you are trying to score. In the BMR there are two types of bonus categories, **Word Match**, and **Picture Match**. The type of bonus category will determine the proper way to ensure scoring success.

- **Picture Match Bonuses**

- Pay careful attention to the angle as well as the bonus item depicted in the sample picture. Don't take a photo of just the front of the building if the sample picture shows the buildings front and side.
- Don't park your bike up right near the bonus object, place your placard on the bike, and then walk back fifty feet until you get the entire bonus in the picture thus leaving your placard looking like a [white speck in the picture](#).
- A [small version](#) of your placard in the foreground is an excellent addition to your arsenal for photographing the bonus to ensure the scorers can see your placard as well as getting the entire bonus item in the photo.

- **Word Match Bonuses**

- Get as close to the required word(s) as possible. Remember, you are not taking a photo for your scrape book, so don't include that great scenery around the words.
- A good strategy for getting a good word match picture is to move back a few steps from your bike and placard and use the zoom feature of the phone camera. This flattens the image and helps to get the words in the background bigger while not making your bike and placard so big that it hides the words.
- Another great strategy is to [use a mirror](#) to get real close to the words and be able to still get your bike and placard in the photo. This method has become more and more popular over the past few years with both riders and scorers.

- **All Bonuses**

- Often the best location for your bike is [BEHIND the bonus](#); don't fall into the trap of thinking the bike must always be in the foreground.
- When selecting the file size to send, use "**MEDIUM** or **LARGE**".

- While the bonus object is the most important item in the photo, be sure to include more than just a [pinch](#) of bike and/or placard. Also, ensure that the placard is [readable](#).
- Use the BMR App. It makes life so much easier for everyone when HIC, MIC, or DIC's are required.

Night Shots

These bonus opportunities pose a unique challenge. Many times you may be confronted with taking a night shot since:

- Daylight hours are kind of scarce in the early part of the rally.
- Some Rally themes may have a [time requirement](#) occurring during night time hours.

Think about how you will light the bonus, bike and placard before you get on site ready to take your [bonus photo](#). Night shots are often particularly difficult for the scorers. Do yourself a favor and make it as easy as possible for them!

- Bike lights can often be used to light the bonus.
- A small flash light can be used to light your placard.
- Often you are better off NOT using the phones built in flash.

Incorrect Submissions

What should you do if you mess up and submit a bonus with the wrong code?

- First don't panic! If you have fat fingered the code and put XC101 instead of XX101, just resubmit the picture with the correct code. This is not to suggest that two weeks later you submit the corrected code. Remember, you are expected to submit your photo from the bonus location immediately after taking picture. (even if there is no cel coverage at that location)
- Stay on top of your submissions and ensure you get the points you expect. This includes making sure you don't let pictures stack up in your outbox.

What does "Under Review" Mean?

If you see the yellow box around your submission, a scorer has placed it "Under Review". **Don't panic!!** It may be scored within a minute or two, or within a few hours. Be sure you've matched the requirements of the photo. Some of the reasons a submission may be scored yellow are:

- The scorer has a question about the photo OR about the bonus itself.
- The scorer has asked the scoring team for input. This often happens in regards to "permanent signage".
- The scorer is comparing your photo against others who've already submitted that bonus code.
- Your scorer is looking at Google Maps for clarification.
- If you tell us the bonus isn't there, your submission will be "Under Review" until we are able to confirm this.

DON'T SUBMIT ANOTHER PHOTO FOR THAT CODE WHILE YOUR FIRST SUBMISSION IS YELLOW!

Pre-Score Yourself

If you act as your own scorer before you submit the picture you can greatly reduce being disappointed that your submission is rejected. Before you hit send take a critical look at the submission, compare it to the sample, and ask yourself "if you were a scorer would you accept this photo". "Does it have the bonus, bike and readable placard in the photo"?

The Scoring Team

Scorers are all volunteers and try to do their very best for you. Put 10 people in a room and you will often get 10 opinions. That's how the scoring team is at times. Be patient, especially in the beginning. The scoring team can't memorize everything in the rally book and a lot of conversation occurs behind the scenes. There is a strong commitment to being as consistent and fair to everyone as possible and team members will challenge each other occasionally on scoring decisions. Sometimes it's truly a difficult call and could go either way. Scorers are human and mistakes can and do happen. We may, on rare occasions, go back and change scoring decisions.

I think the Scorer made an Error!

If you feel you have not been scored correctly either in your favor or not, there is a [page on the BMR web site](#) to respectfully challenge a scoring decision – don't do it in the comment section.

Occasionally you may get an email from the scoring team. This is done to help coach you to ensure your best success. This is NOT to open a pen pal relationship with the scorers.

Scoring Time

One of the really cool things about the BMR is the near-real time scoring. It "can" help you to not ride off and miss getting those bonus points. However, scorers are NOT on a pre-set schedule and may be out riding the event themselves or otherwise having a life - don't EXPECT instant scoring – just be happy when it happens.

A Final Word

Creativity is usually considered a good thing and is celebrated and rewarded. This is **NOT** the case when submitting bonuses in the BMR. For example, don't use your placard to hide letters or frame your picture in a way to create a word that was not on the sign (i.e. creating "RIVER" out of "RIVERSIDE"). The scorers take an extremely hostile view of this type of "creativity" and can spot this type of shenanigans a mile away.

Don't Cheat Yourself

This post was recently made by new BMR participant Tim Seawel during the practice rally when he realized he had messed up a bonus code but had received credit for the submission incorrectly ;

"I play a lot of tournament golf and if you cheat you are asked not to return, so honesty and integrity are very import to me"

That is a great sentiment for life and certainly applies to the BMR.

Above all have a great time and always ride safe!

Your BMR Scoring Team.