

MSA Rally Media Accreditation

Overview

The MSA Rally Media Accreditation scheme was created and developed in conjunction with members of the rally media, including key journalists, photographers and broadcasters. The scheme is only required and valid for special stage rallies, single-venue rallies and rally timed trials. It is underpinned by a Code of Conduct, plus strict conditions. It features two levels to cater for the different needs of journalists and photographers/broadcasters:

- Level One offers an MSA Media Pass only and caters mainly for the needs of journalists
- Level Two adds an MSA Media Tabard – carrying additional privileges set out in the conditions below – and caters only for photographers and broadcasters.

MSA MEDIA TABARD

The 2017 MSA Media Tabard is blue, with the MSA logo, year, word 'MEDIA', tabards number, warning triangle and RallyFuture logo all in white.



The 2016 MSA Media Tabard (white with black writing) is absolutely not valid in 2017. If anybody is seen at an event in 2017 wearing a white 2016 MSA Media Tabard, they must not be given any access privileges over and above an ordinary spectator and, if possible without conflict, the tabard should be confiscated and returned to the Communications Department at Motor Sports House.

Event Photographer and Videographer provision

Event organisers are encouraged to use an MSA Level Two Accredited Photographer to capture and supply any promotional images required. However, an event organiser may nominate and sign on one Event Photographer and one Event Videographer of their choosing, subject to a written request and subsequent authorisation by the MSA.

The request must state why the organiser wishes to use the relevant individual, and provide all relevant details of the preferred individual, who as a minimum must have completed the MSA's online rally marshals' training modules and hold public liability insurance cover worth at least £5m.



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If successful in their request to the MSA, the Event Photographer/Videographer may be allowed provisions and access equivalent to those of MSA Level Two accredited media. The Event Photographer and/or Event Videographer will also be subject to the same Code of Conduct and conditions as MSA Level Two accredited media.

Requests must allow enough time for the Event Photographer to be issued with an MSA Media Tabard, which must be returned to the MSA during the working days following the event, unless otherwise agreed with the MSA.

FAQs

Should we run our own accreditation process on top of MSA Rally Media Accreditation?

MSA Rally Media Accreditation holders have already had their credentials scrutinised by the MSA and therefore they should not be expected to show those credentials again for every event. However, it is recognised that organisers need to know who to expect at their event, so it is perfectly reasonable to adopt a process whereby MSA Rally Media Accreditation holders must confirm their planned attendance in advance via a simple email to your press officer or equivalent, with their name, outlet, and MSA pass and tabard numbers. This information can be verified against the online list of accreditation holders available on the MSA website.

Do we have to accept any MSA Rally Media Accreditation holder who wants to sign on for our event?

No, it is your event and therefore it is ultimately your decision as to who is or is not allowed to sign on. If there is a particular MSA Rally Media Accreditation holder who you do not wish to be present on your event, please email media@msauk.org with details.

Can we sign on as media someone who doesn't have MSA Rally Media Accreditation, such as our local press?

Yes, but you can only grant them special stage access equivalent to Level One MSA Accredited media: 'When on special stages, Level One MSA Media Pass holders cannot stand in locations to which ordinary spectators do not have authorised access.'

In all cases, you should scrutinise the application, asking to see a commissioning letter from an editor/producer for your event, and a public liability insurance certificate. Always ensure that you are wholly satisfied by someone's credentials before signing them on as media.

What level of access can we grant MSA Media Tabard wearers?

The accreditation conditions state: 'When on special stages, Level Two MSA Tabard holders may only operate in locations additional to those to which ordinary spectators and Level One media have access when those locations have been agreed with the event organiser in writing in advance and are included in the event's Safety Manual. The MSA Safety Delegate must be made aware of all such agreements and has the authority to amend those locations on the day if necessary.'

It is understood that different events gave different levels of access to MSA Media Tabard holders in 2016, and from 2017 we are keen to see a more consistent approach. For clarity, an agreed 'location' for MSA Media Tabard holders does not necessarily need to be a very particular and defined area – for example, depending on the nature of the event it could be determined that the agreed media 'locations' are any that are not Prohibited Areas. The more restricted an accreditation holder is, the more likely they are to conclude that they might have as much freedom as an anonymous spectator. Therefore, it may be considered pragmatically that a less restrictive approach to media locations could help to ensure that the media remain accredited, identifiable and accountable.



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Do we need to share stage maps with MSA Rally Media Accreditation holders?

The MSA Rally Media Accreditation scheme calls for the media and organisers to work together to determine any privileged locations for MSA Media Tabard holders. Therefore, we would expect organisers to share stage maps in confidence— usually this should be around four to six weeks in advance if possible – unless they have a particular reason not to. Once determined, those media locations should form part of the safety plan, but we would not expect an organiser to release the safety plan to photographers.

Can we set up designated Media Areas?

Yes. The MSA Stage Rally Safety Requirements call for the use of designated spectator areas, and there is no reason why some of – or parts of – these cannot be reserved exclusively for signed-on media, in which case they could be renamed Media Areas. The key point is that if they were not designated as Media Areas, they would still exist but as Spectator Areas.

Can we give photographers our own tabards?

Not for national events – only the MSA now issues rally media tabards. In 2017 these are blue with the MSA logo, the word 'MEDIA', the year and the tabard number in white, plus the RallyFuture logo and warning triangle (see above).

As stated above, any media that event organisers sign on without MSA Rally Media Accreditation can only be granted access equivalent to Level One MSA Accredited media. Since this means that they cannot stand in locations to which ordinary spectators do not have authorised access, they will not require a tabard.

For international events, which carry a different set of considerations, organisers may liaise with the MSA if they require alternative arrangements.

Do MSA accredited media have to sign on with us?

The conditions state: 'Members of the media must first sign on with event organisers and will not exercise the privileges of MSA Rally Media Accreditation until having done so.'

The signing on form is available to organisers at www.msauk.org/Resource-Centre/Clubs-Organisers

How can we be sure that someone with an MSA pass or tabard is absolutely genuine?

A downloadable PDF document with the picture, name, publication, pass and/or tabard number of everyone granted MSA Rally Media Accreditation is available on the MSA website [here](#).

What should we do if an MSA Media Accreditation holder misbehaves or ignores instructions from marshals and officials?

First, if anyone at all is standing in an area that is prohibited, unauthorised or considered by the marshals/officials on the day to be unsafe and refuses to relocate, please remember that the MSA will always support a Stage Commander's decision to delay or even cancel a stage on grounds of safety.

Alternatively, if a member of the MSA accredited media generally misbehaves or repeatedly ignores marshals' instructions, note the MSA Media Pass and/or Tabard number, and submit a detailed report with any available evidence to media@msauk.org following the event.

We run our stage rally at a racing circuit. Do we need to follow MSA Rally Media Accreditation?

Yes – the venue may be a race track but if the event is running under an MSA stage rally permit then the MSA Rally Media Accreditation scheme prevails. However, organisers of such events may make a request for conditional dispensation to allow the venue's own media accreditation holders the same access. To make such a request, email media@msauk.org.



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We run a stage rally in Northern Ireland; can we accept Motorsport Ireland media accreditation holders?

No, if it is a stage rally running under an MSA Permit then only the MSA Rally Media Accreditation scheme applies, unless conditional arrangements are made with the MSA well in advance. For further guidance, please email media@msauk.org.

What are the rules for accredited media using drones?

The MSA drones policy can be found in the Resource Centre > Policies & Guidelines section of the MSA website. Please [click here](#).