



NATIONAL TRACTION ENGINE TRUST

RALLY SUPPORT SCHEME WEBINAR - Q&A DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

The following Q&A document provides answers to questions raised during the Rally Support Scheme webinar held on 2 March 2025. This document aims to clarify changes regarding Rally Authorisation, exemptions, and how organisers and participants can continue to operate within the new framework and should be read in conjunction with the content of the webinar.

GENERAL CHANGES & RATIONALE

Q: What is Rally Authorisation, and why has it been removed?

A: Rally Authorisation previously provided an exemption under the Off-Road Events Regulations from certain Road Traffic Act offences, specifically Sections 1-3 (causing death by dangerous driving, dangerous driving, and careless and inconsiderate driving). The NTET reviewed the legal risks and sought specialist advice, which highlighted compliance gaps, lack of sufficient volunteer support, and the potential personal liability for officers and trustees. Due to these risks, Rally Authorisation Scheme has been withdrawn, and a new Rally Support Scheme has been introduced.

Q: Does the removal of Authorisation mean rallies cannot continue?

A: No, rallies can continue as usual. The only difference is that drivers will no longer have an exemption from Sections 1-3 of the Road Traffic Act. The Steam Apprentice Club (SAC) will not be affected by this change.

Q: Could Authorisation return in the future?

A: Yes. The NTET remains recognised as an authorising body under the Off-Road Events Regulations. If deemed appropriate and desirable in the future, Authorisation could be reinstated, but only if we have sufficient volunteers to discharge our duty of care.

THE RALLY SUPPORT SCHEME

Q: What support will the NTET provide under the Rally Support Scheme?

A: The new scheme includes the majority of benefits previously provided:

- **A Good Practice Guide** (formerly the Code of Practice)
- **Access to the Purple Guide** (for rally organisers)
- **Inclusion on the Rally List**
- **Insurance Disc Scheme access** (to check boiler and insurance documents)
- **Training for rally organisers** (to be reintroduced in due course)
- **Health and Safety & Legal Support Scheme** (planned for future implementation)
- **Free registration for the 2025 rally season** (fees will be reinstated in 2026)

Q: What is the process for applying to the Rally Support Scheme?

A: Forms will be available within 7-10 days after the webinar. Previously Authorised events will be contacted directly, and forms will be available for download on the NTET website.

Q: Will rally organisers receive training?

A: Yes, training can be reintroduced. The NTET is working on securing a Rally Support Officer to coordinate this effort and training can be arranged through a third-party provider.

LEGAL & INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Q: What are the insurance implications of removing Authorisation?

A: The NTET has confirmed with the three main insurers (Tollgate, One Broker, and Walker Midgely) that they will continue to insure non-licensed drivers. However, Tollgate and One Broker require non-licensed drivers to be members of the Steam Apprentice Club.

Q: Are event insurers requiring rallies to be Authorised?

A: Most insurers covering rallies do not require Authorisation. However, if an event's insurer does require Authorisation within their terms, organisers should contact the NTET on rally.auth@ntet.co.uk to discuss how changes and the new Rally Support Scheme can be communicated to them.

Q: What type of insurance is required for non-road-registered engines at rallies?

A: All vehicles operating in public areas at rallies must have Road Traffic Act (RTA) insurance. Organisers and owners/drivers should check with insurers to confirm coverage.

Q: Are there any advantages in terms of cover or premiums if a rally runs under the new guidelines?

A: Discussions with insurers are ongoing, but currently, there are no confirmed premium reductions for rallies running under the new scheme.

STEAM APPRENTICE CLUB (SAC) & YOUNG DRIVERS

Q: Can apprentices still drive engines on rally fields?

A: Yes. No driving licence is required on rally fields, but drivers must be either competent or supervised by someone competent. They must also be insured under the vehicle's policy.

Q: Can under-21s drive under insurance policies?

A: Yes. Tollgate, One Broker, and Walker Midgely permit under-21 drivers, but Tollgate and One Broker require them to be SAC members. Additional excesses may apply. If you insure with other companies, you must verify whether they cover non-licensed drivers and the terms that apply.

Q: Is there an official minimum age for steering an engine?

A: No specific age is mandated to steer on a rally field. However, drivers must be physically capable and competent. For road use, licensing laws apply based on the vehicle type and speed restrictions based on tyre type.

Q: Can the SAC offer insurance for apprentices through their membership?

A: No. Insurance must be tied to a vehicle rather than an individual. SAC members are covered only when driving a club-owned engine which carries its own RTA insurance.

PLAY PENS & RALLY ORGANISATION

Q: Can there be more standardisation across play pens use?

A: The NTET is reviewing the Good Practice Guide to improve safety standards and consistency in play pen setups for both SAC and general rally use.

Q: Can rallies receive guidance on running play pens safely?

A: Yes. The SAC is willing to host a workshop for rally organisers on setting up and managing safe play pens for SAC use. Interested organisers should contact the SAC. For general rally use, organisers must conduct their own risk assessments.

Q: Where a play pen is not used for SAC and instead is for general rally use, and there are multiple engines in a play pen, are other crews classed as the public?

A: No. The NTET understands that Crew members are considered participants rather than members of the public. However, risk assessments should ensure appropriate spacing and safety measures.

FINAL NOTES & CONTACT INFORMATION

For further questions or clarifications, please contact:

- **General Rally Support Queries:** rally@ntet.co.uk
- **Steam Apprentice Club (SAC) Queries:** sac.chairman@ntet.co.uk
- **Technical & Legislative Queries:** TSU@ntet.co.uk

A copy of the webinar recording and slides will be made available shortly.

Thank you for your participation.