

Buckby Skoda Rally Launceston – Guide to SOS & Road Closure Officials

Safety

The first priority on all events is safety – your safety and that of other Officials, competitors and the public. If at any time you feel unsafe or unsure, discuss with a more senior Official.

What is a Road Closure? (Note: SOS Points may also be a Road Closure)

This role is vital to the safe running of the event.

You will be equipped with a radio so that you may inform Rally HQ of incidents and receive instructions.

Please listen carefully to the radio all day, in case you are being called.

Simply, Road Closure points are established to prevent unauthorised access to the Special Stage. Persons, vehicles, livestock etc entering the Stage into the path of competitors travelling at high speed, this will create a dangerous situation potentially causing serious injuries or fatalities.

Access points and road junctions along the Stage must be manned by Road Closure Officials and taped exactly as instructed in the Set-Up Book.

Course Cars

Prior to 0 (Zero) car, a number of course cars will pass through the Stage. Most will be looking to see that you are OK and in place, so please stand with one arm raised above your head to indicate that you are ‘all ok’ (“thumbs up”!). If you need help stand with your arms in a crossed position above your head.

If you have been provided with a red flag, show the rolled-up flag to the Course Cars when they pass.

Attempted Access

People who may arrive at your Road Closure point and wish to use the route should be advised of and shown copies of all permits provided to you in your event pack. Access must be firmly but politely refused.

In the event of an emergency, course cars, MIV, recovery or other vehicles may wish to take a direct route to an incident, entering or leaving the Stage through your Road Closure point. If this occurs, ensure that these vehicles can demonstrate they are authorised.

If you experience any problems then please phone Rally Base on **0477 207 348** as a senior person may need to intervene. Safety is paramount for both the person wanting to enter the Stage, you and rally competitors.

Monitoring and Tracking

You also act as a Monitor Point recording the passage of all course cars and competitors past your point. If a vehicle goes missing on a Stage, Rally Base may contact you to see if it has passed your location. In your pack will be paperwork to record each car number that passes your point. Please complete this form for each run through the Stage, using the time from your watch or phone.

Observation

Remain alert to your surroundings. Ensure Officials and spectators are in a safe place, well away from potential “overshoot” areas.

Contact Rally Base on **0477 207 348** if you notice potentially dangerous situations such as the following:

- Unauthorised access by vehicles, persons
- Wandering livestock
- A competitor stops, or an incident occurs nearby.

THANK YOU

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PURPOSE: “Safety on Stage” (SOS) points are established roughly 5km apart through a Stage. Often, SOS Points are located at intersections, so the Road Closure guide overleaf also applies to your role. This includes tracking car number and time as they pass.

You will be equipped with a radio so that you may inform Rally HQ of incidents and receive instructions. Please listen carefully to the radio all day, in case you are being called.

INCIDENTS: You may see or hear an incident, or a competitor may stop to inform you. If this happens, use the following procedure to report the incident to Rally Base by radio.

Please follow this sequence, speak clearly, remain calm and do not shout into the microphone:

1. “Rally Base, this is xxx” (your Call Sign, eg SOS Foxtrot on Stage Lisle23), await acknowledgement
2. What is the nature of the incident (briefly)?
3. How many people/vehicles involved?
4. Are any people trapped?
5. Is there a fire?
6. Is the Stage blocked?
7. At what distance is the incident?
8. Are safety triangles displayed?

THEN – Obtain answers to these very important medical questions in relation to each injured person:

- Is the person conscious?
- Is breathing:
 - Normal? (and patient talking?)
 - Noisy?
 - Absent?
- Is the patient bleeding? If so, from where? How much (slow, trickle, spurting)?
- Is there obvious injury? If so, what and where?
- Other problems (e.g. vomiting, fits etc.)?

Report as much information as you have – if not all information is available, provide what you do have so the incident can be quickly assessed.

Use some discretion – consider whether it is appropriate to mention car numbers (especially names) when reporting very serious incidents. Families of those involved may be listening to your broadcast. Ask Rally Base whether they require details of medical condition, names and car number to be broadcast, before announcing it.

FLAGS: SOS Points will be provided with a red flag and a distinctive hi-vis vest. The flag will be used to advise competitors and officials to slow their speed in the event of a major incident on the course ahead of them and hold that reduced speed until the end of stage. At all other times the flag must be totally hidden from view to avoid confusion to competitors.

The flags are only to be used upon instruction, via radio through Rally Base, from the Clerk of the Course or the Deputy Clerk of the Course.

The person using the red flag at the SOS location must wear the hi-vis vest from the time they enter the stage until specifically advised by radio by Rally Base that the red flag may be withdrawn. Your colleague should stay with the radio.

A position should be selected that is safe and clearly visible to oncoming vehicles when waving the red flag, **remember your safety is paramount.**

Important note – **hide the flag when not in use.** Only show it on specific instructions radioed from Rally Base. Only withdraw it on specific instruction radioed from Rally Base.

If your radio fails, phone Rally Base on **0477 207 348.**

THANK YOU