

George Woods Rally 2019

DISCUSSION PAPER

Why Raise this Discussion?

The 2018 CAMS MANUAL OF MOTOR SPORT, National Rally Code (NRC) has significant changes from previous versions. The changes affect most rallies run in Victoria to a greater or lesser degree; the greatest effect is upon Novice/Introductory events. Rallies are now split into two types—Special Stage or Road Rally—each with their own regulations. The middle of the road trial/rally events that made up the typical club trial/rally (in particular Novice/Introductory events—like the George Woods—and VCRS rounds), which included navigational challenges (to a greater or lesser degree), are a thing of the past. Previous NRCs allowed for the running of and set our rules for closed road events, commonly referred to as Rallies (which could be full-on special stage events—with a subset of special rules—and Trials/Club Rallies—from completely route-charted to fully navigational and everything in between). There was also a set of rules to cover Touring Road Events (TREs) that were essentially open road rallies with the option to include closed road or other special tests.

Prior to 2018, a Novice/Introductory event was considered more along the lines of a Touring Road Event than a full-on rally but run under the Rally regulations with special dispensations (and, up to 2016, reduced permit fees). For events run under the 2018 NRC, an Introductory Rally is defined as a Special Stage Rally with a few special conditions (see NRC SSR 1.5).

In 2018, we received CAMS approval to run the GWRally event under the 2017 NRC as the 2018 NRC was expected to contain significant changes and would not be published until the event organisation was too far down one track to be able to conform with new requirements.

For 2019, the new NRC will have been in place for 12 months and should thus be well established without the need for significant changes. We need to decide how to proceed with the GWRally—in particular, deciding whether it will be an Introductory Rally as per the Special Stage regulations (NRC SSR) or become an open road event run under the Road Rally regulations (NRC RR). There are advantages and disadvantages to both scenarios.

I have summarised, below, the significant regulation differences between the two types.

APPENDIX:

Introductory Rally (SSR) comparison with Road Rally (RR)

	<i>Introductory Rally (SSR)</i>	<i>Road Rally (RR)</i>
Applicable NRC	NRC EG, NRC SSR	NRC EG, NRC RR
Vehicle requirements	No ROPS required Towing points not required (but recommended)	No ROPS required Encourage standard road cars
Crew requirements	Crew of 2 (designated Driver and Co-Driver) Minimum age 14 Minimum Licence 2NS	Crew of 2 (designated Driver and Navigator) Minimum Age 12 (may be higher if speed or closed road tests) Minimum Licence 2NS (2S if speed tests)
Timing/scoring	A-A or A-B Whole minute	Not specified, but effectively A-B Whole minute
Event special conditions	Max duration 4 hours No reconnaissance Not part of a series or championship other than organising club's Max entries 40	Closed Road tests max average speed (70km/h for unsealed roads) Navigation tests max 80km/h (open roads, Vic Road Rules apply)
Permit Fee	\$75 per car	\$65 per car
Positive Tracking (NRC SSR 1.9)	Required	Required on closed road tests
Course & Route Instructions	Road Book as per NRC SSR 2.4 No deviation from course permitted (on pain of exclusion) Strict rules on double/multiple use of roads	Max 5 x 5km closed road tests (gravel)
LRT minimum	40 minutes per leg No reduction by early book-in	60 minutes per leg of up to 300km
Medical Services	At least one Ambulance or MIV required Locations and planned movements to be in Safety Plan	MIV required for each closed road test Locations and planned movements to be in Safety Plan