

**Motorsport Ireland Rally  
Championship 2026.**

APPENDIX 31

**Championship Regulations**

**ARTICLE 1.**

1.1. FORMAT.

***There are 8 counting rounds and 2 regions, as displayed on the championship website.***

1.2. Best performance in the number of events held, less two will count. of which one must take place after July 1st in the current year.

1.2a. Junior's best performance in the number of events held, less two will count, of which one must take place after July 1st in the current year.

1.3. Events are in two regions. To qualify for a championship award, competitors must register for and start a minimum of three events, at least one of which must be in each region. A fee of €15 per crew per event will be included in the entry fee, excluding Dacia Sandero Challenge cup competitors who will register with their specific registrar.

1.4. ***Deleted***

**ARTICLE 2.**

2.1. CLASSES.

Classes as per Appendix 29.1 of the current yearbook.

2.2. Notes on Classes.

2.2.1. These classes must be included in all championship events, but Clubs may subdivide them if they wish and/or include additional classes subject to the

overall limitation that clubman cars are restricted to a maximum engine capacity of 3500 cc.

See also 'Notes on Classes', Appendix 29.1.

**ARTICLE 3.**

3.1. AWARDS.

1st Overall

Driver: Cecil Vard Trophy  
(perpetual).

Co-driver: Noel Smith Trophy  
(perpetual).

2nd Overall

Driver: Trophy Co-driver:  
Trophy.

3rd Overall

Driver: Trophy Co-driver:  
Trophy.

***National Two Wheel Drive Award***

To the driver achieving the highest overall placing in a 2-wheel drive car, the best 6 scores from eight to count. Winners of the above award are eligible for overall but not for class awards.

***National Mk2 Escort Champions***

To the Driver achieving the highest points in an MK2 Ford Escort. The best 6 scores from eight to count. Winners of the above award are ineligible for class awards.

***Class 23 DACIA SANDERO CHALLENGE CUP"***

***To the driver achieving the highest overall placing In a Dacia Sandero, the best 6 scores of 8 to count.***

***The Winners of the above cup are not eligible for a Class awards in The Dacia Sandero Championship,***

***Dougie Hughes Memorial***

The Winner of Class 16 will be crowned the National Junior Champion.

***Billy Coleman Nominee***

Highest placed eligible driver in the overall classification in ***either Class 2 or Class 2A***, of the Motorsport Ireland National Rally Championship will qualify for the selection process for the Billy Coleman Award.

***Michael Farrell Memorial Trophy***

To the Class Winner with the greatest number of Class Points from his/her eight eligible rounds, excluding those classes from which 1st, 2nd & 3rd overall is derived.

***National Ladies Award***

1. This will be awarded to the highest placed female in the overall awards, driver or co-driver.
2. This will be awarded to the highest placed female in the junior class, Driver or Co-driver.

**3.2. National Class Awards.**

First in each Class

Driver: Trophy. Co-driver: Trophy.

Second in each Class

Driver: Trophy. Co-driver: Trophy.

Third in each Class

Driver: Trophy. Co-driver: Trophy.

3.3. The number of awards in any class may be reduced if entries during the year are insufficient.

**ARTICLE 4. General Rules.**

4.1. Substitution of events, or alteration of dates will be permitted in the case of

'force majeure' at the discretion of the Motor Sport Council (MSC). (GCR 12)

4.2. The Championship will be open to the following categories of license holders:

4.2.1. Motorsport Ireland National 'A' and International License holders.

4.2.2. Holders of Stage National B licenses are permitted to drive a car eligible for classes 1, 2, **2A**, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 23 and the Dacia Sandero Challenge Cup class as listed in Appendix 29.

4.2.3. MSA Licenses holders, of a grade not lower than National "B", who may be resident in either Ireland or Britain with Medical Certificates.

4.2.4. Co-drivers must hold a Driver or Navigators License.

4.3. All cars complying with the classes as per Article 2 of these regulations are eligible for the Championship. Commercial vehicles are not eligible.

**4.4. The responsibilities of the promoting clubs:**

4.4.1. Accommodation on night prior to event in Rally Headquarters for Championship officials three rooms, plus evening meal.

4.4.2. The club must provide a suitable location, to be agreed with by the manager, for registration and information which will take place during the times specified in the event regulations for documentation on the evening before the event.

4.4.3. The club will provide the manager with a class-based list of entries and reserves prior to the publication of the entry list.

4.4.3.1. Note: This will allow the manager to assist clubs in determining which drivers are entitled to priority. In so doing clubs must afford the manager

a reasonable period within which to revert to them with comments.

Minimum 48 hours.

4.4.4. Motorsport Ireland will directly pay the travel expenses.

4.4.5. The Club must also provide enough copies of the up-to-date Championship Results for distribution at the event.

4.4.6. Once the results have been declared final the organisers must provide the manager the following information:

1. Full list of starters.
2. Full list of Overall Results.
3. Full list of Class Results.

4.5. The interpretation of these rules in case of doubt, shall rest with the manager in consultation where necessary with Motorsport Ireland National Stages sub commission. This decision will be subject to the approval of the Motor Sport Council, subject to the overriding right of appeal under the GCRs of MI.

4.6. The Championship Manager is:

Laura McMenamin

c/o Motorsport Ireland. 34 Dawson St, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 087 6646002 e-mails:

[nationalrallychampionship@gmail.com](mailto:nationalrallychampionship@gmail.com)

The National Championships  
Chairperson is Declan Tumilty.

087-2597599

Email: [declantumilty@gmail.com](mailto:declantumilty@gmail.com)

#### **4.7. Scrutiny Requirements.**

See Appendix 2.

#### **4.8 Championship Bulletins.**

The Promoters may issue Competitor Bulletins by email to all registered competitors. The information contained shall be included in the MI Monthly Bulletin. Such notices will form an integral part of the championship regulations from the date of publication.

#### **4.9 Power Stage.**

This stage shall:

- Be the last timed stage of the rally.
- Be run as a stage of the event for all classified competitors.
- Attribution of 'Power Stage' points:

Points will be awarded according to the scale as described in Art. 5.1.4. for the purpose of allocating points, the power stage classification shall be calculated using the stage time plus any other time penalty accrued on this stage, including any false start penalty. To score points, a crew must be classified in the final official classification of the rally and must be registered for the championship. If the power stage is definitively stopped before the Top 20 Crews have had the opportunity to complete the stage, the championship manager may decide that no points are awarded for the power stage. The top championship registered crew classified on the power stage will be awarded one point.

Should the bogey time be beaten on the power stage, power stage points will be awarded by reference to the Actual time recorded on the Stage.

#### **ARTICLE 5. Points Scoring.**

5.1. Points will be awarded as follows based on results from each round. In

addition, each class will be marked separately as per 5.1.2.

5.1.1. Overall Points:

20/18/16/14/13/12/11/10/9/8/7/6/  
5/4/3

5.1.2. Class Points:

10/8/7/6/5/4/3/2/1

5.1.3. Dunlop Mk2 Escort

Championship Point Scoring:

20/18/16/14/13/12/11/10/9/8/7/6/  
5/4/3

5.1.4 Power Stage 1 Point.

5.1.5 Bonus for finishing the second last round is 1 Point.

The bonus for finishing the last event in the year is two points.

Competitors availing of Super Rally will get 50% of the normal points given for finishing the event.

To be eligible for championship points Super Rally finishers must comply with Appendix 29 Article 13 of the Current M.I. Yearbook.

5.2. In addition, one point will be awarded to each registered finisher not receiving points from 5.1.1 or 5.1.2 above.

5.3. Championship points will be awarded based on the finishing order of Registered Competitors (i.e. first placed registered competitor 20 pts, second placed registered competitor 18pts and so on. Class points will be awarded on the same basis).

5.4. If the number of counting rounds is reduced, for any reason, the manager of the championship will in consultation with the Motorsport Ireland National championship Sub-Commission, make a recommendation to the Motorsport

Ireland Motor Sport Council as to what amendments should be made to the regulations for the championship. This will consider at what point during the championship the number of rounds counting is reduced. All registered competitors will be notified in writing within 14 days of the MSC reaching a decision. Ties in either the overall or class place will be decided in favor of the competitor with the greatest number of wins, and failing this, the greatest number of second places etc., until the tie is resolved. If further ties remain, they will be decided based on performance in the sequential order of events, i.e., the first event will count first, and so on. (See Appendix 15 No. 6.10).

5.5. Registration for the championship will close immediately after it no longer becomes possible for a competitor to comply with the regulations in accordance with Art. 1.3. Competitors who have registered prior to this but cannot comply with Art. 1.3 will not be awarded any further points. Competitors who have registered prior to this and comply with Art. 1.3 can re-register in a different class and score overall points.

5.6. The following rules apply to handling entries for each championship round.

5.6.1. Entry forms to be available 10 days before the official opening date. Official entry forms should be made available to all registered drivers. Labels are available on request from the championship manager. The onus will be on the competitor to ensure that he is in receipt of the regulations prior to the relevant priority dates.



5.6.2. Regulations for National Championship events must not open earlier than the date calculated as Monday, five weeks prior to the last Monday before the event. e.g. (Sunday event 42 Days).

5.6.3. There will be a common date for the closing of entries. Including priority entries as per Art 7.1. In the event of the closing date being extended priority entries must be secured by the original closing date.

5.6.4. Payment must not be lodged before the closing date for all entrants who are awarded an entry. A reasonable number of reserve entries may also have their cheques lodged at closing date. Clubs are encouraged to state in regulations that cash should not be sent with entry.

5.6.5. Where a club starts a maximum entry, no money can be withheld from the non-starters.

5.6.6. Where a club does not start a maximum entry due to the withdrawal of entries, the club may impose financial penalties to the last cars that withdraw from the starters' list.

5.6.7. All non-starters are to be refunded not later than fourteen days after the event.

5.6.8. . National championship events will be allowed to start 165 regardless of format, including juniors, excluding Dacia Sandero Challenge Cup, provided there are sixty priority places afforded to national championship registered competitors as per Art 7.1.

5.6.9. Historic Competitors must compete and be seeded as part of the main field on the first six stages on each event.

5.6.10. All national rally championship events will be timed to the nearest tenth

of a second from a standing start to a flying finish.

5.6.11. Juniors must compete on all stages and be seeded as part of the main field in a block where possible. 12 of the main field entries are to be held for class **2 and 2A**, normal priority applies.

5.6.12. Dacia Sandero Challenge Cup competitors will start the event after first service and compete on the remainder of the rally, Entry fee will be 70% of the main field entry fee, P.N This class do not qualify for overall points in the National Championship.

#### **ARTICLE 6. REGISTRATION.**

6.1. Competitors are required to register for the championship prior to the first qualifying round that they enter.

Once registered it is not a requirement that you sign on at subsequent rounds, Drivers and Co Drivers register and score points on an individual basis. On registering competitors agree to be bound by these regulations and any amendments subsequently issued. Competitors who wish to change class during the championship must re-register in the class they are moving to, failure to do this disqualifies them from scoring either class or overall points.

6.2. The nominated driver must drive all competitive sections of each event.

6.3. To be eligible for a counting round each event's route must comprise not less than 90 stage kilometers and no more than 110 stage kilometers as defined in the published road book.

**ARTICLE 7.** Entry Priority for championship registered competitors is

the Wednesday of the week prior to the event's start date i.e., ten days.

7.1.

***The first two registered drivers in Classes 4,7,9,10,15,18/19***

***The first three registered drivers in Classes 1 & 3***

***The first five registered drivers in Classes 11F, 11R, 12, 14, 16 & 20.***

***The first seven registered drivers in Classes 2, 2A, 5 & 13,***

Will be entitled to priority provided that ***the club's entry criteria is fulfilled*** on the closing date. In the event of the registered drivers entitled to priority in each of the classes above not having a valid entry in by the closing date, the priority will pass to the next registered driver in that class who has a valid entry submitted. This will facilitate a maximum of 60 Registered Drivers receiving priority entries for the events.

7.2. Priority for Championship

Registered Drivers for Round 1 and 2 will be the award winners from the previous Championship. On Round 2 should the award winners from the previous year not make up the sixty places provided for the national championship the shortfall will be taken from the class positions after Round 1. (For example, if forty places on round two are taken by the previous year awards winners the remaining twenty places will be made up from the results after round one) These remaining places shall be decided by class winners from Round One first, followed by 2nd and 3rd in class.

Priority for the remaining rounds will be based on a registered driver's championship position at the closing

date for entries for that event, provided that their entry is in order and subject to the following:

7.3. Drivers who cannot improve their awards position by competing in additional rounds will not be a priority for those rounds. Priority will then pass to the next registered driver in that class and so on. A list showing competitors entitled to priority will be provided to the Clerk of the Course of the events by the manager.

7.4. Where a registered driver /class, is not entitled to priority but is in contention for the Michael Farrell Memorial Trophy, he/she will also be entitled to priority, provided that their entry is in order on the closing date as defined above.

## **ARTICLE 8.**

8.1. All events must run in accordance with the General Competition Rules and Appendix 25, 29 and 31 of this Yearbook.

8.2. Competitors should also provide an area on both sides of the car for any advertising proposed by championship event organisers. Event door stickers must be printed as per the championship template.

8.3. Each Club must appoint a Public Relations Officer to promote the interests of their rally. They should work in close liaison with the appointed championship PRO and furnish them with event information as soon as it is available. Full seeded entry list and time and distance schedule must be issued to

the committee no later than Thursday week prior to the event and advised of any withdrawals.

Media manager contact:

e-mail:

[nationalrallychampionship@gmail.com](mailto:nationalrallychampionship@gmail.com)

8.4. The championship logo must be on the front of all event regulations. Each club must ensure that the sponsor's advertising space in the event program, as follows: full colour page advert and championship logo on the front cover, (artwork will be supplied by the championship committee).

#### **ARTICLE 9. RESULTS.**

9.1. Interim results will be available on the MI website,  
[www.motorsportireland.com](http://www.motorsportireland.com)  
and the Championship website  
[www.irishnationalrallychamp.com](http://www.irishnationalrallychamp.com)  
following each round. They will also be available via email. Competitors wishing to avail themselves of this service should furnish the manager with an email address when they register.

9.2. Provisional and results will be posted on the Motorsport Ireland and Championship website. Competitors will receive them by email.

9.3. Queries will only be dealt with for up to 14 days after publication of provisional results.

Queries: Complaints and queries in relation to the championship shall be made in writing or e-mail to the championship manager who shall publish a decision on the matter/s within seven days.

Protests: Protests may be made in relation to matters which have been the subject of a decision by the national

championship sub- committee. Such protests shall be subject to a time limit of 14 days after the publication of the decision and shall be addressed to the championship steward's c/o Motorsport Ireland and must be in writing and accompanied by the appropriate fee.

#### **ARTICLE 10.**

10.1. The manager will provide two championship decals for each registered competitor. These must be fixed on the competing car in a position approved by the manager. Championship decals must remain affixed to the competing car for the duration of each counting round. Breach of this regulation will result in being awarded no points to the relevant competitors.

10.2. The Top 3 overall in the final classification of the event (driver and navigator), along with the driver and navigator winning Group N and the 2-wheel drive category, the Mk2 Champions Cup, the Junior class, and historic categories wear the caps provided by the championship organisers for any interviews, photographs, video recording, or any other publicity or promotional purpose required by the sponsor. The caps will be provided by the sponsor. Failure to do so may result in a fine of €500 being imposed by the manager, and/or the loss of championship points for that event. Before deducting championship points from any competitor, the manager of the championship will consult with the Motorsport Ireland national championship sub-commission.

10.3. Regional championships consisting of rounds of the national championship and events forming part of the national

championship shall not have a conflicting title sponsor to that of the national championship sponsor. Priority must be given to official national championship media crews for livestream and media television throughout the event and at start and finish ramps.

***10.3.1. Finish and start ramps must be kept clear of all championship, regional and national, flags, banners and tear drop. Each championship should be allowed to attach one sign to the ramp itself, no more than 800 x 300, this will allow all club sponsors to feature in photographs and publicity.***

10.4 If an event must be cancelled due to Force Majeure, championship points will only be awarded if mileage has been completed.