

Does your driving event need a permit? Rules and regulations explained

The background

The MSCC, including its centres and registers, is affiliated to Motorsport UK. Motorsport UK (previously called the Motor Sport Association) is the governing body for motorsport in the UK, and the UK representative of the FIA, who regulate motorsport globally, most famously with the FIA Formula One World Championship.

I'm not organising a grand prix, so why is this important?

Being a Motorsport UK affiliated club is important to the MSCC. Membership allows us to organise our own competitive motorsport events, including the AR Motorsport Morgan Challenge and the Techniques MSCC Speed Championship, which are both key activities for the Club.

Membership of Motorsport UK also gives us access to a wealth of guidance on how to safely organise events, such as the Club AutoSolo, and the many competitive events organised by Centres around the country. It also provides us with insurance cover in case an incident occurred during the event to a competitor, official or spectator.

Motorsport UK lays down its rules and regulations in the Motorsport UK Yearbook (commonly called the Blue Book). This is reissued annually, and can be found on the Motorsport UK website at www.motorsportuk.org/News-Publications/Publications/Yearbook. As an affiliated Club we can face severe financial penalties and even the loss of our affiliation, and with it the rights described above, if we fail to adhere to these regulations.

So what do I need to do?

If you are organising a driving event for a MOG event or your centre, you need to decide which category the event falls within, as this will then determine what permission you need from Motorsport UK. There are three main categories:

- Social Run.
- Certificate of Exemption.
- Permit.

No authorisation required

The Blue Book defines a Social Run as a “non-competitive run for likeminded participants where there is no other purpose than the camaraderie of motoring in company to a predetermined point.” Such an event is outside of the jurisdiction of Motorsport UK, and as such no permit or certificate of exemption is required.

Certificate of Exemption

Other events may not require a permit to be issued by Motorsport UK. Such events include:

- A Touring Assembly

- A Gymkhana held entirely on private ground
- A Treasure Hunt
- A processions for charitable or historic purposes
- A Concours d'Elegance
- An approved Driver's Training Day or Special Demonstration.

Definitions of these events can be found in the Blue Book. For these events, an application needs to be made to Motorsport UK for a Certificate of Exemption. Unless such a Certificate is received before the event is due to be held, it must not take place.

Permit

Permits are required to hold all other motorsport events, which includes:

- Sporting Trials;
- Car Trials;
- AutoSolo;
- Autotests;

as well as races and speed events and championships. Definitions for these events can also be found in the Blue Book. As with a Certificate of Exemption, these events must not take place until a Permit has been issued by Motorsport UK.

What is the difference between a Social Run and a Touring Assembly?

Motorsport UK's view is that a Social Run is more of a social meeting that involves driving to a location rather than a motoring event. A route may be suggested but the activity is more about where you are finishing, i.e. meeting at a start point at one time, and the end point at another.

A Touring Assembly meanwhile has more emphasis on the route and points to visit along that route, possibly using a road book. Organisers would also have to consult with the Motorsport UK Route Liaison Officer (RLO) as part of the process of applying for a Certificate of Exemption. The RLO will check that the planned route does not clash with any other events; they will also ensure that the route does not use any sensitive areas where problems have occurred in the past.

How do I apply for a Certificate of Exemption or a Permit?

A Certificate of Exemption or a Permit should be submitted online, using the guidance notes below. Applications should be made at a **MINIMUM OF 4 (FOUR) WEEKS BEFORE** the event to allow Motorsport UK to process the application, resolve any queries and issue the Certificate of Exemption or Permit.

An event **MUST NOT BE HELD** if a Certificate of Exemption or a Permit is required and has not been received, even if an application has been made.

To apply for a Certificate of Exemption or a Permit, there are two stages to complete.

1. Add the event to the Motorsport UK calendar.

2. Apply for the Certificate of Exemption or Permit.

Adding an event to the Motorsport UK calendar

You must log into the website as an authorised representative of the Club. You will be authorised to do so if you are organising the event on behalf of the Club or a centre/register, and have been given the log in details by Iain Leviston, the Motorsport and Competition Lead (SportsMogCentre@gmail.com).

The Motorsport UK website can be found at www.motorsportuk.org, and after logging in, select 'FIXTURES & PERMITS', on the top left of the page, and then select your name from the club officials in the drop down box. Each Centre should have an individual who is listed as an official, but if your group does not have access to such a person, please contact Iain Leviston, and he will request that Motorsport UK add you to the list – THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO ACTION, SO PLEASE FACTOR THIS INTO YOUR PLANNING TIMETABLE).

Complete the details requested over the next three pages. On page three, you will be asked if you want to show the event to the public. Typically Club events WOULD NOT be 'Show to Public?', as this means they will be advertised on the Motorsport UK website. Exceptions would include the Club Sprint.

The event is now saved on the calendar, and you can continue on to apply for the Certificate of Exemption or Permit, or log out to make the application at a later date.

Applying for the Certificate of Exemption or Permit

An application form will look different depending on the nature of the event and whether you are seeking a Certificate of Exemption or a Permit. However, the online system is easy and complete. Questions can be raised with the Iain Leviston in the first instance, and then escalated to Motorsport UK if required.

Applications will need to be accompanied by a copy of the proposed Entry form for the event; a copy of the Supplementary Regulations need only be provided at this stage if applying for a Permit for a Race or Speed event.

All Certificates of Exemption and Permits incur a fee from Motorsport UK. The Club has a sum of monies lodged with Motorsport UK against which all applications from the Club, centres and registers are deducted. Please do not pay any permit fees yourself as all costs should come from these funds. For the same reason, please notify Iain Leviston if making an application so that we know how many permits are being issued, and we can monitor the balance held with Motorsport UK.