



United Fire Brigades' Association
DRIVERSCHALLENGE

2026 REGISTRATION PACK



2026 DRIVERS SEASON





EVENT INFORMATION

MANFEILD PARK / 7-8 AUGUST 2026

National Registration opens: **Friday 22 May 2026**

National Registration closes: **Monday 6 July 2026**

Numbers are limited for this event. Registration will close when the number of Competitors reaches 110. After this time, you can still register for a waitlist that will be assessed after the registration closing date.



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

0730hrs	Registration opens at Copthorne Hotel, Palmerston North
0800hrs	National Drivers Challenge - Day One Commences <i>Compulsory breath testing to be completed before entering the appliance.</i> Compulsory Pre-drives begin on arrival at Copthorne Hotel. Track Exercises will commence at Manfeild Park as an extension of your Pre-drive. <i>Transfers will be made available and lunch will be arranged.</i> <i>* Lunches will be at Copthorne and Manfeild depending on your driving times.</i>
1600hrs	ERD Revalidation Theory Test - Copthorne Hotel
1730hrs	Compulsory Theory Test for all Competitors - Copthorne Hotel (uniform)

FREE EVENING

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

0730hrs	Competitor transport departs accommodation for Manfeild Park
0815hrs	Safety briefing on current driving conditions
0830hrs	National Drivers Challenge - Day Two begins <i>Compulsory safety briefing and breath testing for competitors</i>
1700hrs	National Drivers Challenge concludes Transfers depart from track back to accommodation
1845hrs	Transfers depart from accommodation to Prize Giving
1930hrs	Prize Giving Function commences - Palmerston North Convention Centre
2200hrs	Transfers depart from Prize Giving back to accommodation

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

from 0730hrs Departures as per transfer schedule

**Please note times above may be subject to change as details are finalised*

REGISTRATION COSTS

Officials and funded Competitors are each provided with one ticket to the Prize Giving Function and lunch for each day of the Challenge. Additional function tickets for supporters, managers, observers and/or partners can be purchased at the time of online registration for the following costs:

TYPE	ENTRY FEE	PRIZEGIVING	LUNCH (DAILY)
Competitor	\$100.00	Included	Included
Additional tickets	--	\$70.00	\$20.00

All prices exclude GST. Please remember: at social functions, beverages are served on a user-pays basis. No outside alcohol may be brought into the venue. This is a breach of our signed contract.



EVENT INFORMATION

FIRE AND EMERGENCY NEW ZEALAND ERD REVALIDATION

When you register online, you will be given the option to take an ERD Revalidation Pre-drive Course. This is the full ERD Revalidation as endorsed by Fire and Emergency New Zealand. If you are due for Driver Revalidation within the current year, we recommend you select this option.

By completing this practical and theory test, your ERD will be revalidated for another five years. You will also be credited with TEO OSM competencies: ERD Legislation and OI - Use of FENZ Operational Vehicles.

This is limited to 10 spaces, but you will be able to join a waitlist if spaces are full when you register. Please only register if your revalidation is due in the 2026 year.

COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS

Competitors are required to hold a full Class 2 licence and must have this on them at all times while in operation of an appliance. Each competitor is required to complete the Pre-drive, Theory Test and Track Exercises on Friday 7 August. Some Track Exercises will be run on completion of your Pre-drive test.

- 1. Pre-drive:** Your Pre-drive times will be in allocated 2 hour blocks, starting from 0730hrs. This will be outlined further in your Final Information Email.
- 2. Exercises – Day 1 & 2:** Once you have completed your Pre-drive test, a shuttle will be available to take you out to the track to complete the exercises for that day.
- 3. Theory test:** A compulsory theory test will be held at the Copthorne Hotel at 1730hrs on Friday 7 August 2026. This is to satisfy Fire and Emergency funding criteria.

All components of Day One and Day Two of the Challenge are compulsory. Failure to complete any of the components above will result in ineligibility for placings and/or awards and you will be invoiced for all event costs including accommodation and flights as you no longer meet FENZ funding criteria.

DRESS CODES

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FOR THE CHALLENGE:

Dark Blues (Fire & Emergency dark blue pants/skirt and shirt, black shoes, or appropriate rural equivalent).

SATURDAY NIGHT PRIZEGIVING:

Full Formal Uniform (Dark blue pants/skirt and jacket (including medals where applicable), light blue shirt, black shoes, or appropriate rural equivalent such as a suit or business wear. Caps & gloves are not required.





ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL & TRANSFERS

You should always choose the most cost-effective means of travel. If you are unsure, please contact the UFBA Events Team for advice before booking any flights or leaving for the Challenge.

Flights - Allocated Flights

Flights should only be booked if you live more than 200kms from Palmerston North, provided it is cheaper for you than driving. If you require flights, you will be given the opportunity to request them during the online registration process. These will be booked on your behalf by Gilpin Travel on pre-selected flights in accordance with UFBA transfer times.

Flights requested via the registration site must be confirmed with Gilpin Travel within 24 hours, this will ensure your flight is the most cost effective. If you have any questions on flight bookings please contact Gilpin Travel.

If you choose to book air travel independently, the best available fares should be booked at all times. Reimbursements can only be made to funded attendees to the equivalent value or less than the flights Gilpin would have booked for you. If this flight is outside UFBA pre allocated flights you may also be outside transfer times and need to arrange your own travel.

Accompanying travellers: If you choose to book flights through Gilpin, you will be charged a booking fee on top of your fare and you must contact them directly to book.

Driving vs Flying

If you choose to drive when it is cheaper to fly, you will be reimbursed to the value of an average seat and bag fare. In this case if you require an additional night's accommodation, you will need to fund this yourself and the UFBA-secured rates cannot be guaranteed. If you choose to fly when it is cheaper to drive you must email the Events Manager for exemption. If you have multiple people from one brigade, please consider car sharing.

Airport Transfers

Transfers will be booked in accordance with the pre-allocated flights chosen at the time of registration. Any flights that are booked outside of these may not be met by a transfer. If you require a transfer for a partner or supporter, you must select this in your registration, so they are captured in the transfer list.

If you intend to book your flights through another travel provider, it is your responsibility to get your flight details through to events@ufba.org.nz at least two weeks before the Challenge if you wish to be included in airport transfers provided by the UFBA.

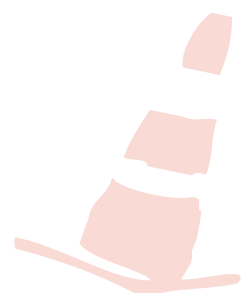
TRANSFERS DURING THE CHALLENGE

- Airport transfers will automatically be provided when you book your flights through Gilpin Travel.
- If you self-drive, it is assumed that you will take your own vehicle with you to the Challenge Venue on the Challenge days.
- If you do not have your own transport, transfers will be provided daily from your Hotel to the Challenge Venue. The exact times of these transfers will be confirmed in your Final Information Email.
- Transfers to and from the social functions will automatically be provided for all Competitors and Officials regardless if you have transport with you or not.
- Transfers are included in the registration costs for Teams and Officials. If you require an extra for a partner or supporter, make sure you include this in your registration.

Mileage

Mileage will be paid at rates consistent with UFBA policy and will be calculated from the centre of your town to the centre of Palmerston North, per www.google.co.nz/maps

We encourage both Officials and Competitors to travel together where possible. One return airport trip per vehicle will be reimbursed. Mileage and other means of travel for the duration of the Challenge will not be reimbursed as official transfers will be provided.





ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION ENTITLEMENTS

Accommodation has been reserved for competitors and UFBA-appointed Officials by Gilpin Travel. If you choose to stay outside of these properties, transfers to the Challenge venues will not be available to you and you will only be reimbursed up to the rate that the UFBA have secured at these properties. Accommodation is based on single room accommodation and will be automatically allocated when you register online. One breakfast per room per morning can be charged back and a credit card may be required on check-in to secure any other charges.

With all of the accommodation options, you will have the choice of booking extra nights or rooms on a self-funded basis. You will be invoiced for the extra cost, required to pay in advance and all standard booking terms and conditions will apply.

Distances are calculated using www.google.co.nz/maps and are based on the distance from the centre of your town of origin to the Challenge venue.

If you live more than 150km away from the Challenge venue: Two nights of funded accommodation at one of the UFBA-selected accommodation suppliers.

If you believe that you require a third night of accommodation this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and you will need to email the Events Team on events@ufba.org.nz

If you live between 50km and 150km of the Challenge venue: Two nights of funded accommodation at one of the UFBA-selected accommodation suppliers.

If you live within 50km of the Challenge venue: One night of funded accommodation at one of the UFBA-selected accommodation suppliers.

RULES

The Challenge rules outline run descriptions for all exercises and setup should you wish to practise ahead of the event. The Theory test questions are taken from the Heavy Traffic Class 2 Road Code, the Fire and Emergency Drivers Manual, basic pump operation, ECO control, and general road code.

All attendees are asked to be prepared and well informed of the current Drivers Challenge rules **updated April 2025** (available from the UFBA website) prior to attending the Challenge. If you have any questions in relation to any of the rules, please direct these to events@ufba.org.nz and we will endeavour to get an answer for you.

OFFICIALS

If selected, you will be notified by email with a list of personnel and appointed roles and the officials' registration link to register. Please register promptly to confirm you will be attending as an official, and for the Gilpin Travel team to secure the most cost-effective travel arrangements.

It is important to make yourself familiar with the exercise, penalties and score sheets for the exercise you are officiating. If you have any questions in relation to any of the rules, please direct these ahead of the Challenge to the UFBA Challenge Panel at events@ufba.org.nz

If you would like to express interest in officiating for a challenge, head to the UFBA website and to the Challenges page, then complete the form by clicking the link under *Want to help*.





TERMS & CONDITIONS

INDEPENDENT BOOKINGS

Travel

UFBA prefer that you use Gilpin Travel to book your travel arrangements so we can accurately organise onward transfers for you to and from the Challenge, however we are aware that sometimes you wish to travel with your partner and want to make your own flight bookings. If you wish to book flights, you may do so and claim for the cost of yours via an expense claim after the Challenge, on the condition that you can provide your itinerary and GST receipt. If you wish to be included on the organised transfers throughout the Challenge, you must advise your flight details (flight number, arrival date and time) to events@ufba.org.nz no later than 7 days prior to the Challenge day.

Accommodation

Competitors and Officials are covered for accommodation costs and as such, we prefer that those attendees stay at a UFBA-selected accommodation provider in order for us to prudently manage our finances and also ensure you are covered with transfers and have access to the secured group rates.

However, if you wish to stay elsewhere you may do so, bearing in mind transport is only provided from the UFBA-selected hotel(s) and you will need to claim back your accommodation using an expense claim form (where applicable). We will only reimburse accommodation to the same rate of the UFBA-selected hotel. Any difference in the price of the hotel that you select and the one chosen by the UFBA will be at your own cost. If unsure, please contact the UFBA Events Team.

Additional travellers, partners, observers and extra room requirements

If you intend on booking more beds and/or rooms than your entitlements as outlined in this document above, you will be charged the additional costs for these rooms. The UFBA will not cover these costs or any other costs associated with booking additional bed and/or rooms outside of the funded accommodation allocation. Additional breakfasts will be at your own cost at the time of departure.

CHANGES & CANCELLATIONS

Changes to registrations after the closing date will incur a fee of \$50.00. Should you for any reason need to cancel your booking, your registration fee will not be refunded and a cancellation fee will apply to any accommodation bookings made on your behalf. All flights are non-

refundable. Unless you can provide written evidence as to your poor health or extenuating circumstances that prohibit you from attending, you will be charged for all non-refundable flights, accommodation and other costs incurred.

EXPENSE CLAIMS

An expense claim form will be included in your Final Information Email prior to the Challenge. Even if you know what your expenses will be, expense claims are not reimbursed until after the Challenge. Expense claims are due in no later than **one calendar month** from the conclusion of the attended Challenge. The relevant date will be on the top of the expense claims and no exceptions will be made for forms that are received in the UFBA Office later than the stipulated date. Meals provided during the course of the Challenge and all items listed to the right will not be reimbursed. Please include as much information as possible in relation to your expenditure on your expense claim form.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN'T CLAIM BACK?

At any of our Challenges, unless otherwise stated, the UFBA does not reimburse for loss of wages, excess baggage, laundry services, hotel room service, airline loyalty club visits, car or trailer rentals, alcohol, taxis, mileage accumulated for the duration of the challenge, registration fees, partner costs, or meals where UFBA has already organised food.

If you are unsure, please contact the UFBA Events Team to get clarification or **prior approval** before booking anything that you think you will be claiming that might fall outside of the normal allowances.

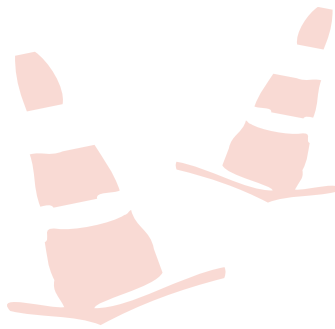


TERMS & CONDITIONS

FINAL INFORMATION EMAIL

All registered attendees will receive a Final Information Email a minimum of one week prior to the date of the Challenge. Please note times listed in this registration pack may be subject to change as details are finalised.

Read all this information as it may have changed according to numbers registered.



CHALLENGE RUN ORDER

You will be allocated into groups of timed blocks where you will need to be in the foyer for your pre-drive. These blocks will be from 0800hrs onwards, and will be outlined in your Final Information Email. You will then be shuttled out to the track to complete your exercises on arrival. There will be refreshments provided in the foyer while you wait.

On Saturday, you will be moving around the track in pre-allocated groups. These groups will also be outlined in your Final Information Email.

The run orders are final and no correspondence asking for changes will be entered into. Necessary changes to the order of the day are at the discretion of the Challenge Panel and may occur for reasons outside of UFBA's control with short notice or on the Challenge day.

PAYMENTS & INVOICING

All applicable registration fees and partner costs will be invoiced to you via Gilpin Corporate Travel. You may choose to pay by bank transfer or credit card. Please note that Gilpin Corporate Travel impose a STRICT 7-day payment term on their invoices. If you are unable to comply with this, **please do not register**. If your invoice has not been paid by the time of the Challenge, you may be ineligible to compete. Any queries in regards to your invoice and payment should be directed to Gilpin Corporate Travel Ltd, via either 09 361 4730 or ufba@gilpin.co.nz.

If you have not paid your registration fee and/or additional prize giving function tickets and you decide to cancel your registration, you will still be required to pay your invoice.

Internet banking / Bank transfer

The bank account details are: Account No: 06 0193 0293830 01 / Swift Code: ANZBNZ22

Please ensure your name and invoice number is included as the reference.

Credit card

You have the option of paying by credit card when you register online (Visa and MasterCard only). A credit card fee of 2.6% will be applied to the total.

CONTACT DETAILS



Questions about the event or how to register?

Please contact the Events Team events@ufba.org.nz

Lisa Mead
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027 238 8975

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