

Written Driver's Briefing TAUPO Meeting 2023 – 17-19/11/ 2023

Welcome to Taupo International Motorsport Park & Entertainment Centre

Please take a few minutes to read this briefing as it will assist in helping this meeting run smoothly. If you are a New Driver, then you must attend the NEW DRIVERS briefing at 8.00am on Friday in front of the stairs by the documentation office.

Officials; Introduction

Clerk of the Course; Gary Haar

Race Directors, GTNZ TR86; Blair Thorpe, Howard Atwill

Assistant Clerks of the Course; Peter Woodward, Mal Clunie

Competitor Relations Officers; Tracey Stringer, Wendy Metcalfe, Kai Taylor

Motorsport Stewards; Janet Phipps (Chairman), Alistair Steele, Steve Taylor

Secretary of the meeting; Glenda O'Connell, Jacki Hanning, Amanda Tollemache (Toyota 86)

We have a busy programme, with some of it being live televised, and we ask coordinators and competitors to be aware of your race times and respond to the calls to form up on the dummy grid. Cars coming from pit garages are to be released so they enter the circuit in grid formation order. We do not have trackside personnel to rearrange the grids on the start line grid boxes.

New Drivers; you must attend the NEW DRIVERS briefing at 8.00 on Friday in front of the stairs by the documentation office.

House Keeping; Please refer to the House rules at the end of the briefing notes, questions on house rules are to be directed to Motorsport Park Staff not Race event officials.

Competitor Relations Officer;

If you have any queries or require any assistance regarding the meeting, your first point of contact is the Competitor Relations Officers (CRO). Their contact details will be posted on the window of the documentation office and they are listed in the officials above. They will be situated in the Ruapehu Suite on the first floor.

Flag Points and Control Lines;

Signals - This circuit uses MSNZ-approved Signal Lights on all Flag Points which will be used for all qualifying sessions and races, flags may be used in conjunction with the lights. In the case of a failure, flags will be used as a backup.

Sector Markers - Please be aware of the sector markers prior to the flag points; 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. Note – This redress provision does not apply during Safety Car operation. The Start & Finish line – Is located in front of the grid and marked with a thick white line across the circuit.

Pit Exit Blend Line - Please take note of the long yellow painted line when you exit the pits; this is not to be crossed when entering the circuit.

Red Flag (Light) Procedures;

During Qualifying – Reduce speed significantly, do not overtake, come into pit lane.

During a Race – Reduce speed significantly, do not overtake, line up in single file behind the red flag control line which is just behind grids 15 & 16.

Please follow the Grid Marshals' instructions so we can proceed as soon as possible.

Assembly; Please come up to the assembly area sooner rather than later so that we are ready to go on time. Announcements will be made on the pit speakers calling groups to dummy grid. You may be issued with a grid sticker for each race; this will have your grid position, car number and the flag drop number if the race is a handicap start. Split grid Starts may be done by lights. Please make sure you or one of your crew collect your sticker from the Grid Marshals so they don't need to go looking for you.

Start Procedures;

Some classes have different starting procedure so make sure you know what applies for your class.

Standing start: Standing start: You will be released from the Dummy Grid for the formation lap behind Safety Car. Proceed to your allocated position on the grid and stop in your position, with the car within the grid box. Bodywork past the pit box will incur a time penalty

Note; Pole position is to the inside, left, of the Track

Rolling start: you will exit the pits on a full warm up lap and continue past the start line to pickup Safety Car at or after turn 7. The field must group in grid order to follow safety. If the field is tight Safety will turn off its lights and ease away with the leader holding speed until entering the start straight and seeing the start gantry lights go out or New Zealand flag is waved. If the field is spread out before declaring race start, the lights will remain RED. You will complete another lap and repeat the sequence with the field tightly packed. Laps completed under safety will count as race laps.

Note: Pole position is to the outside, right, of the track

Handicap starts: will be as follows; Flag drops to start the first group and for all subsequent groups as per the handicap intervals. You must remain in you grid box, if you roll up - you will receive a time penalty.

If you need to start your race from pit lane: The pit lane light will turn green when you can go. Pit Lane marshals will be on hand to supervise release as the light turns green. They will be judge of fact for "jump starts".

Race finish; Be aware you may be directed through Spaghetti Junction on the warm down lap if we are time poor for the event. A marshal will be on the track at turn 9 entry to direct you into Spaghetti Junction. If slower cars are still racing you may be held for a short period before entering the main straight to return to the pits.

Turn 12: In the event of any incident or out braking at the top of the chase, turn 12, you **MAY NOT** perform a U Turn to re-join the circuit. You may cross the grass or continue down the drag strip following the cones and take the chute on drivers left which leads into pit lane. Travel through pit lane to re-join the track at pit exit adhering to the blend line ruling. Pit lane speeds apply and will be monitored. This is only to be used in this instance as detailed in the safety plan. No other use is permitted.

Pit Lane and Drive Through Penalties

If you are issued with a drive through penalty, enter pit lane, at the usual pit lane entry point at turn 14. Proceed through pit lane not exceeding the speed limit of 40km/h. A drive through can be completed on your last lap as our timing loop for start/finish goes through pit lane. Failure to comply with a drive through penalty will result in a black flag or if signalled on the last lap will have 50 seconds added to their race time.

Safety Car Operation

If a Safety Car needs to be deployed, we will try to deploy it in front of the leader. If the leader is not picked up, we will signal drivers to pass using the green lights on the rear window of Safety Car, until the leader is behind the Safety Car. When the Safety Car turns its lights out, it will speed up and enter pit lane. The leader is to maintain the current speed until the Safety Car Control Line. No overtaking is permitted before reaching the Safety Car Control Line and the race has been restarted. The Safety Car Control Line is located adjacent to Pit Entry.

Pit Wall

Pit Wall is out of bounds duration race starts; crew are not to be beyond the slow pit lane line until the last cars have passed Flag point 1. Crew are to obey the circuit rules for footwear and age limits. Spectators are not encouraged in pit lane. No objects or limbs are to protrude outside the metal framework. No timing devices are permitted on top of the pit lane wall.

Results & Official Notice Board

Results will be available via email to your series co-ordinator or their nominated deputy and a copy will be posted on the Sportity App.

The Official Notice Board will be provided digitally via Sportity. The password is: MSNZRace2024

Driving Behaviour, Off-Track Excursions and Mechanical Failure

Please be particularly mindful of your driving behaviour. Drive within the confines of the circuit (i.e. the white lines), remember the passing etiquette both when passing and when you are passed. If you have an off-track excursion, re-join as near as possible to the exit point ensuring the way is clear, re-join slowly and carefully, do not spray stones or debris on the circuit.

Should you gain an advantage, please redress it to avoid a possible penalty.

If you think your car may be losing fluid, move off the race line and even on to the grass. If you have a mechanical issue and can't make it back to the pits, try and get as far off the track as possible, flag points are good places. Flag points have fire extinguishers, for you to use, if needed.

Let the marshal know what you need and we will get it to you as soon as we can. You may be towed to a safer spot – Do NOT try to jump start your car while being towed.

Race Fuel & Refuelling

There is an overnight fuel storage shipping container on the sealed paddock. Fill in one of the brown tags on the desk inside the container, tie the tag to your container, and leave your container inside the container. Fuel is not to be stored overnight in pit garages.

Refuelling – Pit Paddock and Pit Lane: Refuelling is permitted as per the MSNZ National Sporting Code, Appendix 4, Schedule Z, Article 16.2. Refuelling of competition vehicles may only be carried out:

- (a) During practice, in the paddock area; and
- (b) During races where refuelling is necessary, in the dummy grid area provided that all safety precautions are strictly adhered to.
- (c) area end of the garage.

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 track 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.

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

Withdrawals and Hire Transponders

Please advise the CRO or Race Secretary as soon as practical if you need to withdraw; also remember to return any hired transponders to the Race Secretary's Office at the conclusion of your racing.

Smoking and Alcohol

See the Taupo International Motorsport Park Garaging and Compound Rules, attached.

Medical

Any competitor who has a pre existing medical condition that may be needed to be known by our medical team are to advise the medics 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.

TMP HOUSE RULES

A note for all users of the Taupo Motorsport Park

As part of Taupo Motorsport Park's annual review of the Health & Safety plan we have established some clearer rules around garaging and venue usage etc.

Depending on the type of event or hire Taupo Motorsport Park may require and approve of a compound management plan prior to an event. The approved management plan will form part of the event contract and must be managed by the event promoter throughout the duration of the event.

Each of Garages 1-30 is to house up to 2 cars only.

Pit Garages may not be used for accommodation of any kind and must be vacated and locked at the end of each day's use.

In alignment with Motorsport NZ venue licence rulings, overnight fuel storage is not permitted. No barbecues or open flame devices are allowed inside a Pit Garage.

No signage (without prior written approval) to be placed on front of garages or above garage doors on either side of garages in pit-lane area. A charge will be made for removal of double side tape or repainting if this becomes necessary.

Please help us maintain a quality environment by leaving garages in a clean and tidy state. Excess cleaning charges may apply, and repairs for damage within the garage or to garage doors will be applied.

Only support vehicles associated with the garage hirer are to be parked on the "garage apron" immediately behind each garage on the side facing The Paddock (Competitor Parking/Hardstand). Trailers are to be parked away from garage areas.

Trailers, ramps etc. are not to extend over the yellow line along the concrete walkway outside the garages.

Support vehicles are not to be parked beyond the yellow line demarcating the roadway area, unless by arrangement. Usually this will be by way of a specific event compound plan.

Power leads from garage power source are not permitted to extend beyond garages, unless specially approved.

The Pit Garage Apron area is not to be used for vehicle repairs. Jacking of cars in this area is not permitted at any time.

Pop ups/temporary tenting or parking in front of garages is not permitted.

Pop ups/temporary tenting is allowed in the designated location on the Competitor Parking/Hardstand area provided that;

No jacks are to be placed on the tarseal without timber footplates

No mechanical repairs are to be completed without a full "drop sheet" placed under vehicle.

Pit lane is part of the race track and is not to be used for access to a track other than from a Pit Garage or from the designated entry gate/Dummy Grid area.

The speed limits in the Pit Lane are:

- Fast Lane—40kph

- Inner Lane–15kph

Children under 14 years old not permitted in Pit lane.

No jandals or open toed shoes to be worn in Pit lane.

Parking of support vehicles in any part of Pit Lane is not permitted at any time.

No pop-ups/temporary tenting is allowed in any part of Pit Lane without prior arrangement being made.

No unloading and loading of cars or motorcycles is to be carried out in Pit Lane.

The Inner Lane shall be the only area where any work can be carried out on a vehicle and then, only for adjustments not repairs or extended work. Any vehicle requiring extended repair or other work must be removed to a Pit Garage or to The Paddock.

No equipment may be left in the Fast Lane.

No compounds are to be applied or grinding of any kind to enhance the grip of or otherwise alter the surface of the Pit Lane is to be carried out and no lines are to be painted on any part of the Pit Lane.

Power supplies/leads are not permitted to run across the ground unless approved by prior arrangement.

Exterior power sources are to be used only by prior approval of management.

The provision of rubbish bins is for general rubbish, not waste oil or fluids or for discarded vehicle parts. Waste oil disposal drums are located next to the scrutineering shed.

Discarded tyres are not to be left at the facility. Charges will be made for their removal.

Children under the age of 14 years old must be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian.

Scooters or skateboards are not permitted in or around the garaging areas, apron or pathways.

No smoking is permitted on a Track, in a pit lane or pit garage, or in other parts of Taupo Motorsport Park designated a smoke-free area from time to time.

No alcohol is to be consumed in a pit lane at any time or in a paddock area during a Competition or Event.

No pets are allowed on site. Only certified assistance dogs are allowed on site.

Standard complex access hours are between 7.00am and 7.00pm unless by prior arrangement.

In order to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our visitors and motorsport customers all individuals staying overnight at the complex must be identified and accounted for. Any camping or accommodation requirements are subject to separate documentation and payment and must be completed prior to any stay.

Note: At a Hirer's expense Taupo Motorsport Park may require a Security personnel presence at any event in order to ensure Health and Safety requirements are met.

Questions? Call us on 07 376 5033