



### **Drivers talking on track**

**Rule 858(1)(n)** – A driver must not: after entering the racetrack prior to the start of the race a driver must not speak to another driver until they have passed the finishing line except for safety reasons or in an emergency.

### ***Previous examples of concern.***

#### **Preliminaries**

- Drivers warming up side by side or in groups having a general conversations.

#### **Start Areas**

- Drivers having conversations at the start area with other drivers or starting crew.

#### **During the races**

- Drivers having conversations during the running and unprofessional behavior i.e. laughing and joking.

#### **Media Exceptions**

- Promotional activities (e.g., Drivers Mic and interviews) are permitted before the start, if they do not delay the race start.

### **Education and Enforcement Timeline**

1 November to 31 December 2024 - Stewards will be speaking with drivers during this period and offence placed on penalty records.

1 January to 28 February 2025 – Stewards will be warning drivers during this period and offence placed on penalty records – 2 warnings in this period will result in a fine – as per a minor infringement which will be set up.

### **Review**

Conduct a review on 1 March with HRNZ and the Horsemen's Association. This structured approach emphasises safety and professionalism, aiming to reduce distractions and improve focus during races

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