



10 – 12 APRIL 2026



## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE COURSE #1 26 March 2026

1. Welcome to this year's rally. We have received 148 entries which is a record result. The seeding list has been completed and will be published separately. Supplementary Regulations Part 2 have been prepared and will be issued as part of Rally Guide 2 on 26 March as planned.
2. All key documents can be found on the Sportivity App which serves as the Official Noticeboard. The Password is OTAGO26
3. A reminder that approved Frontal Head Restraints are now mandatory for all rallies in New Zealand and shall be worn by both driver and co-driver. Refer <https://motorsport.org.nz/frontal-head-restraint-requirement-widened/>. Contact the MotorSport NZ technical department if you have any questions regarding this.
4. A reminder of the licence requirements for competitors from a country other than New Zealand. (refer Supplementary Regulations)
  - a. **Australian Competitors** : Shall hold a Rally Grade Licence plus a Trans-Tasman Visa issued by Motorsport Australia.
  - b. **International Competitors** : Shall hold a FIA International D-R Licence or a National Rally Licence together with a Visa (in English) issued by their ASN and a Medical Clearance Card
5. The Media Day will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 8 April. Any competitors that wish to use this as a shakedown may do so between the hours of 1pm and 2pm. After 2pm, those participating in the shakedown will be required to take media and sponsors for 2-3 runs over the 3.5km course. If you wish to take part please advise Roger Oakley at [Roger.Oakley@stantec.com](mailto:Roger.Oakley@stantec.com) or text 027 440 1070 if you haven't already done so.
6. The rally is also a round of the FIA APRC Championship. All competitors who have registered for the APRC are required to use the refuelling areas adjacent to the Service Parks. Other competitors are encouraged to also use these areas.
7. All APRC and Category 1 NZRC competitors will be required to present their cars and personal equipment for checking at scrutineering on Friday 10 April. Report times will be issued with the Supp Regs Part 2. Other competitors including NZRC Cat 2-5 are encouraged to take advantage of remote safety audits options details of which will be published in Supp regs Part 2. Please note that NZRC Cat 2-5 competitors that wish to take advantage of remote scrutineering shall first contact the Championship Scrutineer Stu Andrews on 027 544 3336. These competitors shall also present their logbooks to the NZRC Scrutineers at the scrutineering venue on Friday 10 March.
8. All cars are expected to be present in the Octagon in central Dunedin for the Ceremonial Start on the evening of Friday 10 April. Dispensation for non-attendance will only be given in exceptional circumstances. It is vital that we have full representation from all competitors. Please ensure that you are present.

A group photo will be taken of all APRC and NZRC drivers and co-drivers at 1745 hours. Competitors should wear their overalls for this.

9. A reminder for those doing recce that they must order stage notes from Rally Notes at <https://www.rallynotes.nz/>. If you haven't already done so, please do so now.
10. There will be a full written briefing for all competitors in the road book. A briefing for drivers and/or co-drivers who have competed in three rallies or fewer will be held at Rally HQ, Southern Cross Hotel at 2000 hours on Friday 10 April.
11. There is an overnight Parc Ferme for all NZRC vehicles (including NZRC Historic cars) on Saturday 11th April. Cars running in NZRC Cat 5a and 5b are not required to enter parc ferme.
12. RallySafe have provided an updated user manual explaining some new features.. Please read before the event.
13. For those doing reconnaissance please note the following:
  - a) "Rallysafe Lite" will be used during recce. It has the potential for us to know where you. The app shall be downloaded onto your mobile phone (only one crew member needs to do this). Instructions are included in Rally Guide 2.
14. A reminder of technical requirements:
  - a. For NZRC Cat 1 – Cat 5. Reminder that the Safety Harnesses must be within the FIA 5 year expiry.
  - b. All cars that require seals fitted, must be pre wired with at least 250 mm overhang in those areas that will require a seal. This allows enough room for twisting, sealing and crimping and setting the seal in a secure place.
  - c. First aid kits may be checked so they must be complete as per Schedule A requirements.

Norm Oakley  
Clerk of the Course

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