

BMW Race Driver Series

Open Class Championship Regulations

2021-2022

1. GENERAL

This class is intended to provide a series for BMW race cars to compete in as an alternative to the closely controlled technical regulations of the Dunlop BMW E30 and 2 Litre Championship classes. This Open Group is intended to include factory-built Group A cars, factory BMW MINI Challenge, 2 Litre SuperTourers, NZ Touring Cars, as well as other locally built rally or circuit cars. It is also intended to encourage the building of further BMW race cars by providing race meetings in which they can compete.

- a) Entry to the BMW Race Driver Series is by invitation only and at the discretion of the Committee.
- b) All entrants must be current financial members of the BMW Car Club of NZ.
- c) Presentation of cars must be to a high standard and the organizers reserve the right to refuse entry to cars deemed not up to standard. This requirement also applies to vehicles previously accepted for the BMW Race Driver Series where their condition has deteriorated to the point where this is not of an acceptable standard.
- d) The following regulations provide a basic outline of the technical requirements for cars running in the Open Class. **NB: Drivers planning to purchase or modify a car to race in the BMW Race Driver Series are strongly advised to contact the BMW Race Driver Series Committee via e-mail: bmwraceseries@hotmail.com for confirmation of the car's eligibility before committing to the modification/purchase.**
- e) The BMW Race Driver Series Committee and its appointed agents will be judge(s) of fact regarding general vehicle eligibility for the Series and regarding any specific technical details of those cars.
- f) Individual Committee Members cannot give you approval or authority. You must get it in writing from the Series."

2. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All vehicles are required to adhere to all current MotorSport New Zealand (MSNZ) regulations in Appendix Two – Safety (Schedule A) and Appendix Four - Races (Schedule Z). You can find the current MotorSport NZ manual online (<https://manual.motorsport.org.nz/>), including any amendments or subsequent versions issued by MSNZ.

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- a) A MSNZ approved competition seat designed for use with a five-point or six-point harness with appropriate mountings must be fitted according to App Two, Sch A, Part 1, Article 4.7.

- b) A suitable MSNZ approved five-point or six-point harness mounted as detailed in App Two, Sch A, Article 4.4.
- c) A MSNZ approved handheld fire extinguisher is mandatory as per App Two, Sch A, Part 1, Article 4.8.
- d) A MSNZ approved multi-point roll cage compliant with App Two, Sch A, Part 2, Article 4.6 with side intrusion bars is mandatory. Alternative roll cages are acceptable provided they meet the following criteria:
 - i. The roll cage design, construction and installation must satisfy all MSNZ regulations.
 - ii. Triangulation between the roll cage front legs and front strut towers is permitted.
 - iii. Safety cage padding must be fitted as required in Article 4.6 (6).
- e) Headlamps shall be covered with protective tape and comply with any current MSNZ requirements.
- f) Forward Head Restraints (FHR) are mandatory.
 - i. All occupants must wear an FHR during all practice, qualifying and races that are part of the BMW Race Driver Series. Failure to do so may result in a penalty or disqualification.
 - ii. FHR devices must be made to an approved standard and fitted and worn as per Appendix Two, Part 1, Article 4.2
- g) Towing eyes must be fitted in accordance with Appendix Two, Schedule A, Part One, Article 5.15.
- h) All vehicles must have a current MSNZ Logbook.

2. TECHNICAL / VEHICLE ELIGIBILITY

This class is generally open to **any model BMW car fitted with a BMW engine**. Factory built BMW Mini Challenge vehicles will also be allowed provided they run the same engine and drive-train specifications as originally built and competed.

Left or Right-hand drive vehicles are eligible including cars that have been converted.

2.1 ENGINES:

- a) Must be a production BMW cylinder block and head casting, all other components are free. Engine Capacity must have a minimum of **2300cc**. The exceptions are vehicles applying under Section 3.6, those mentioned in the "General Description" (2 Litre SuperTourers, NZ Touring Cars) and BMW Mini Challenge cars. If you are not sure, please contact the BMW Race Driver Series.
- b) For normally aspirated models it is permissible to use a BMW engine transplanted from another model BMW, even if it has a larger or lower: displacement, number of cylinders and or valves.
- c) It is permissible to move the engine within the factory engine bay only. It is not permissible to remove, cut or modify the factory firewall/bulkhead in order to move the engine rearwards in the chassis, even for low-volume models covered under section 3.6

2.2 FORCED INDUCTION:

- a)** Factory produced Turbo cars are permitted, to be considered Factory produced a Turbo/ Forced induction vehicle must meet all of the following criteria;
- i. The car model must have been originally available as a Turbo-charged/ Forced Induction version. By definition, “model” means the body type, such as 2002, E21, E34, etc.
 - ii. The car is/was a low volume run by BMW specialist tuners Hartge, Alpina or Schnitzer
 - iii. The engine block must have the same number of cylinders as the original engine, but there is no restriction on capacity.
 - iv. The cylinder head from the original engine must be used. eg E92 must use N54 head.
 - v. The number of turbochargers cannot be greater than the original model. ie One turbo can be used on a model that originally had two, but not the other way around.
- b)** Non-Factory Turbo-charged / Forced induction cars will only be accepted at the discretion of the Committee. It is mandatory that entrants obtain clearance before building any forced induction cars

In all cases, a written application must be submitted with full details of the vehicle specifications. (Engine, transmission, differential, chassis, bodywork, brakes, suspension, etc) The car will be considered and either approved in full, approved with required modifications or rejected outright.

These cars MUST be BMW-powered - no exceptions will be made for cars that have engines from any other manufacturer.

- 2.3 CHASSIS:** Original unit construction body shells must be used. No space-framed or semi space-framed cars will be allowed. The original floor-pan between the firewall and rear bulkhead (behind the rear seat) must remain as per the manufacturer’s original specifications. Save for the fitment of the roll protection, pedal box or exhaust system, further modifications to this area of the floor-pan can only be made with the written permission of the BMW Race Driver Series Committee.
- 2.4 BODYWORK:** Outer body panels may be replaced with items of a different design or material (including composites) to that used on the original. This includes the addition of front or rear spoilers, wings, splitters, wheel arch extensions and/or after-market body kits.
- 2.5 DRIVE TRAIN:** Gearboxes are free in terms of manufacturer, number of gears, ratios or shift mechanism. Differentials are free.
- 2.6 SUSPENSION:** So long as the original configuration is retained (eg McPherson strut, arm) the suspension is free in terms of design and materials used.
- 2.7 BRAKES:** There is no restriction on type and materials.
- 2.8 WHEELS:** Rim widths can be no more than 10 inches, but there are no other restrictions in terms of wheel diameter, materials or construction type.
- 2.9 TYRES:** This is a free item so long as the safety and technical requirements of MSNZ and the meeting organisers are met.
- 2.10 WEIGHT:** Typically, there will be no minimum weight for any cars competing in the class, unless this is stipulated as a condition of entry for a vehicle given discretionary entry under section 2.3.
- 2.11 FUEL:** There are no restrictions on the fuel used so long as the safety and technical requirements of MSNZ and the meeting organisers are met.

3. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

The Open Class comprises four different race categories: Group GT, Group A, Group B, Group C running in one (1) grid.

Drivers must pre-register for Groups GT, Group A, Group B and Group C before the start of the race meeting. Cars must carry the appropriate signage for the class (see 4.2d below)

Cars / drivers not specifically registered for Group A, B, C will automatically be included in Group GT. Points will be awarded on the overall finishing place within **each individual class**, (see Open Class Race Format document for further details)

CLASS DEFINITIONS

Group GT: Being cars which are built to these technical regulations and wish to run without a breakout time, qualify for Group GT.

Group A: Being cars which are built to these technical regulations and wish to run within the Group A breakout times.

Group B: Being cars which have been built to these technical regulations and wish to run within the Group B breakout times.

Group C: Being cars which have been built to these technical regulations and wish to run within the Group C breakout times

4. VEHICLE LIVERY – REFER TO APPENDIX ONE





4.1 Series Sponsor Decals: The following decals will be made available to registered entrants and must be fitted as supplied to all BMW Race Driver Series cars at all BMW Race Driver Series events. (See Appendix 1 for layout).

- a) Sponsor Bonnet Decal** (580 x 135mm) – Reserved for organiser use.
Centreline of bonnet, no more than 75 mm from BMW bonnet badge and oriented so that the writing is the correct way up, as viewed from in front of the car.

4.2 OTHER BMW RACE DRIVER SERIES SIGNAGE

- a) BMW Race Driver Series Number Box:** to be applied on the front door on both sides 40mm of the front edge of the door and split above and below the body molding.
- b) Windscreen Banner** – top of front windscreen, using a minimum 100mm of the supplied banner, including the BMW Race Driver Series logos, and up to the full height of the banner (approx 200mm).
- c) BMW Race Driver Series decal** – both sides on the front fender.
- d) Allocated Race Number:** Must be a solid black number and applied inside the number box with a minimum height of 280mm and minimum stroke of 50mm. The font must be Helvetica or similar. Must comply to MSNZ requirements (see Appendix Two, Schedule A, Part Two, Article 6.2).
- e) Driver Name:** The driver surname at a minimum must be applied on both rear side windows, closer to the lower edge with a minimum height of 80mm with a minimum stroke of 10mm, in white or fluorescent green/yellow in a Helvetica font or similar.
- f) Screen Numbers:** to be applied on both the front and rear screen in the passenger side upper corner, with a minimum height of 150mm and minimum stroke of 20mm in white, fluorescent yellow or green in a Helvetica font or similar. Must comply to MSNZ requirements (see Appendix Two, Schedule A, Part Two, Article 6.2).

- g) **Novice Markings:** The FIA mandated novice sticker must be run in a visible location on the rear of the car. These will be supplied.
Regardless of previous experience in other classes, drivers who are new to the BMW Race Driver Series must display this sticker for the whole season.
Regardless of previous race experience in other classes, drivers who are new to the BMW Race Driver Series must display this Sticker for a whole season.
- h) **Race Group Markings** – to assist with identification of the cars for weigh-in, and for commentary purposes, Group GT, A, B and C cars will carry a single or Double letter to confirm the race group each car is competing in. (see Section 4) The letters will be in black on a fluorescent coloured background, applied to each rear side window in such a position that it is distinguishable from the driver name and to the rear screen directly below the race number and novice stripes (if applicable). The letters, to be supplied by the BMW Race Driver Series, will be as follows:

-  **GT** = Group GT
-  **A** = Group A
-  **B** = Group B
-  **C** = Group C

4.3 PERSONAL SIGNAGE

The following restrictions apply to any personal signage or sponsorship carried on cars competing in the BMW Race Driver Series:

- a) **Front Screen** – This is reserved exclusively for the BMW Race Driver Series sponsor and apart from race numbers, no other signage can be carried on the front screen.
- b) **Rear Screen** – Personal advertising may be fitted to the rear screen so long as it complies with MSNZ regulations.
- c) **Number Boxes** – No signage at all shall be fitted to the front doors in the area immediately above or below the official race number box, or within 50mm either side of the box. It is permissible however to carry personal signage anywhere on the sills provide it complies with all other regulations regarding signage.
- d) **Competitive Signage** – No signage for any brands that compete with any of the series sponsors can be carried on the front section of the car - defined as being all panels “forward of a line through the rear edge of the number boxes on each door”. The current BMW Race Driver Series sponsors include: **Dunlop, Racer Products, King Springs and Koni**.
BMW Race Driver Series Committee decisions on any conflicting advertising are final, as are any decisions to introduce new and/or additional series sponsors.

APPENDIX ONE – SIGNAGE (REFER TO ARTICLE 4)

4.1 a) Bonnet decal



4.2 a) BMW Race Driver Series Race Number Box*



4.2 b) BMW Race Driver Series windscreen banner

4.2 f) Front screen number*



4.2 f) Rear screen number*

4.2 g) Novice Sticker

4.2 h) Race Group Markings



4.2 e) Driver Name*

4.2 h) Race Group Markings

