



## ROUND 5 – HIGHLANDS MOTORSPORT PARK

30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

### WRITTEN DRIVERS BRIEFING

Please take a few minutes to read these briefing notes. This briefing is issued to assist in the running and management of the event. If you have any inquiries regarding the Event your first point of approach is a Competitor Relations Officer (CRO).

If you are a New Driver in any Class, then you must attend the **NEW DRIVERS** briefing at 08:45hrs on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January the location is Pit Lane Apartment 1 on the Roadway directly behind the main Paddock Area (apartment closest to Paddon Motorsport).

All Drivers **MUST** attend the **Compulsory** verbal Drivers Briefings that will be taking place on Friday and Saturday as per the Supplementary Regulations Part 2 Article 3 (b), you must sign the sign on sheet when you arrive at the Briefing.

#### CIRCUIT INFORMATION:

Lap Length – 4.0 Km

Pole Position – Right Hand Side

Speed Limit in Pit Lane – 40km/h

Safety Car Control Line – In Front of Grid 18

Red Flag Control Line – In Front of Grid 18

#### LOCATION OF MSNZ KEY OFFICIALS:

CRO's - Office on the grass behind the Medical Centre

Race Directors - Office on the grass behind the Medical Centre

MSNZ Stewards - Office in the Paddon Rally Sport Building next to the Pit Entry

#### COMPETITOR RELATIONS OFFICERS:

Ken Galbraith: Mob 027 335 0485

Clara Harrison: Mob 021 252 9414

## **EVENT SCHEDULE & TIMETABLE:**

The Schedule is Time Certain. At this Event there is live Broadcast Coverage, it is imperative to adhere to the Event Schedule and Timetable. Each Category has a specific time slot allocated to Practice, Qualifying and Races. Should there be any stoppages or hold ups during any of your Sessions it may be necessary to shorten or adjust the Sessions. Should this occur, you will be notified by Race Radio, and the Venue PA system or by the Event Officials.

## **PADDOCK MOVEMENT TO ASSEMBLY AREA:**

All Categories will be called via Race Radio or the Venue PA system to the Assembly Area approximately 20 minutes prior to your Session commencing, it is imperative that you are positioned at the Assembly Area ready to go when your Category is released.

During Race Sessions, ALL Cars are to be Assembly Area IN GRID ORDER prior to being released onto the Circuit.

All Categories will be released for their Formation Lap a minimum of three(3) minutes prior to their Scheduled Race Start Time.

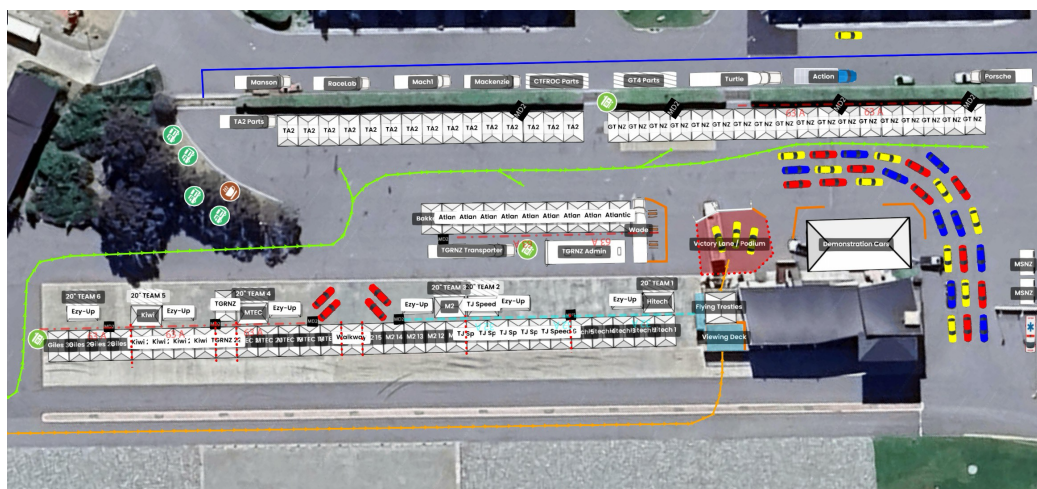
## **CIRCUIT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **END OF PRACTICE, QUALIFYING & RACE SESSIONS - EXITING THE CIRCUIT:**

Your vehicle will receive the chequered flag and then exit the Circuit via the Pit Lane Entry just after Turn 13. **For ALL Categories**, you will be directed by Marshals to TURN LEFT just after entering the Pit Lane and continue back to your Pit Paddock Area with Caution and at a **MAXIMUM SPEED of 15KPH**.

**For ALL Cars:** after turning left from the Pit Lane Entry you will drive back to your Paddock Area as per the diagram below. Cars that might be required for technical checking will be directed to the MSNZ Scales located in the Technical Garage under the Race Control Building.

**if your Car is in the Pit Lane at the end of your session:** you will need to move the vehicle towards the Pit Exit and turn left at the Assembly Area and return back to your Pit Area or Marquee. NB! This process needs to be done with the upmost care as you will be traveling against the normal traffic flow in the Paddock Area. Please follow officials instructions.



**At the end of Races should you finish in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> you must Immediately take your vehicle to the Podium without stopping by driving through the Technical Garage. The broadcast team will be conducting live interviews.**

#### **PIT LANE ENTRY LINE:**

Any vehicle entering the pit lane must do so by entering the deceleration zone prior to the line.



#### **PIT LANE EXIT LINES & LIGHTS:**

When exiting the Pit Lane, vehicles leaving the Pit Lane **MUST** stay to the left of the painted yellow line separating the acceleration zone from the circuit. There is also a Green/Red light indicating if the Exit is open or closed along with a Blue light, if this is flashing on exit of the Pit Lane it's to tell you another vehicle is on the front straight.



#### **OFFICIAL NOTICEBOARD AND RESULTS:**

The Official Notice Board will be on Sportity App. The password for the App is **MSNZrace2526**

This will be used to notify Competitors of any Official Bulletins, Decisions, Results, Starting Positions, and any further publication of any documents as applicable.

### CONTROL LINES:

The white **SAFETY CAR CONTROL LINE** and **RED FLAG CONTROL LINE** are situated in front of Grid 18 on the front straight.



### PIT LANE CONTROL LINES:

Diagram below – Vehicles are only permitted to stop in the Working Lane (concrete area in the picture below) from the Fast Lane (to the right of the double white lines in the below picture) vehicles may only cross the Merge Lane for the minimum distance required to safely enter or exit their Pit Bay.



### FUEL AND WASTE OIL:

Competitors are reminded of MSNZ requirements for the storage and handling of Fuel as outlined in the Code of Practice - Fuel.

Competitors are also reminded that there is a **Mandatory** fuel condition as per the Supplementary Regulations Part 2 Article 19(a) for Competitors that use 98 Octane and Avgas.

Ethanol based fuel: If you are running ethanol-based fuel such as E85 / E50, **please let the CRO know** so they can let our Fire Marshals on the Circuit know.

Li-Ion Batteries: Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) batteries are becoming more and more common in race cars. They have the advantage of being lightweight compared to the equivalent Lead Acid battery. Whereas the batteries have their advantages they also have their drawbacks. One such drawback is the risk of a thermal runaway where due to overcharging or damage, the battery overheats and eventually may catch fire. Although rare, it does occur. When the battery catches fire they are very difficult to extinguish.



To help rescue crews at MotorSport NZ events identify cars fitted with Li-Ion batteries, you are required under Schedule A Part One Article 5.5 (5) (a) to have a sticker (shown below) installed adjacent to the competition number on each side of the car if you have an Li-Ion battery installed.



These stickers are available through the Motorsport NZ office or Documentation Office

<https://store.motorsport.org.nz/product-category/safety/>

There are **WASTE OIL** containers located around the Paddock Area. This is for waste oil only. A reminder that parts or waste oil is not to be dumped into the rubbish bins.

#### **MEDICAL ISSUES:**

Any Competitor who has a pre-existing medical condition that may need to be known by our medical team are to advise the medics on the day. should be aware of are to advise the Medical Team on the day. Your information be will respected and confidential. Give them your name, car number and condition you are wanting them to be aware of.

#### **EVENT WITHDRAWAL:**

If you are withdrawing from the Event, it is essential that you notify the Secretariat, which is located on the Ground Floor of the Race Control Building.

#### **GENERAL RACE INFORMATION**

##### **CIRCUITSIDE PITS:**

Pit Lane and Wall: During the Race Start Procedure (for Grid Starts ONLY) 1 Crew Member is permitted to guide their Car into the Grid Box, once the Car is in the Grid box ALL Crew Members MUST immediately leave the Pit Wall and return to the Garage Line in Pit Lane until the last cars have passed Flag Point 1.

Pit crew are advised to take extreme care when crossing the lane.

No equipment may be placed on the Signaling Wall at any time.

Pit wall is for crew only – limited to three (3) persons per team.

##### **FLAG POINT LIGHTS LOCATED AROUND THE CIRCUIT:**

The Alitrax Circuit Lights System is installed at the twelve (12) Flag Points and above the Start Line.

If a Safety Car is deployed during racing the alternating yellow lights will come on and SC will illuminate on the Flag Point Light arrays. In the event of failure of the lights system, flags will be used.

##### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS LOCATED AROUND THE CIRCUIT:**

Fire extinguishers are located at each Marshal Point around the circuit. Ensure that you familiarize yourself

with the location of these points and if you require an extinguisher during a session, stop near one of these Points.

#### **FLAG POINT ZONES:**

Flag point zones are marked with blue marker pegs at intervals around the Circuit, please familiarise yourself with these zones, this is where the no passing zone begins in the case of yellow lights/flags. If you inadvertently pass someone under a yellow light, you have one lap to redress as per the current MSNZ manual.

#### **RACE INQUIRIES:**

Should you feel that you need to lodge an inquiry because of an incident or action by another Competitor, it is recommended that you contact the CRO's and complete an Inquiry Form.

Inquiries into any part of a race may be lodged with the Clerk of the Course or Assistant, on the Race Inquiry form within thirty(30) minutes after the completion of the race concerned.

#### **RED FLAG PROCEDURE:**

In the event of a RED FLAG during **Practice/Qualifying** the Red Lights will come on around the Circuit, REDUCE SPEED IMMEDIATELY and drive at a safe speed to enable you to stop suddenly if required and return to the Pit Lane. If there is remaining time in your Practice session after the Circuit is cleared, you will be released with a Green Light at Pit Exit.

In the event of a RED FLAG during **RACING** the Red Lights will come on around the Circuit. You must STOP RACING IMMEDIATELY and drive at a safe speed to enable you to stop suddenly if required and proceed to the Red Flag Control Line in front of Grid 18 with no passing. Line up in single file to await further instructions.

#### **DRIVER SAFETY:**

NextGen along with the support of MSNZ are initiating a new procedure as follows at all NextGen Rounds:

Should your Vehicle stop on the Circuit for any reason during Practice, Qualifying or a Race **the Driver must indicate with in 5 seconds by a "THUMBS UP' signal either out the window or through a slightly opened door** to indicate that they are medically ok, if no signal is received the session will be immediately neutralised and Medical will be sent to the Driver.

Another reminder on Driver safety – belts should be tight – and re tightened as you leave the Pi Lane.

Please ensure you have all safety gear correctly fitted and on.

#### **PRACTICE START:**

A practice start is ONLY PERMITTED at the Pit Lane Exit Speed De-restriction Line at the commencement of the warm-up/formation lap or during Practice/Qualifying.

### CIRCUIT LIMITS:

Drivers must use the Circuit at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, the white lines defining the Circuit edges are considered to be part of the Circuit, but the kerbs are not.

A Driver will be judged to have left the Circuit if:

All four(4) tyres of the vehicle are outside the white lines defining the Circuit edges,



Acceptable



NOT Acceptable

Should a vehicle leave the Circuit the Driver may re-join, however this may only be done when it is safe to do and without gaining an advantage or interfering with any other Competitor.

A Driver may not deliberately leave the Circuit without justifiable reason.

**New Kerbing** has been installed at Turn 14 the last corner before the front straight (see image below)



### MECHANICAL FAILURE:

Should this occur move off racing line and park as far off the Circuit as possible – DO NOT get out of your Car unless there is a Fire, you must indicate with the **“Thumbs Up”** signal if you are Medically OK, follow instructions given by Officials.

If dropping oil, it is essential you do not continue around Circuit. If it is not possible to get the vehicle clear of the Circuit, remain in the vehicle and await instructions from a rescue/flag marshal. You must obey all instructions given by Officials.

Flag points have fire extinguishers, for you to use, if required.

## **RACE START PROCEDURES:**

### **Grid Start Race:**

Vehicles will be released from the Assembly Area in Grid Order, they will proceed around the Circuit on their Formation Lap and stop in their Grid Position ready for a Race Start.

Once all Vehicles are stationary in their Grid Positions 5 second light system will commence, once all 5 lights are out you are Racing.

### **Rolling Start Races:**

Vehicles will be released from the Assembly Area, they will proceed around the Circuit on their first (1<sup>st</sup>) Formation Lap DO NOT stop at the start line (NB Different procedure for GT New Zealand as per their Articles) continue around the Circuit on your second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Formation Lap where you will pick up the Safety Car at the exit of Turn 9, vehicles are to then form up in your 2 x 2 positions, the Safety Car lights will then be switched at Turn 11 and the Safety Car will power away to the Pit Entry, vehicles are to remain in their 2 x 2 position maintaining the same speed prior to the Safety Car lights going out, once you get to the front straight when all the Red Lights on the start gantry go out you are Racing.

## **CODE OF DRIVING CONDUCT:**

Competitors should familiarize themselves with the newly rewritten Code of Driving Conduct Guidelines (issued October 2025) <https://motorsport.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CodeOfDrivingConductGuidelines-22-10-2025.pdf>

## **SAFETY CAR RESTART PROCEDURE:**

When the Safety Car turns off its flashing lights and accelerates away from the field to return to Pit Lane.

- The lead vehicle will maintain the speed set by the Safety Car prior to it turning off its flashing lights until the signal to restart is given.
- All weaving must stop and no erratic acceleration or braking, nor any other manoeuvre likely to impede other competitors is permitted.
- Drivers must maintain a single file behind the lead vehicle.
- The Race will recommence when the signal to restart (green light or flag) is displayed.
- When the signal to restart is given all Flag Points will immediately extinguish the light(s) of the signal light system and/or withdraw their yellow flag and "SC" board.
- Drivers must maintain single file, line astern until their vehicle has crossed the Safety Car Control Line on the front straight just in front of Grid 18.
- Once your vehicle has crossed the Safety Car Control Line, overtaking is permitted.

A video tutorial can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Egie6PD5k>.

## **ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:**

The Consumption of alcohol is NOT PERMITTED at the Pits until the conclusion of the days racing.



Issued by:

*Nick Simpson*

Nick Simpson

Clerk of the Course

27 January 2026

## HIGHLANDS MOTORSPORT PARK CIRCUIT MAP

