SOUTH AFRICAN
RALLY-RAID
CHAMPIONSHIP

SOUTH AFRICAN RALLY-RAID NEWSLETTER

In Partnership with

#TEAMHILUX RALLY-RAID

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Start your Engines!

The 2026 South African Rally-Raid Championship is set to get off to a stimulating start with the upcoming Century Property Developments and Century Racing Outeniqua 600 that will take place over three days on 8, 9 and 10 May from Louvain Guest Farm in the picturesque Garden Route in the southern Cape.

“Despite the long break between the seasons, there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes at SARR and within the teams with new vehicles, new combinations, the introduction of the new RBR electronic roadbook system and some shuffling of the calendar, which all augurs well for an exhilarating season, offering spectators world class action at each event” said SARR CEO Archie Rutherford.

Archie Rutherford
SA Rally Raid CEO

The Outeniqua event last year saw the return of Rally-Raid racing to the Western Cape after a hiatus of more than a decade and proved a huge success with spectators and competitors who nominated it as the Best Event of the Year.

This year the event enjoys the support of Century Property Developments and Century Racing and has been extended to an endurance race of 600 kilometres over the three days. Competitors can again expect a combination of mountain passes, river crossings, magnificent game farm-style roads and some fast, open challenging sections with the bonus being one and a half points for the victors.

“And with the best competitors and teams in the country visiting the Garden Route area spectators and enthusiasts can expect red-hot racing action against a spectacular backdrop,” concluded Rutherford.

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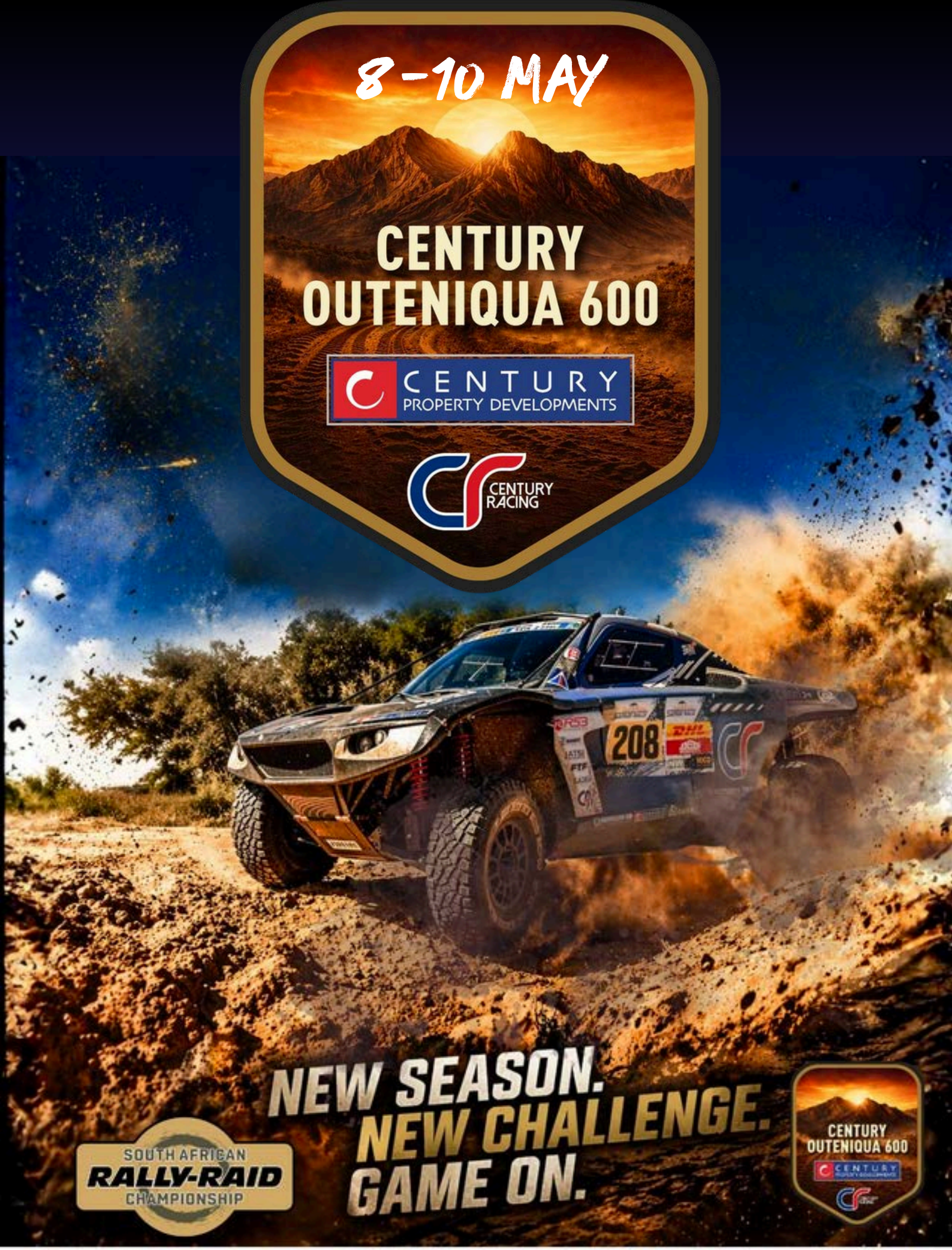

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SOUTH AFRICAN RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP

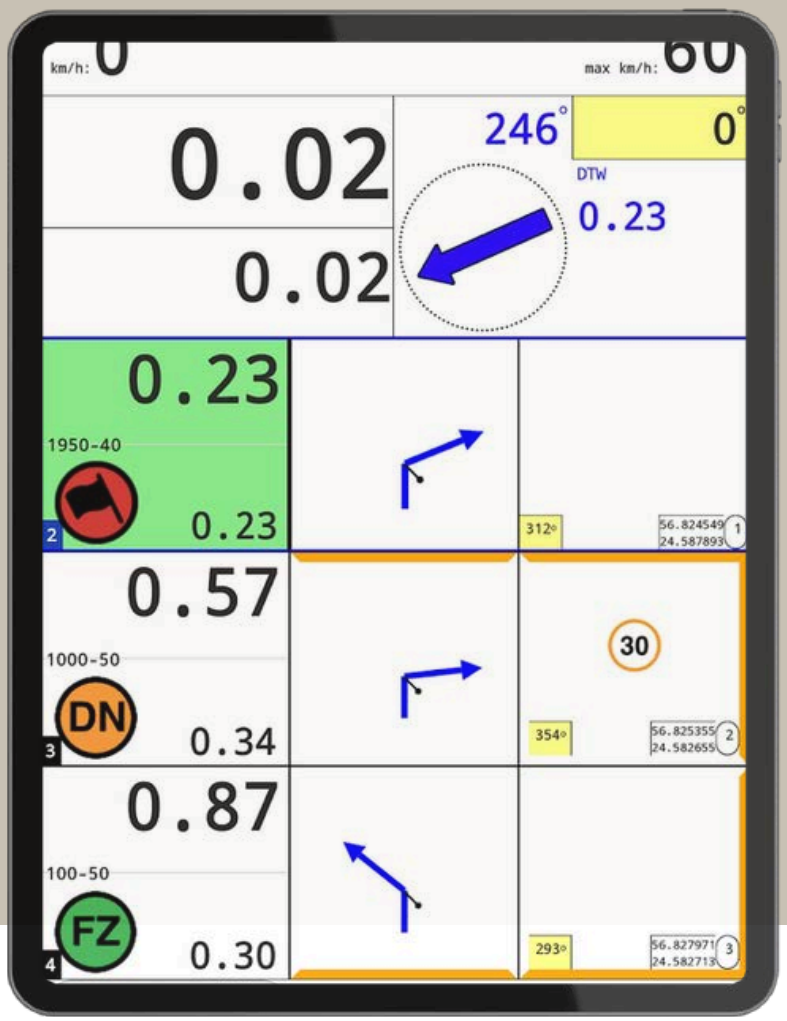
Digital Roadbooks

SA Rally Raid has officially adopted the international trend of Electronic Roadbooks starting from Round One of the 2026 season!

The introduction of the digital roadbook for the 2026 season is a strategic step in the continued evolution of the SA Rally Raid Championship. Rally Raid globally has moved toward digital navigation, and aligning ensures South Africa remains relevant, competitive and internationally connected.

The digital roadbook is an electronic version of the traditional navigation document, displayed on a dedicated Android-based device using the RBR Roadbook Reader system.

Archie Rutherford, CEO of SA Rally Raid, says the move represents a long-term investment in the sport. “The adoption of the RBR Electronic Roadbook is about strengthening the professionalism, safety and global standing of SA Rally Raid. This transition aligns us directly with international best practice and ensures our competitors are equipped with the same tools used on the world stage.”



From a safety perspective, it reduces distraction and improves situational awareness in the cockpit. It also strengthens fairness and competitiveness through the standardised distribution and controlled release of navigation information. At the same time, it future-proofs the championship by adopting the technology direction of modern rally raid, while improving operational efficiency by streamlining organiser workflows and allowing us to adapt more quickly to unforeseen route changes.

Safety is one of the primary benefits of the system. The digital roadbook reduces physical interaction with navigation equipment, minimises distraction at speed and provides clearer, more stable information.

Operationally, the system mirrors procedures used at Dakar and other international rally raid events – offering local competitors the major advantage of getting exposure to the same tools, systems and expectations found at the highest level of the sport.

The change is designed to make race day simpler, safer and more consistent. With the support and training provided, most competitors will adapt very quickly. The long-term benefits to the sport and its competitors are significant.

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VIP Experience

SOUTH AFRICAN RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP

This PRIME facility for the exclusive comfort of invited guests affords existing and potential clients the opportunity to entertain business associates, clients, business influencers and friends, in a restricted high-end relaxed atmosphere serving gourmet breakfasts, lunches, appetising snacks and an all-day bar featuring water, soft drinks and a selection of alcoholic beverages.

Guests have unrestricted access to the pit area or may choose to join guided tours with SARR personnel of the pits to meet and greet drivers and navigators . Guests can also follow the race-action on large screen monitors from selected vehicles provided by iCam, our onboard in-car camera partner, from the comfort of the exclusive suite.

For the more fervent guest we also offer dedicated spectating areas along the route where guests can get close to the action and enveloped in the dust from the hard chasing competitors.

To round off this memorable experience the leading teams will participate in a question-and-answer session, interact and share their highs and lows from the days' arduous task.

For more information and to share in this exclusive experience please contact:

Lori Zavattoni
083 229 7873
lori@sarallyraid.co.za

We look forward to welcoming you and your esteemed guests to a Rally Raid Experience in the not-too-distant future.

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A PRESTIGIOUS *Accolade*

SOUTH AFRICAN RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP

MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA

The SA Safari Rally under the leadership of SA Rally-Raid is extremely proud to have earned a 2-star FIA Environmental endorsement within the stringent FIA Environmental Framework, which recognises environmental awareness, empathy and procedures known as “Good Practice”.

Good environmental practice is critically important and essential for long-term sustainability not only in motorsport but in all spheres of business, community and personal surroundings worldwide. Environmental values are ethical principles guiding human interaction with nature, focusing on sustainability, management and respect for ecosystems.

The Certificate is based on a wide footprint of environmental sensitive activities and include but are not limited to, interacting responsibly with the natural environment when finding routes, setting up service parks and refuel zones, waste management and disposal including fluids, water management and disposal, use of ecologically friendly detergents, personal hygiene and ablutions, management of service providers, observing carbon neutrality with the ultimate goal being net-zero emissions. These values shape environmental attitudes and future decision-making, influencing choices to protect the environment.

This recognition is crucial to our ongoing negotiations with the FIA, FIM, ASO and MSA to host a round of the World Rally Raid Championship (W2RC) in South Africa in 2027 and beyond.

FIA Environmental Accreditation

CATEGORIES & *Classes*

SOUTH AFRICAN RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP

The SA Rally-Raid Championship (SARRC) is based on four categories Ultimate, Adventurer, Challenger and SSV, which align, but in certain instances do not conform one hundred percent with the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship (W2RC) Regulations.

The Ultimate category is the top-tier, premier class of the championship. These are high-performance vehicles designed to full FIA specifications, typically featuring larger wheels, increased suspension travel, and superior power delivery.

To accommodate the Ultimate vehicles in SA, the SARRC category is split into two classes, Ultimate FIA T1+ and Ultimate SA T1+, easily identified by the race number prefix 2 and 3, with the primary difference being the engine management system based on Balance of Performance and governed by engine capacity, weight and airflow restrictors or turbo-charged wastegate boost pressure.

While both systems perform the same function of performance control the Ultimate FIA T1+ vehicles are equipped with the FIA- specified Marelli boost loggers to meet the FIA performance control rules requiring the engine calibration and certification process to be performed by the FIA appointed service provider in France.

The Ultimate SA T1+ vehicles are subject to the same performance control rules based on Balance of Performance and governed by engine capacity, weight and airflow restrictors and monitored by the SA Technical consultant and the SA service provider.

Althoughthese vehicles, by and large, resemble the renowned brands available in South Africa they are re-engineered and constructed according to strict and highly controlled technical specifications to suite the complexity of the race routes.

Adventurer Category
This is a unique category and class to the SARRC and considered the secondary, more accessible class, often referred to as T1, a predecessor to the Ultimate FIA T1+ and SA T1+ vehicles.

The category caters for vehicles with different technical specifications i.e. smaller wheels, narrower track, shorter suspension travel, etc. to the top-tier Ultimate classes, and designed to be more cost effective, to keep existing competitors in the sport and provide a stepping stone for developing competitors into the sport and ultimately into the premier classes.
While extremely competitive, they generally trail the top-tier Ultimate T1+ vehicles in speed and performance but still deliver a competitive environment and an entertaining show for spectators. Their race number prefix 4.

Challenger Category
The category consists of two classes, Classic and Lightweight Prototype Vehicles

The Classic class vehicles are the older vehicles, ie. Production class T and D and Specials classes A and P.

The Challenger class is a car built to FIA art 286 Light Weight Prototype regulations, and feature in the Dakar Rally and the W2RC championship. A purpose built competition Side by Side, characterised by nimble manoeuvrability, advanced technology and speed and regarded as an entry level class in the W2RC

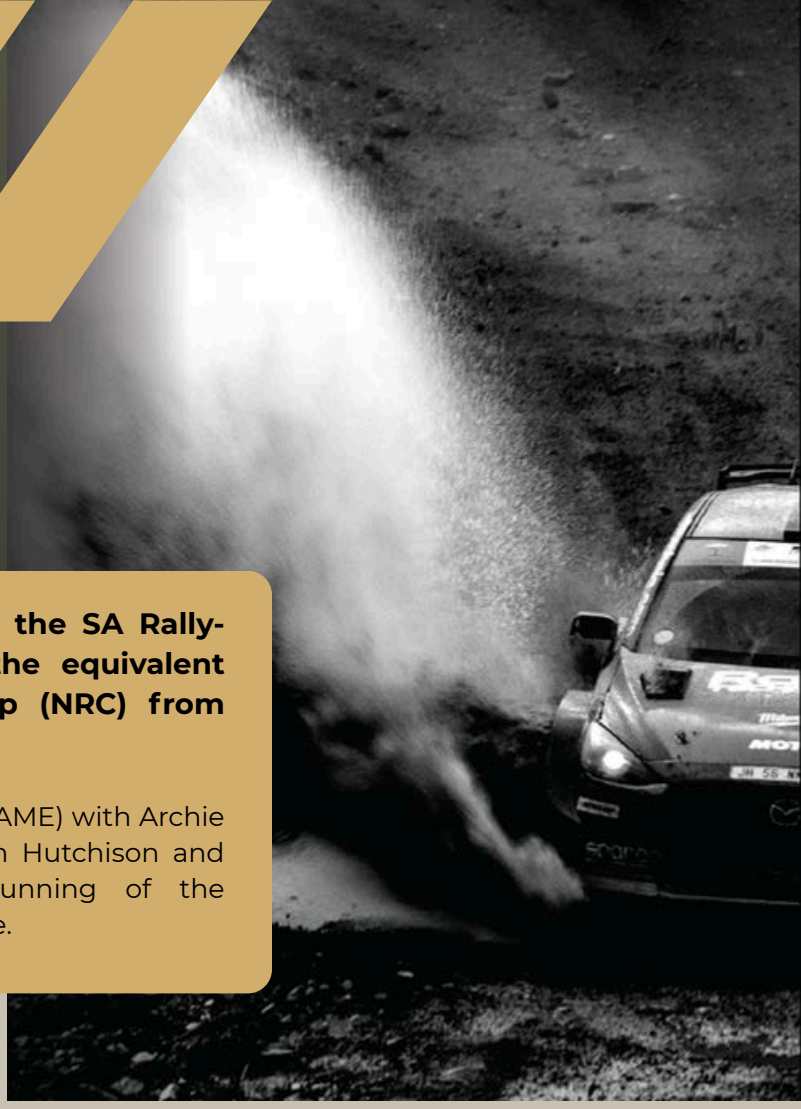
SSV Category
The category runs to SA Regulations founded on the FIA regulations for mass produced recreational vehicles such as the imported Can-Am production models but adapted to suite local conditions.

Although strong contenders in various FIA international events the Challenger and SSV classes for lightweight prototype vehicles has yet to capture the imagination of the South African motorsport fraternity. All vehicles competing in the SARRC are subject to the National Road Traffic Act including being licensed and road worthy and obeying the rule of the road.

Top speed racing speed limits are set at 170km/h for Ultimate and Adventurer and 135km/h and 125km/h for Challenger and SSV respectively. Outside of racing sections, the prescribed rule of the road applies.

NRC

NATIONAL RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP



SA Rally-Raid the promoters and organisers of the SA Rally-Raid Championship (SARRC), have acquired the equivalent rights to the SA National Rally Championship (NRC) from Motorsport SA.

The NRC will be managed by Africa Motorsport Events (AME) with Archie Rutherford as CEO assisted by the two directors, Evan Hutchison and Sandra Labuscagne-Jonck, with the day-to-day running of the championship managed by the NRC working committee.

The National Rally Championship is the longest-running consecutive championship in South African motorsport, established in the 1960's and regarded as the staple of local motorsport, has hosted many prestigious events including numerous rounds of the FIA Africa Rally Championship (ARC) over the years.

The sport is also defined by a few noteworthy icons who dominated for decades with the most successful driver the legendary Sarel van der Merwe amassing 11 titles driving for Volkswagen, Audi and Ford, Serge Damseaux claimed ten tiles driving various Toyota models while Hannes Grobler driving for Nissan and the Volkswagen driver Jannie Habig each earned six titles.

Although both championships, SARRC and NRC, are classified as dirt based national championships the two disciplines are vastly different.

Rallies are contested over one or two days and a series of short stages on dirt, gravel or tar roads closed to the public, focusing on speed and precision over known routes in modified lightweight vehicles, resembling everyday road going cars available to the public off the showroom floor.

The crew consists of a driver and navigator guided by a roadbook and safety/route notes captured during the reconnaissance or in certain instances provided by the event organisers, accurately and with extreme detail describing the features of the road ahead.

On event servicing is allowed from pre identified service parks or remote service zones and are implemented between stages.

SARR's vision is to grow the NRC, increase income/sponsorship and expand the competitor base while enhancing buying power with suppliers and service providers, capitalising on like-minded audiences and cross-pollinating exposure opportunities drawing on the knowledge and experience of the SARR team, established over many years.

MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA

SARRC Sponsors

It is with enormous pride and gratitude that we welcome our championship partners, #TeamHilux Rally-Raid, Ford Motor Company, iCam, PS Laser and long-standing partner Toyota Gazoo Racing, who also partnered with us for the inaugural SA Safari Rally, back on board for what promises to be another exhilarating season of Rally-Raid racing.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new partner Global Elite Executive Protection who will provide the guarding services at all events ensuring peace of mind at all times, likewise to our loyal Event sponsors, Ingco, KEC Renault and Northam Zondereinde your support is highly valued and plays an important role of involving the local community.

Since the inception of the commercialization of SARR in 2002 we have enjoyed annual support from numerous blue-chip companies who have shared our vision of embracing evolving technology, growing our sport and creating a stable business platform. This vision and stability also extends to competitors and their individual and team sponsors to enjoy the benefits of our highly acclaimed championship.

Our positive media profile across all platforms is evidence of our success.

Without your support, direction and inspiration our sport would not be a motorsport leader. Thank You!

Ranger Raptor

The management of SARRC are delighted to announce the continued commitment of Ford South Africa to the Ford Raptor Ranger initiative.

This pledge plays a pivotal role in event planning and execution, as these legendary Ford Ranger Raptors are used extensively by the route director and his team when plotting the route, compiling roadbooks, route marking before the pre-run team check the route ahead of the event. These high-performance off-road pickup's cover thousands of kilometres prior to each event and allows the pre-run team to achieve more realistic recce speeds and more accuracy when identifying caution areas for competitors.

IG REEL - FORD RECCE

The safety of competitors, spectators, landowners and officials is our primary concern, and it's essential to have a route reconnaissance vehicle that is up to the challenges and assists us as organisers to identify potential caution areas for the high speeds that competitors reach, therefore contributing to the safety of events.

Ford SA will also use the opportunity, at selected events, to engage with guests, clients and media on a pre-selected section of the route exposing them to the navigation aspect of the sport and the tough terrain encountered by competitors - providing a unique once-in-a-lifetime experience encouraging more genuine and enthusiastic ambassadors for the Ford Ranger Raptor and the SARRC.

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UNSUNG Heroes

The Off Road Marshal Unit (ORMU) and their dedicated race marshals are the unsung heroes of our sport volunteering their time and expertise to make our sport possible.

Motorsport marshals are trained and Motorsport South Africa (MSA) licensed volunteers responsible for the safety of competitors, officials, and spectators and considered the "beating heart" of motorsport, providing immediate response to incidents, maintaining safety, controlling enthusiastic onlookers and enabling events to run efficiently. They are the 'eyes and ears' of race control.

Marshalling is a family orientated activity often involving husband and wife combinations and their offsprings with a passion for motorsport and the outdoors as they spend long hours exposed to the often arduous weather conditions.

Pending the route layout of events ORMU deploy between 30 – 35 marshals per event, with this number increasing significantly on a marathon event. On SARRC events marshal teams are primarily made up of two persons per point and report to the Chief Marshal, his or her assistant post chiefs and ultimately the Clerk of the Course.

Prior to events the Chief Marshal in conjunction with the Clerk of the Course and the Route Director prepare a concise marshal deployment plan detailing each marshal point covering the entire event and specifying the exact location and the required duties.

Our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you!

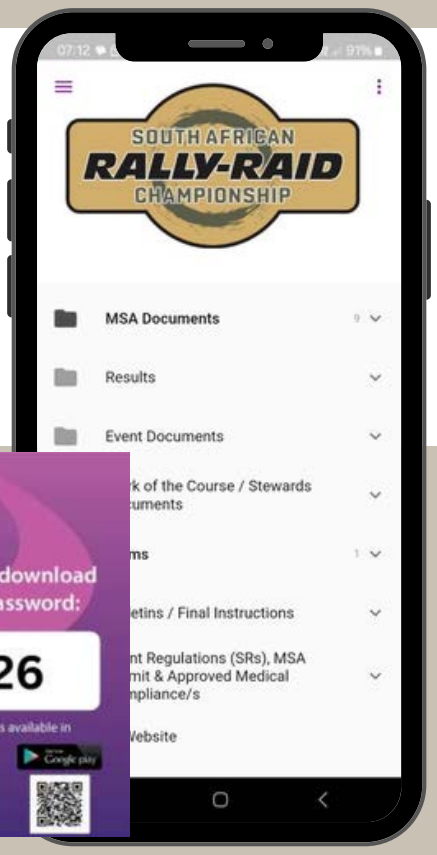
SARR Communication

Information sharing in today's fast paced world is vital and should be instantaneous, global, and highly digital.
To meet this very powerful demand we have reengineered our communications platforms and spent many hours engaging with reputable service providers who can embody the high profile nature of our audience.

Our new Website will provide relevant, useful, and engaging content to its audiences. It will also be the 'go to tool' for all competitors wishing to enter events, find the latest version of event rules and regulations, championship standings, results, seeding lists, detailed event information and more.

While enthusiasts have the opportunity to explore detailed information via competitor profiles, event information including route maps, time tables, on event activities, venue details and the likes.

Sportity App Digital Hub for SARRC Events



The South African Rally Raid Championship is pleased to introduce the Sportity app as the official platform for event communication and documentation. Competitors, teams, and officials will now have streamlined access to all essential information, including event documentation, bulletins, and live results updates — all in one convenient location.

Getting started is quick and user-friendly: simply download the app by scanning the provided QR code, then enter the relevant event access code to unlock the information portal.
This marks a significant step forward in enhancing communication efficiency and accessibility across the championship — ensuring that all critical updates are readily available at your fingertips, in real time.

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