



## BTRDA Rally First - 2023 Technical Regulations

### INTRODUCTION

**BTRDA Rally First** is open to any **2-wheel drive Production Car** up to a maximum engine capacity of 2,000cc that is or has been available for public sale in the UK. Cars that were originally 4-wheel drive are only permitted if they are permanently modified to 2-wheel drive.

Within **BTRDA Rally First** there will be two classes: -

- **Class RF1.4:** Cars with an engine capacity up to 1400cc or forced induction up to 1000cc, plus F1000 cars\*
- **Class RF2.0:** Cars with an engine capacity over 1400cc up to and including 2000cc or forced induction up to 1300cc.

*All forced induction engines are subject to an additional capacity coefficient of 1.7 to 1, except where FIA Appendix J Art 260 applies or as mentioned in the definition of RF1.4 or RF2.0.*

\* Cars that comply with current F1000 (Senior) Technical Regulations are eligible to compete and score points in Class RF1.4.

R1A & R1B cars that comply with FIA Appendix J Article 260 are permitted in BTRDA Rally First, but not FIA Rally5 cars.

- R1A cars will run in class RF1.4 and R1B cars will run in class RF2.0.
- Where a car is FIA homologated in R1A or R1B, valid homologation papers must be carried in the car and available for inspection by the Series or Event Scrutineers.

### VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

#### 1 General:

Vehicles must comply with Motorsport UK Regulations: [J] Vehicles, [K] Safety, [R] Special Stage Rallying. It is **NOT** permitted to 'mix and match' the requirements of FIA Appendix J Article 260, the BTRDA Rally First Technical Regulations and the F1000 Technical Regulations.

[1.1] **Except where specifically permitted in these regulations, or where necessary to comply with Motorsport UK vehicle regulations, the vehicle must be unmodified** and no component (including engine, engine management system and transmission parts) may be removed, physically modified or exchanged for a non-standard part. All parts should be available or have been available in the UK for the model and year of the vehicle.

[1.2] Where these regulations specify the use of standard or original equipment parts, a competitor may use a Standard Pattern Part. Standard Part & Standard Pattern Part are defined in Motorsport UK Yearbook (Section B)

[1.3] Parts may be repaired, but only using the procedures and processes specified in the vehicle manufacturer's workshop manual.

#### 2 Body Shell:

[2.1] It is permitted to use a body shell or panels that were originally from a different designation of the same vehicle model; e.g. it is permitted to use a shell or panels originally from a 1.0 Corsa C to build a 1.4 Corsa C.

[2.2] The body shell (including doors, bonnet, boot and tailgate) must retain the original manufacturer's material, minimum thickness, shape, structure, and outline. It is not permitted to lighten the vehicle shell by removing any structural parts. However, the removal of surplus brackets is permitted.

[2.3] The body shell of the car may be strengthened including suspension mounting and roll cage areas. Plating, (which must follow the original body shape and be in contact with the standard part), stitch and seam welding, gussets, 'bolt on' and 'weld on' braces are all permitted.

[2.4] Strengthening rear suspension mounting points and turrets by the positioning of the roll-over safety bar backstays is permitted.

[2.5] The inner lips of wheel arches may be folded in to keep them away from the tyres.

[2.6] The fitting of any underbody guards and protection is permitted.

[2.7] The route of brake and fuel pipes may be altered, subject to compliance with Motorsport UK regulations.

[2.8] A roof mounted vent / vent pod may be fitted.

### **3 Exterior:**

[3.1] Original equipment aerofoils, spoilers, wings, wheel arch extensions and body style devices may be retained. A competitor must be able to show that any such device appears in the car manufacturer's UK accessory catalogue for that range of cars. It is not permitted to fit a device for one model range, to a car from a different model range or to a different make of car.

[3.2] Bonnet, boot lid / hatch fastenings are free. The bonnet and boot lid/hatch may have their normal locks disabled, but must be held positively closed by pins, clips or straps which are externally operable.

[3.3] In the interests of safety, doors should remain unlocked during competitive sections. Cars fitted with self-locking doors may be modified to permit this.

[3.4] Glass sunroofs are not permitted but may be replaced as described in R48.1.8. Side windows may be replaced by other appropriate materials, but all glass areas must comply with Motorsport UK Technical Regulations. (R48.1.9. & R48.1.10)

[3.5] Standard wing mirror pods must be retained but the choice of mirror in them is free.

[3.6] Detachable under body shields, engine compartment trays (but not heat shields) and wheel arch liners may be removed.

### **4 Interior:**

[4.1] Rear seats (and the rear safety belts, so long as the rear seats are removed), floor coverings, roof linings, rear parcel shelf, detachable boot compartment covers, sound deadening material, audio units (and their wiring if it is not an integral part of the original wiring loom) may be removed or replaced.

[4.2] Safety airbags may be disabled by the removal of their fuses or removed completely. If they are removed the hole created must be filled or covered.

[4.3] The steering wheel and gear knob is free.

[4.4] Electric window winding mechanisms may be replaced by manual window mechanisms and vice versa.

[4.5] Additional instruments and equipment are permitted, but the standard instruments for the car must be retained in their normal position and housings.

[4.6] Door trim must be retained, and additional door padding may be added. However, where safety door bars (part of the ROPS) impinge on the door trim then suitable replacement door trim / door cards will be accepted.

### **5 Weight:**

[5.1] The minimum weight must comply with R48.9.1 or the FIA homologated weight if the vehicle is currently FIA homologated.

[5.2] The checking of vehicle weights will be as set out in FIA Appendix J.

### **6 Engine:**

[6.1] The engine must be a standard production engine for that make and model of car including the complete induction and engine management system. Rotary engines are not permitted.

[6.2] Re-boring for the purposes of re-lining the engine block **to the original cylinder capacity** is allowed.

[6.3] Internal baffles may be fitted to the sump and the sump oil pick-up pipe may be modified.

- [6.4] The standard exhaust manifold must be retained but the exhaust system beyond the manifold is free.
- [6.5] Where the vehicle is required by law to be fitted with a catalytic converter then a functioning catalytic converter must be included in the exhaust system. The catalytic converter may be located anywhere in the exhaust system. Note the Motorsport UK requirement that an exhaust catalytic converter must be fitted to all petrol engine cars manufactured after 31/12/1999.
- [6.6] It is permitted to divert the Crankcase Breather to a separate catch tank, but this must not allow any oil / waste products to leak. NB: Must comply with R48.2.9

## **7 Engine Ancillary Equipment:**

- [7.1] Cosmetic detachable engine covers (but not heat shields) and bonnet sound proofing may be removed.
- [7.2] Air filter(s) and associated trunking are free but must be fitted. All incoming air must go through a proprietary air filter, i.e. no by-pass systems. Open Ram Pipes are not permitted.
- [7.3] Oil coolers may be fitted or relocated.
- [7.4] The standard fuel pump or fuel filter may be relocated.
- [7.5] Additional engine restraining arms / steady bars may be fitted.
- [7.6] Stiffer engine mounting bushes may be fitted.
- [7.7] It is permitted to disable or disconnect the Exhaust Gas Recycling (ERG) valve where fitted but it must not be removed.
- [7.8] It is permitted to disable or disconnect Cold Start equipment (secondary air injection) where fitted but it must not be removed.
- [7.9] The ECU must be the standard part for the make and model of the car. This ECU may be adjusted to achieve optimum engine performance but the fitting of additional or 'piggy back' ECU's is not permitted.

## **8 Transmission:**

- [8.1] Standard gearboxes must be used with original gears and ratios. It is not permitted to substitute gear ratios / final drives from another model.
- [8.2] Sequential gear change kits and non-original straight cut gears are not permitted.
- [8.3] The standard gear change lever and mounting must be retained but the gear change linkage external to the gearbox is free.
- [8.4] Stiffer gearbox mounting bushes may be fitted.
- [8.5] The clutch drive plate may be changed for an up-rated standard pattern part which must be an identical diameter.
- [8.6] The use of limited-slip, locked, locking or torque-biasing differentials are permitted.

## **9 Suspension:**

- [9.1] The original manufacturer's suspension 'system' must be maintained. Components can be exchanged or up rated but they must use the standard mounting points.
- [9.2] Mechanically adjustable shock absorbers are allowed but remote reservoir suspension is not permitted unless fitted as original equipment.
- [9.3] Springs, torsion bars and bump stops are free, but they must fit the standard mounting points. Spring spacers and adjustable height spring pans are permitted.
- [9.4] Anti-roll bars, if fitted as standard, are free.
- [9.5] Harder suspension bush material is permitted but non-elastic bushes, rose joints or similar metallic joints are prohibited unless fitted as standard.
- [9.6] Suspension turret struts / braces are permitted.
- [9.7] Suspension strut top mountings with non-adjustable uniball joints are permitted.

## **10 Wheels:**

- [10.1] Wheels are free so long as the wheel / tyre combination fits in the standard wheel arch and complies with R.48.5.3.
- [10.2] Wheel trims (including air impellers or extractors) must be removed.
- [10.3] All cars must be fitted with mud flaps in accordance with R.48.1.12.
- [10.4] Wheel bolts may be replaced with studs and nuts of the same size and vice versa.

## **11 Tyres:**

[11.1] All BTRDA Rally First cars must use MRF branded tyres, but the tread pattern and profile are free. Contact MRF Motorsport Tyres at [www.serviceandsport.com](http://www.serviceandsport.com) for details of tyre discounts.

[11.2] Tyres must comply with Motorsport UK Yearbook regulations and be legal for use on the public highway. Hand cutting or any other modification or the use of chemicals to alter the properties of the tyre is not permitted.

## **12 Brakes:**

[12.1] Brake pad and shoe lining materials are free but must be the same dimensions as the original linings.

[12.2] Brake hoses must be standard, standard pattern or of a higher specification.

[12.3] ABS if fitted may be disabled and / or removed.

[12.4] It is permitted to fit proprietary brake proportioning valves. If proprietary valves are fitted, it is then permitted to remove the standard brake proportioning valve.

[12.5] It is permitted to modify the handbrake lever in order to alter the length or angle of the lever and also to provide a 'fly-off' mechanism. A mechanical means of positively 'locking on' the handbrake must be retained which complies with 'UK Construction and Use Regulations'. A hydraulic or electronic handbrake is not permitted unless fitted as standard.

## **13 Electrics:**

[13.1] Battery type and size is free. Location must be standard but additional securing straps may be fitted.

## **14 Fuel:**

[14.1] The vehicle must use fuel that conforms to the Motorsport UK definition of Pump Fuel. (Motorsport UK Yearbook - Terminology) Additives are NOT permitted unless specified in the Motorsport UK definition of Pump Fuel. No other fuels are permitted.

## **COMPLIANCE**

*BTRDA* Rally Series officials, championship eligibility scrutineers or event scrutineers can check compliance with these regulations by any means at any time. Any associated costs arising from compliance checks will be the responsibility of the competitor.

Competitors are required to make provision for Scrutineers wire seals to be applied. Every engine / gearbox should have available predrilled 1/16" diameter holes in accessible locations to ensure they can be effectively sealed.

(a) Sump ⇒ cross drilled holes through retaining screws, bolts or studs

(b) Head ⇒ cross drilled holes through two adjoining head bolt / studs or rocker / cam cover bolts or studs.

(c) Gearbox ⇒ end plate bolts or screws or any gear access plate bolts or screws.

The Championship Scrutineer may seal or mark components and assemblies for conformity checking. Any seals or marks applied may only be removed with the Scrutineers written permission.

BTRDA reserves the right to refuse any vehicle if it is considered unsuitable and / or to grant appropriate waivers to disabled competitors.

## **APPROVED PARTS AND MODIFICATIONS:**

Requests may be made for the use of other parts or modifications if a standard part is demonstrably unreliable in competition conditions. The new part or modification may only be used on the basis of written permission from the BTRDA Co-ordinator or BTRDA Scrutineer. Permission will not be given if the new part or modification is anticipated to give a performance advantage. Please contact the BTRDA officials before undertaking a modification if you have any doubts.

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