



Bulletin 2026-8
RTR Rule Changes for 2026
1/22/2026

The following changes to the ARA Rally Technical Rules are effective immediately and in place in the published 2026 Rally Technical Rulebook.

1.1.1 Helmet Standards:

Note: SA 2015 expires December 31, 2026.

Rationale: Give people a full year heads up that SA 2015 will expire.

2.2.1 Roadworthiness

All competing vehicles must be roadworthy and, the following items in particular must be adequate and functioning properly:

- Brakes
- Horn
- Windshield wipers
- All legally required exterior lights
- Tires, including all spares
- Exhaust system
- Catalytic Converter (if required)

Violation not immediately remedied to the Chief Scrutineer's satisfaction will be referred to the Stewards for consideration under 6.4.10.

Rationale: This clarifies the action that will be taken when a car is found to not be roadworthy.

2.2.4.d Lithium Batteries:

Lithium batteries must be equipped with a battery management system.

Rational: Lithium batteries have become more common, so this rule ensures that only safe and suitable batteries are used.

~~**2.2.6.c Windows in the driver and co-driver doors must not be rolled down more than 1 inch during stages.**~~

Rationale: This rule is redundant with RCR 6.4.5

3.7.1 Restrictors Restricted:

Drivers, as defined elsewhere, must use a Novice Restrictor on all forced induction competition vehicles over 1600cc, except Limited 2WD cars up to 2000cc which are not required to have a restrictor. and all normally aspirated competition vehicles over 2700cc. Novices will also be restricted when competing in under 1600cc forced induction or under 2700cc normally aspirated competition vehicles with exceptional performance potential, as judged by ARA. Some examples of under 1600cc forced induction or under 2700cc normally aspirated vehicles with exceptional performance potential:

- a) Group 4-style Ford Escort or similar (Millington, BDG, etc.)
- b) FIA Super 2000 cars
- c) F2 Category cars
- d) R5 Category cars

Rationale: Restricted drivers are allowed to enter the new Limited 2WD cars with 2000cc engines and 1,450kg minimum weight.

Table A (National and Regional):

Add row to Limited 2WD allowing forced induction cars up to 2000cc with no restrictor and minimum weight of 1,540kg.

Rationale: USAC reviewed requests for 2.0L forced induction vehicles, otherwise built to L2WD rules, to be included in the L2WD class. Weight set to match performance potential of 1.6L engines.

5.2.2 Scrutineer Responsibilities

During Scrutineering, any deviations should be noted by the Chief Scrutineer. Any All log books may be retained by the Chief Scrutineer.

Rationale: This allows the Chief Scrutineer to retain any log book if they feel this is necessary.

5.2.7 Failure To Present Log Book

Failure to present the Vehicle Log Book at Scrutineering will result in a \$50.00 ~~25.00~~ fine which must be paid in full before the offending entrant will be allowed to start the event.

Rationale: Rate has never been increased.

5.2.8 Replacement of Log Book

A Log Book will be replaced after payment of \$50.00. It will be marked "REPLACEMENT" on the cover by an ARA chief scrutineer. If the original is subsequently located it will be marked "VOID" on the cover by an ARA chief scrutineer.

Rationale: There has not been a process to replace lost or stolen log books. There should be a process to make sure that if the original is found it may not be used, for example, to hide deficiencies reported at previous event.



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