STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 145

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

The Road Races (Down Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - -	*9th July 2026*
Coming into operation	*21st August 2026*

The Department for Infrastructure(**a**), in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 3 of the Road Races (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(**b**) and now vested in it(**c**), and after consulting the Chief Constable, orders and declares as follows.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Road Races (Down Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 and shall come into operation on 21st August 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

"the course" means the roads specified in the Schedules;

"marshal" means a person of at least 18 years of age authorised in writing by the promoter to assist in connection with the proper conduct of the race; and

"the promoter" means the Rathfriland Motor Club Ltd.

Application

3. Subject to compliance with all the requirements of this Order, the course may be used by the promoter for motor races between the times and on the days specified in Schedules 1 to 3.

Suspension of right of way and notice

4. On the day specified in Schedules 1 to 3 from and until the times specified therein or until the time the race is announced by the promoter as completed, whichever is earlier, the right of way on the course of all persons, vehicles and other forms of traffic shall be suspended other than to—

(a) persons appointed by the promoter as officials or marshals, constables, vehicles engaged in the race, persons in charge of or directly employed in connection with such vehicles and vehicles used by such officials, marshals, or constables;

(b) vehicles used to cross the course in an emergency by a medical practitioner or for fire and rescue, ambulance or police purposes; and

(**a**) Formerly the Department for Regional Development; see section 1(6) and (11) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (2016 c. 5 (N.I.))
(**b**) S.I. 1986/1887 (N.I. 17)
(**c**) S.R. 1999 No. 481 Article 6(d) and Schedule 4 Part IV

(c) persons with or without vehicles who reside in the race area crossing the course or proceeding on it for that purpose and persons so proceeding or crossing the course with or without vehicles in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;

provided that such persons and vehicles referred to in (b) and (c) shall cross the course only at such times and places as may be specified by a person appointed by the promoter as the clerk of the course.

5. The promoter shall give notice to the inhabitants of the districts adjoining the course of the temporary suspension of the right of way thereon by such additional public notice of an Order made under this Article as the Department considers appropriate to bring the effect of the Order to the attention of the public.

Prohibition of traffic

6. It shall not be lawful to cause or permit traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian, to use or remain on that part of any road between the barricades and its junction with the course during the periods when the right of way on the course is suspended.

Cordoning off of the course

7. The promoter shall—

(a) close every road opening off the course by means of a proper and sufficient barricade or barricades placed at least 10 metres from the course;

(b) place notice boards on every road at or in the vicinity of the barricades stating that the right of way on the course is temporarily suspended;

(c) ensure that the barricades and notice boards referred to in this Article are—

(i) in position at least one hour before the start of the race; and

(ii) removed within one hour after the end of the race; and

(d) take all steps necessary to prohibit spectators and other persons, other than the promoter's officials, marshals and constables, from using the carriageway or sides of the course during the progress of the race.

8. The promoter shall not open the course to traffic until the last competitor has finished.

Traffic Management Plan

9. The promoter shall—

(a) agree a traffic management plan with the Department and the Chief Constable, and provide and place signs to enable persons to avoid the course; and

(b) ensure that the signs referred to in this Article are—

(i) placed in position at least 48 hours before the start of the race; and

(ii) removed within 24 hours after the end of the race.

Provision of marshals

10. The promoter shall—

(a) provide a sufficient number of marshals for the proper conduct of the race;

(b) place marshals at the junction of each road, laneway and accommodation road adjoining the course and also at such intervals of about 45 metres alternatively on each side of the course; and

(c) provide each marshal with at least an armlet of distinguishing colour, which shall be worn, by the marshal during the period when the right of way on the course is suspended.

Documents to be produced to the Department

11. Not less than 14 days before the date of the race the promoter shall lodge with the Department a copy of the particulars of the promoter's proposed arrangements for the conduct of the race and shall make such further arrangements as the Chief Constable may consider desirable in the interests of public safety.

Insurance and indemnities

12.—(1) The promoter shall have secured insurances and indemnities as follows—

(a) the promoter is indemnified by a policy of insurance effected with an approved Insurance Company or Lloyd's Underwriters for the sum as specified in paragraph (2)(a), which the promoter, the promoter's officials, marshals, agents or servants, any competitor in the race, the Crown or any servants of the Crown or any constable may become legally liable to pay for compensation and litigation expenses in respect of the death of, or bodily injury to, any person, or the loss of, or damage to, lands or property adjoining the course caused by or arising out of the race, provided that such a policy of insurance may exclude any claim made by one competitor against another arising out of accidents occurring during the race; and

(b) the promoter shall have so effected as in sub-paragraph (a) a personal accident policy of insurance for such benefits as are specified in paragraph (2)(b) in respect of the death of, or bodily injury to, the promoter's officials, marshals, agents or servants, the servants of the Crown, constables and members of voluntary medical services solely in connection with or arising out of the holding of the race.

(2) The specified sums are—

(a) liability of the promoter, the promoter's officials, marshals, agents or servants, the Crown or any servants of the Crown or any constable or any competitor in the race, £100,000,000 for any one accident or series of accidents arising out of one occurrence, but unlimited in amount as to the total sum payable; and

(b) in respect of death of, or bodily injury to, any of those persons mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) the following benefits—

(i) death, £75,000;

(ii) total loss by physical severance of two limbs or total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in both eyes or total loss by physical severance of one limb together with the total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in one eye, £75,000;

(iii) total loss by physical severance of one limb or total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in one eye, £75,000;

(iv) permanent total disablement, £75,000;

(v) temporary total disablement, up to £600 per week or 100% of the weekly wage (whichever is lesser), during the disablement, limited to 104 weeks from the date on which disability occurs.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Infrastructure on 9th July 2026

(L.S.)

R Balfour
A senior officer of the Department for Infrastructure

SCHEDULE 1

Articles 2, 3 and 4

SPECIAL STAGES 1, 4 & 7 – THORNHILL – ROADS IN COUNTY DOWN – Saturday 22nd August 2026 – from 08:00 to 18:00

1. Hillhead Road, Unclassified No. 4187, from its junction with Kilkinamurry Road, Route C307, to its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181.
2. Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, from its junction with Hillhead Road, Unclassified No. 4187, to its junction with Balloolymore Road, Unclassified No. 4184.
3. Balloolymore Road, Unclassified No. 4184, from its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, to its junction with Mayns Lane, Unclassified No. 4183.
4. Mayns Lane, Unclassified No. 4183, from its junction with Balloolymore Road, Unclassified No. 4184, to its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181.
5. Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, from its junction with Mayns Lane, Unclassified No. 4183, to its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4182.
6. Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4182, from its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, to its junction with Corbally Old Road, Unclassified No. 4186.
7. Corbally Old Road, Unclassified No. 4186, from its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4182, to its junction with Lough Road, Route C322.
8. Lough Road, Route C322, from its junction with Corbally Old Road, Unclassified No. 4186, to its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181.
9. Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, from its junction with Lough Road, Route C322, to its junction with Fedany Road, Unclassified No. 4161.
10. Fedany Road, Unclassified No. 4161, from its junction with Shanrod Road, Unclassified No. 4181, to its junction with Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311.
11. Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311, from its junction with Fedany Road, Unclassified No. 4161, to its junction with Shot Lane, Unclassified No. 4159.
12. Shot Lane, Unclassified No. 4159, from its junction with Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311, to its junction with Fedney Hill Road, Unclassified No. 4158.
13. Fedney Hill Road, Unclassified No. 4158, from its junction with Shot Lane, Unclassified No. 4159, to its junction with Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311.
14. Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311, from its junction with Fedney Hill Road, Unclassified No. 4158, to its junction with Thornhill Road, Unclassified No. 4157.
15. Thornhill Road, Unclassified No. 4157, from its junction with Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311, to its junction with Garvaghy Road, Unclassified No. 4156.
16. Garvaghy Road, Unclassified No. 4156, from its junction with Thornhill Road, Unclassified No. 4157, to its junction with Garvaghy Church Road, Route C311.

SCHEDULE 2

Articles 2, 3 and 4

SPECIAL STAGES 2 & 5 – HAMILTONS FOLLY – ROADS IN COUNTY DOWN – Saturday 22nd August 2026 – from 08:30 to 16:00

1. Ballywillwill Road, Unclassified No. 153, from its junction with Drumnaquoile Road, Route C376, to its junction with Slievenisky, Unclassified No. 152.
2. Slievenisky Road, Unclassified No. 152, from its junction with Ballywillwill Road, Unclassified No. 153, to its junction with Clonvaraghan Road, Route C308.
3. Clonvaraghan Road, Route C308, from its junction with Slievenisky Road, Unclassified No. 152, to its junction with Slievehanny Road, Unclassified No. 151.
4. Slievehanny Road, Unclassified No. 151, from its junction with Clonvaraghan Road, Route C308, to its junction with Wood Road, Route C324.

5. Wood Road, Route C324, from its junction with Slievehanny Road, Unclassified No. 151, to its junction with Clarkhill Road, Route C324.
6. Clarkhill Road, Route C324, from its junction with Wood Road, Route C324, to its junction with Ballymaginaghy Road, Unclassified No. 4354.
7. Ballymaginaghy Road, Unclassified No. 4354, from its junction with Clarkhill Road, Route C324, to its junction with Owen's Road, Unclassified No. 4355.
8. Owen's Road, Unclassified No. 4355, from its junction with Ballymaginaghy Road, Unclassified No. 4354, to its junction with Bannanstown Road, Unclassified No. 4356.
9. Bannanstown Road, Unclassified No. 4356, from its junction with Owen's Road, Unclassified No. 4355, to its junction with Leitrim Road, Route C323.
10. Leitrim Road, Route C323, from its junction with Bannanstown Road, Unclassified No. 4356, to its junction with McCartans Road, Unclassified No. 4325.
11. McCartans Road, Unclassified No. 4325, from its junction with Leitrim Road, Route C323, to its junction with Magheramayo Road, Unclassified No. 4324.

SCHEDULE 3

Articles 2, 3 and 4

SPECIAL STAGES 3, 6 & 8 – TORY BRAE – ROADS IN COUNTY DOWN – Saturday 22nd August 2026 – from 08:45 to 18:30

1. Lairds Road, Unclassified No. 4258, from its junction with Katesbridge Road, Route A50, to its junction with Manse Road, Unclassified No. 4255.
2. Manse Road, Unclassified No. 4255, from its junction with Lairds Road, Unclassified No. 4258, to its junction with Lakeview Road, Unclassified No. 4256.
3. Lakeview Road, Unclassified No. 4256, from its junction with Manse Road, Unclassified No. 4255, to its junction with Drumgooland Road, Unclassified No. 4199 and Drumgooland Road, Route C322.
4. Drumgooland Road, Unclassified No. 4199, from its junction with Lakeview Road, Unclassified No. 4256, to its junction with Ringsend Road, Unclassified No. 4198.
5. Ringsend Road, Unclassified No. 4198, from its junction with Drumgooland Road, Unclassified No. 4199, to its junction with Dechomet Road, Unclassified No. 4197.
6. Dechomet Road, Unclassified No. 4197, from its junction with Ringsend Road, Unclassified No. 4198, to its junction with Gransha Road South, Unclassified No. 4196.
7. Gransha Road South, Unclassified No. 4196, from its junction with Dechomet Road, Unclassified No. 4197, to its junction with Gransha Road, Unclassified No. 4195.
8. Gransha Road, Unclassified No. 4195, from its junction with Gransha Road South, Unclassified No. 4196, to its junction with Grove Road, Route C308.
9. Grove Road, Route C308, from its junction with Gransha Road, Unclassified No. 4195, to its junction with Tory Brae, Unclassified No. 4127.
10. Tory Brae, Unclassified No. 4127, from its junction with Grove Road, Route C308, to its junction with Aughnaskeagh Road, Unclassified No. 4126.
11. Aughnaskeagh Road, Unclassified No. 4126, from its junction with Tory Brae, Unclassified No. 4127, to its junction with Moybrick Road, Unclassified No. 4124.
12. Moybrick Road, Unclassified No. 4124, from its junction with Aughnaskeagh Road, Unclassified No. 4126, to its junction with Ardtanagh Road, Unclassified No. 4123.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order permits the Rathfriland Motor Club Ltd, as promoter of the Down Rally 2026, to use for that event certain roads by suspending the right of way of other traffic on the day and during the times specified in the schedules.

In effect, this Order temporarily closes these roads.

This Order requires the promoter to give public notice of the promoter's intended use of these roads by bringing the effect of this Order to the attention of the public as specified in Article 5. The promoter must also provide marshals, seal off the road and arrange insurance to cover death, bodily injury or loss or damage to property resulting from the event.

It is an offence for any person—

(a) to obstruct or interfere wilfully and unlawfully with the conduct of the event;

(b) to obstruct any constable acting in the course of that constable's duty or any marshal or any other person exercising any function conferred on that person;

(c) to enter or remain without authority on any road closed for the event;

(d) to keep any animal or any vehicle without lawful authority on any specified road; or

(e) to contravene wilfully any provision of a road closing Order or any traffic direction given by the police for the purposes of the event.