

Guidelines for Safe Driving at RUSU Club Events

Purpose

This document outlines key expectations, responsibilities, and safety requirements for all drivers and passengers involved in designated driving at Club events. Its purpose is to minimise risk, support legal compliance, and promote a safe environment for all participants.ⁱ

1. Compliance with Road Rules

All drivers must always comply with Victorian road laws in addition to any requirements outlined in this document when driving at a RUSU Club event.

Drivers should be aware that driving conditions and road rules in Victoria, Australia may differ from those in their home country or state. Drivers who are unfamiliar with local driving laws or practices must ensure they familiarise themselves with Victorian road rules before driving and are confident enough in their skills and knowledge to take on the role of a designated driver.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Ensure that [Speed Limits](#) are followed at all times, and that you correctly interpret and obey all [Road Signs](#), [Road Markings](#) and [Traffic Lights](#).
- How to safely and legally interact with [Trams](#), [Buses](#), [Cyclists/Bikes/Trucks](#) and [Pedestrians](#).
- Understanding the rules that apply on [Freeways](#) and around [Roadworks](#).
- Familiarising yourself with handling [Intersections/Giving Way](#), [Merging](#), [U Turns](#) and [Hook Turns](#).
- Avoiding distraction and [complying with rules](#) around use of electronic devices / phones while driving.
- Ensuring that the driver and all passengers are wearing seat belts at all times.

Drivers are strongly encouraged to review this page on [Safe Driving Tips](#) and all linked resources above prior to participating in the event to ensure they can drive safely, confidently, and in accordance with Victorian law.

Drivers are personally responsible for any fines, penalties, or legal consequences resulting from breaches of road rules.

2. Licence Requirements

Drivers must:

- Hold a valid driver's licence appropriate for the vehicle being driven
- Comply with all [conditions of their licence class](#) in addition to the requirements in this document

Important reminders:

- **Learner (L) drivers** are not allowed to drive at Club events.
- **Probationary (P1/P2) drivers** must follow all restrictions, including:
 - Always display the applicable P plates for your licence type
 - Passenger limits for P1 drivers
 - Zero blood alcohol requirement (note: there is zero alcohol tolerance for all drivers at Club events, no matter the license type)
 - Mobile phone restrictions (no mobile phone use for all drivers at Club events, no matter the license)
- International licence holders must ensure their licence is valid for use in Victoria
- License must be carried at all times whilst driving, if supporting documentation is required by law then it must also be carried.

3. Vehicle Requirements

All vehicles used for Club events must be:

- Registered
- Roadworthy and well-maintained
- Covered by valid insurance. Third party insurance is the absolute minimum insurance requirement for vehicles used for Club activities. The vehicle owner must ensure (ahead of travel dates) that any additional drivers would be covered by the insurance policy for the vehicle. **Note that RMIT's insurance does not cover vehicles for Club events. This is the responsibility of the vehicle owner.**

Drivers must ensure:

- Tyres are in good condition
- All lights and indicators are functioning
- Adequate fuel for the journey
- No known issues with the vehicle that may impact safety or reasonable performance

The Club may decline the use of any vehicle deemed unsafe.

4. Driver Behaviour and Responsibilities

Drivers must:

- Not consume alcohol, drugs or [any medication](#) that may impair driving ability before or while driving
- Not use mobile phones or other devices while driving
- Remain focused and not engage in distracting activities

Passengers must:

- Not consume alcohol in the vehicle
- Not distract the driver
- Follow all safety instructions
- Follow all reasonable direction / requests from the driver (e.g. limiting distraction, providing directions etc.)

5. Risk Assessment Requirements

All Club-organised travel must consider risk. Additional approval may be required for higher-risk travel.

Higher-risk scenarios may include:

- Long-distance driving (this depends on driving route, conditions and drivers experience. A general rule of over 3 hours would be considered longer distance)
- Driving late at night or early morning (in the dark or low light level)
- Rural or remote areas (should be avoided at night / low light)
- Roads with poor/challenging driving conditions (e.g. Great Ocean Road, Alpine areas)
- Adverse weather (rain, fog, storms, snow etc.)
- Areas known for wildlife (e.g. kangaroos at dusk/dawn)

Trips involving high-risk conditions may require:

- Additional drivers
- Modified travel plans (e.g. daytime travel only)
- Additional planned stops/breaks

If risks cannot be adequately managed, the trip may be declined or modified. RUSU may require the Club to submit a detailed driving and risk plan to RMIT University, separate from other required risk assessment, if we deem necessary.

6. Fatigue Management

Be aware of the warning signs of tired driving. These may include:

- Mind wandering to other things or losing focus
- Slow or heavy eyes, or blurry vision
- Constant yawning or head nodding
- Trouble remembering the last few kilometres of driving, or daydreaming
- Drifting in the lane or having slow reactions at traffic lights and intersections
- Trouble maintaining a constant speed while driving.

To reduce fatigue-related risk we recommend:

- Maximum driving time per driver: **2 hours without a break**
- Minimum break: **15 minutes.**
- Don't drive when tired, especially when other risk factors are involved as outlined in section 5 of this document.
- Limiting the distance travelled /driving time for each individual driver.
- Ensure adequate sleep before driving
- Share driving between multiple drivers where possible
- Stay hydrated and take regular rest stops
- Plan your route and itinerary well to ensure adequate breaks and optimal driving conditions.

For more information see [this page](#).

7. Incident Procedures

In the event of an accident:

Immediate actions:

1. Safely stop your car
2. Check on the safety of yourself and all occupants. If someone is injured or in danger call emergency services (000), if 000 has been called follow all directions from emergency services
3. If able, turn on hazard lights and if the car is operable and it is safe to do so move the vehicle out of traffic
4. Turn off your ignition but keep your hazard lights on

Follow-up actions:

- Exchange details with other parties involved if applicable

- Document the incident (photos, notes)
- Notify Club organisers as soon as possible
- Club must notify their Clubs Officer when reasonably able. RUSU will assist you to complete the required RUSU and RMIT Incident report.

For more information see [here](#).

In the event of a breakdown or other car trouble:

Immediate actions:

1. If able and safe to do so, turn on hazard light and move the vehicle to a safe location
 - a. If driving on freeways, motorways and highways, move as far to the left of the road as possible to leave the road clear for other motorists.
 - b. If driving on country or regional roads, it's crucial to avoid stopping your car directly after a bend, where high speed limits, poor visibility and narrow road shoulders can create a dangerous environment.
2. Once you've parked your vehicle, switch off your ignition but keep your hazard lights on
 - a. If your car is a safe distance from traffic, stay inside the vehicle and keep your seatbelt buckled while waiting for help.
 - b. If your car is in a dangerous position close to traffic, exit through the passenger door to keep the car between yourself and moving traffic. Stand as far from the road as possible. Ensure all passengers exit the car safely and keep a safe distance from traffic.
3. Contact a roadside assistance service such as:
 - a. RACV: 13 11 11
 - b. AAMI Roadside Assist: 1800 154 810
 - c. Allianz Roadside Assistance: 1800 010 536

Follow-up actions:

- Document the incident (photos, notes)
- Notify Club organisers as soon as possible

8. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in:

- Suspension or ban from driving at Club events
 - Restriction or ban from attending certain events
 - Removal from the Club
 - Restrictions or bans on the ability of the Club to undertake similar events in future
 - Escalation to RMIT University for misconduct
 - Referral to relevant authorities where laws are breached
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9. Acknowledgement

All drivers participating in Club activities are expected to read, understand, and comply with this document and all applicable laws and regulations.

All Club leaders responsible for organising and overseeing the delivery of events involving driving are expected to read, understand, and support compliance with this document and all applicable laws and regulations.

ⁱ This document provides general guidance to RUSU Club leaders and designated drivers involved with RUSU Club events. It does not constitute legal advice. The information was current at the time of publishing and links have been provided to support people to access the most current advice/ information available.