

NIERDC / SIERDC Driver Status Setting & Review Process	
Purpose	To provide a transparent process for NIERDC / SIERDC Club Officials and Members on how Elite / Amateur driver status is set for new drivers and reviewed for existing drivers.
Clubs Objectives	One of the key objects of the Clubs is to encourage, promote and organise endurance racing in New Zealand. For endurance racing to be sustainable in the New Zealand environment, the clubs are committed to maintaining a blend of Elite and Amateur drivers. To maintain balance around this, Elite / Elite driving combinations are specifically prohibited.
Definitions	<p>Clubs - means the Racing Drivers Clubs, being The North Island Endurance Racing Drivers Club Inc. (NIERDC) and The South Island Endurance Racing Drivers Club Inc. (SIERDC).</p> <p>Review Panel - the review panel that will be used to determine driver status and will comprise of 2 committee members from each of the respective clubs as well as 2 external advisors. The external (will not be Club Committee members) advisors will be invited to assist, based on their extensive knowledge of race driving and racing drivers within New Zealand / Australia.</p> <p>Elite Driver - a driver whose performances and achievements is considered by The Club, at their sole discretion, to be a highly skilled racing driver.</p> <p>Amateur Driver - drivers who are not deemed to be Elite Drivers.</p>
Review Process	<p>1. The panel will review all drivers that competed in each Clubs Series, as well as the National Championship prior to the commencement of each season.</p> <p>2. The review will be completed in late March / early April, based on the National Championship being held in March. This will allow teams sufficient time to confirm eligible driver combinations for the coming years series.</p> <p>3. The review panel will use the previous seasons race (qualifying results may also be included in the review at the panels discretion) results and lap times from the Clubs Series and the National championship as the first point of reference for determining driver performance. Performances between cars and the driving team of each car will be considered. Historically there has been a performance difference of between 1.5 - 2 seconds per lap (in the same car) between Elite level and Amateur drivers (typical NZ endurance series drivers). This is considered important to retain an Elite / Amateur mix for the sustainability of the Series. This performance difference will be taken into consideration when reviewing a driving team and comparing their overall performance with other cars. These factors combined with a drivers current / previous achievements may be considered sufficient for the panel to make a determination. Note that each driver status determination is made at the Clubs sole discretion.</p> <p>4. Where there is insufficient information to make a determination (or for new drivers), the Panel will use race results and lap times from other New Zealand or offshore races / race series (such as Toyota Racing Series, NZ Touring Cars, Pirelli Porsche etc) that are considered relevant.</p> <p>5. A list of all Elite driver status for the coming season will be published to Club Members.</p> <p>6. Club Members may request a review of their status (using this process and checking for a consistent decision). Once reviewed, the outcome is final.</p>