

Club & Championship Rules



Club Rules

Governance and Membership

1. "The Club" shall be the Northern Phoenix Trials Car Club Limited (NPTCC) and shall be governed and managed in accordance with the company's articles of association ("the articles") and these Club and Championship Rules ("the rules")
2. **Fully Paid-up Members:**
 - a. All fully paid-up members of the Club are full members of NPTCC and are entitled to attend and vote at its annual general meetings (AGM) and general meetings and may exercise all the rights of members prescribed in the articles.

Event Day Members

- b. Single event day memberships shall be made available by the Club to enable non-members to compete in Club events. Day membership shall not confer full membership rights.
3. The Club's directors collectively shall comprise the Club's management committee ("the committee").
 4. The rules may be altered by the committee or by the members at a general meeting. The articles may only be altered by a special resolution of the members passed by a 75% majority at a general meeting.
 5. In the event of any inconsistency between the rules and the articles, the articles will take precedence.

Liability of Members

6. NPTCC is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. Each member, in tendering their membership subscription, undertakes that if the company is wound up while he/she is a member (or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member), he/she will contribute up to a maximum of £1 to the assets of the company, to be applied towards:
 - a. payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member;
 - b. payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
 - c. adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

Application for Membership

7. Any person aged 14 years or over, who wishes to become a member must sign, and lodge with the Club, a completed membership application form, accompanied by the annual membership subscription fee. Applicants under 18 years of age must also include with their application the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.
8. The committee may, at its absolute discretion, refuse to admit any person to membership.
9. Applications for full membership will normally be considered by the Membership Secretary upon receipt of the application (and accompanying fee). Applicants will be notified of the decision on the application and, if the decision was to refuse admission, the Club will return the applicant's subscription fee.
10. To assist the efficient administration of the Club, full members are required to provide the Club with details of an electronic means of communication which can be used for all the official communications, notices and documents required by the articles, the rules or by prevailing company law, as well as for general administrative purposes. The preferred method is a personal email address, or failing that, an email address of a consenting third party. Should neither of these alternatives be available, members are required to provide a personal mobile or other telephone number which is able to receive text messages so they can be alerted to any official communications published on the Club's website. The onus is on each member to notify the Club of such details and to update them should they change.

Membership Subscription

11. Full members shall be required to pay an annual subscription and day members a day subscription. The amount of the subscriptions shall be determined by the committee or the members at the AGM.
12. Annual membership subscriptions shall be payable on or before 31 January in each year.
13. If the annual membership subscription payable by any member remains outstanding more than 12 weeks after the date on which it fell due, he/she shall automatically cease to be a member.
14. A person who ceases (for whatever reason) to be a member shall not be entitled to any refund of the membership subscription.

Observance and Interpretation

15. It is a fundamental condition of membership that every member (full and day) binds him/herself to:
 - a. recognise and accept the risks inherent in motorsport and to take personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of other participants at Club events;
 - b. abide by the Club's prevailing articles, rules, policies and guidelines; and,
 - c. accept as final and binding the decision of the Club's committee in relation to any issues or disputes regarding interpretation of the rules and/or articles.
16. Members found to be in serious or repeated breach of the rules will be liable to expulsion from membership by the committee.

Events

17. All sporting trial events ("events") organised by the Club shall be held under the Motor Sports Association's (MSA) rules and requirements. No events shall take place unless there is a valid MSA permit for the event or the MSA has issued an exemption certificate in respect of it.
18. All members participating in any capacity in an event shall familiarise themselves with the MSA's national sporting code, common regulations, and its regulations relating to sporting trials, (all of which can be found in the MSA's Year Book on the MSA website: www.msauk.org), together the Club's supplementary regulations for the event and the Club's Safeguarding Policy (which can be found on its website (www.nptcc.org.uk)) and shall be bound by them all.
19. The nominated clerk of the course for each event is responsible for ensuring event safety and any instructions issued by him/her to other event participants are to be complied with.
20. Only active event competitors with more than two years' experience who are adequately trained or otherwise competent are permitted to undertake the roles of clerks of the course or scrutineers. Prospective new clerks and scrutineers must in addition have acted as assistant clerks or scrutineers for a minimum of three previous events.
21. The Club's safety sub-committee have responsibility for overseeing all health and safety matters and for ensuring that the Club's health and safety policy and risk assessment controls and requirements are implemented and monitored. They will arrange spot checks from time to time to verify compliance and are empowered to make recommendations to the Clerk of the Course at an event should any safety concerns be identified.

Championship Rules

Title and Jurisdiction

22. An annual championship ("the Championship") is organised and administered by Northern Phoenix Trials Car Club Ltd in accordance with the General Championship Prescriptions of the MSA and these Championship rules.

Officials

23. Championship Secretary and Scorer: Rob Baxter.
24. Eligibility Scrutineer: Martin Grimwood/Bryan Walker.
25. Championship Stewards: NPTCC Committee.

Competitor Eligibility

26. All competitors must be members of the Club.
27. Drivers must officiate at at least one of the Club's Championship events during the season (see below).
28. Registration will be by the issue of a club membership card.

Championship Calendar

29. The Calendar of Events qualifying for the Championship will follow the calendar year.

Championship Classes

Drivers

30. In each Championship event, there will be three ability classes, A, B and C, together with an optional live axle class. The aim is to achieve four competitive classes: the three ability classes comprising drivers exhibiting advanced, intermediate and novice abilities respectively, and the fourth live axle class, which any eligible driver competing in a live axle car may opt to compete in.
31. Subject to Rule 37, drivers will be classified A, B, or C before the first event of the year having regard to their average score and their event place finishes in the preceding year's Club Championship events.
32. Drivers new to the sport will be automatically placed in Class C. Any driver joining the Club who competed the preceding year in any other sporting trial championship will be assigned to the class deemed most appropriate by the committee.

33. Drivers will remain in the same ability class for the whole of the Championship year, unless re-classified by the committee, who retain the right to re-classify any driver at any point during the Championship year.
34. Class A will consist of drivers whose average Championship event scores fall within the highest score band, to be determined by the committee after the last trial of the season, and who achieved at least 50% top third finishes.
35. Class B will consist of drivers whose average Championship event scores fall within the next highest score band, to be determined by the committee after the last trial of the season, and who achieved at least 50% mid third finishes.
36. Class C will consist of drivers not qualified in either the A or B classes as defined above.
37. A driver may be moved up one or two ability classes between consecutive Championship years but can only be moved down one class on the basis of the banding referred to in rules 34-36 above. Such reclassification is dependent upon a minimum of half of the Championship trials being completed. The Committee will determine appropriate driver classes where less than half the Championship events have been completed or where driver classifications would otherwise be anomalous. Relegations into Class C will not be made where the committee judge that it would lead to novice drivers being unfairly disadvantaged within their competitive group.
38. Drivers may appeal to the committee regarding their classification within 21 days of its publication.

Passengers

39. Passengers inherit the class of the driver unless Rule 40 applies.
40. Passengers who compete with several drivers over a season may elect to have the highest scores from their best 12 events, in which case they will be classified the same as their highest classed driver. Alternatively, a passenger may select one class and only count their best 12 scores when passengering for a driver of that class.

Championship Scoring

41. In each Championship event 30 Championship points will be awarded to the winner, 28 to second, and 27 to third and so on. Each day of multi-day events will count as a separate event and Championship points will be awarded accordingly for each day. In addition, the committee may determine, in advance of an event, also to award Championship points based on the combined results of multi-day events, with the overall winner being awarded 30 points, 28 to second, 27 to third and so on.
42. No Championship points will be awarded for officiating.
43. To facilitate a sporting and gentlemanly practice endorsed by the MSA at Club-level events, all entrants, in submitting a Clubman's entry for and participating in any NPTCC Championship event, shall be deemed to have given written notice of a change of car, in accordance with Regulation D25.1.12, should they need to complete the event by double driving a fellow competitor's car, due to mechanical failure or some other defect affecting the car nominated on their entry form. Any such change of car at an event shall require the consent of the Clerk of the Course (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld). Provided that details of the car change are notified to the Secretary of the Meeting at the conclusion of the event, the car-change entrant's score for the entire event, plus an additional 12 penalty points, shall be valid and included in the event results. For the avoidance of doubt, the use of spare cars will not be permitted.

Final Championship Positions

44. Final Championship positions in each class will be determined on the basis of the aggregate of Championship points scored in each competitor's best 12 performances. In the event of two or more trials being cancelled and not re-arranged, the Championship positions will be based on each competitor's best 11 performances or all their performances if less than 11."
45. Ties will be decided in favour of the competitor with the greatest number of highest scores, followed by the greatest number of clears. In the event of a tie still remaining, the committee will select further performance criteria to be used to determine the winner.
46. Championship competitors will only be included in the final scores if they have given up a Championship event during the season by officiating at it. Therefore, after the last round of the Championship, any driver who has not officiated at an event will be removed from the final Championship table.
47. "Officiating" means to have carried out one of the following duties at a Championship event **and** not to have competed in it:
 - a. clerk of the course or assistant clerk of the course;
 - b. marshal; or,
 - c. secretary of the meeting.

General

48. There is a three second allowance for a competitor's car to regain forward motion, with no rearward motion. Marshal to count "and 1 and 2 and 3".
49. The three second rule does not apply should a competitor stall the engine except as provided for by rule 50.
50. If a competitor stalls the engine on a downhill section and the car continues forward motion, a restart is permitted without a penalty.
51. If a car ceases forward motion and neither rear wheel is rotating, the three second rule shall not apply and the driver shall be deemed to have stopped.
52. The only circumstances in which a competitor maybe considered for a re-run of a section are:
 - a. where another vehicle, animal or person is judged to have impeded progress through the section and where to have continued would have been potentially dangerous; or,
 - b. in any circumstances permitted in the Motor Sports Association current year book (the MSA "Blue Book").
53. The only permitted tyres to be used in any event will be as specified in the event's Supplementary Regulations.
54. Competitors found competing in Club events with tyre pressures below those specified for the event will incur a 12-point penalty per offence.
55. Passengers are permitted to compete in a maximum of two cars as long as both are running within three cars of each other.
56. Sequential gearboxes are not permitted.
57. Drivers must produce their car's logbook at all events as specified in the event's Supplementary Regulations.

Annual and Event-Day Awards

Annual Awards

58. The Club will present Annual Awards at its annual Presentation Dinner as follows:

Event Awards:

- **Overall Event Winners** (driver and passenger team) of each Championship event staged by the Club.

Club Awards:

- **Trial of the Year** - awarded to Clerk of the Course for what is judged to be the best trial of the season.
- **Best Rookie** - awarded to the Rookie highest placed in the final Championship table. (Drivers are classed as rookies until they have completed two full seasons from the date of their first Class C trial.)
- **Best Club Official** – awarded to the Club Official voted as such by the Club Members.

Championship Awards

Drivers:

- **1st overall Class A**
- **1st overall Class B**
- **1st overall Class C**
- **1st overall Live Axle Class**
- **Highest Number of Cleans** (counted from all the trials driven in the season not just the best 12).

Passengers

- **1st overall Class A**
- **1st overall Class B**
- **1st overall Class C**

Event-Day Awards

59. Event-day awards will be presented at each Championship event staged by the Club as follows:

- **Winning Driver & Passenger Team of each Competitive Class**