



GCTMC NextSteps Program Guideline

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Introduction

This document (the "Guidelines") sets out the application / sponsorship support (application) process for Gold Coast Tweed Motorsporting Car Club (GCTMC) members wishing to apply for the GCTMC NextSteps Program (the "Program").

Please review these Guidelines carefully before submitting an online application.

These Guidelines apply to all applications. By submitting an application, you agree and acknowledge that it is bound by these Guidelines, as well as any amendments which GCTMC may make from time to time.

Objectives

The Program is a one-off sponsorship style program that aims to reduce barriers to entry (financial and non-financial) for new and novice competitors taking their next steps. It also aims to recognise and reward contributions to GCTMC and motorsport, strengthen club culture and visibility of GCTMC and motorsport in the broader community.

The principles that underpin the Program are:

- **Accessibility:** Making it easier for GCTMC members to take the next step by reducing barriers.
- **Development:** Supporting GCTMC members to build skills, experience, and confidence to advance in motorsport.
- **Contribution:** Acknowledging members' efforts contributing to the growth of the GCTMC and encouraging ongoing contributions.
- **Fairness:** Transparent, consistent and clear process.

Applications for sponsorship support are invited from GCTMC members that are new or novice competitors seeking support to take their next step.

What counts as a 'Next Step'

For the purposes of the Program, a "Next Step" means progressing beyond your current level of motorsport competition. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Driving in your first hillclimb, sprint, or rally;
- Trying tarmac rallying for the first time;
- Stepping up to compete in a championship or iconic event;
- Moving into a co-driving or navigating role; or
- Entering a regularity rally for the first time.

These examples are intended as a guide only. Applicants may propose other competitive activities that demonstrate a genuine step in their motorsport involvement.

Eligibility

The following individuals are eligible:

- current financial GCTMC members. Individuals covered by family memberships are also eligible;
- applicants under the age of 18 years at the time of application. These applications must be supported by a parent or guardian. Others who require assistance may also apply with support from another person; and
- new or novice competitors who are ready to take the next step in their chosen type of motorsport.

A novice is any person, of any age, who is in the early stages of a level or type of motorsport competition.

Process

#	Steps	Dates
1	Applications open	1 October 2025
2	Applications close	31 October 2025
3	Successful Recipients notified	By 20 December 2025
4	Successful sponsorship supplier payments	From January to November 2026
5	Recipients send photos of next step to GCTMC	Latest - December 2026

Dates may be altered at the discretion of the GCTMC committee.

Applications

GCTMC members may apply for sponsorship support for goods or services for up to 3 items to the value of up to \$1,000 per individual. Club members can submit one application, per person, that must:

- be made using the relevant online form via www.gctmc.org.au, NextSteps page and links;
- be made by the individuals themselves. For those under 18 or requiring assistance, applications must be accompanied by parent or guardian details;
- be completed in full, including quotes or evidence demonstrating the basis for likely costs; and
- be received by the closing date.

While applicants can seek help in drafting their application, they must remain the primary author, and able to answer questions from the assessment panel or GCTMC committee about their application.

Sponsorship support

Applicants can request sponsorship support for up to 3 items, but these must be ordered in order of priority / most valuable to reach the goal. GCTMC may support all, some, or none of the requested items.

Eligible sponsorship support examples: event entry fees, governing body licence fees, safety gear (helmets, suit, boots, HANS devices) and training. If there is a cheaper version of this item that could achieve the goal, the GCTMC may choose to offer alternative sponsorship support in discussion with the applicant.

Support will not be provided in cash. Support for successful applicants will be delivered by way of payment of quotes, invoices, or advertised pricing for goods or services submitted to GCTMC in 2026.

Quotes or evidence of the likely or actual cost of items must accompany the application. If costs are not exactly known at the time of application, applicants should include an estimate of the cost and describe what this estimate was based this on. For example, for entry fees not yet released, use the last known or similar entry fee and add notes providing this explanation. If the goods or services are advertised via websites, please copy and paste links into the relevant part of the form.

Any sponsorship support will be decided at GCTMC's absolute discretion.

Applicants may also request to be connected with a GCTMC mentor.

Value for GCTMC's sponsorship support

An objective of the Program is to strengthen the culture of the club and visibility of GCTMC and motorsport within the broader community. As with any sponsorship, GCTMC aims to achieve best value from the support it provides.

In accepting sponsorship support, Recipients are required to represent GCTMC in a positive manner and commit to ways to contribute back to the club and/or the motorsport community.

Applications must describe commitments to promotion and / or volunteering efforts in 2026. As well as the 'traditional' promotion and volunteering contributions, applicants are encouraged to consider and submit creative ideas and different methods for and representing the GCTMC positively and promoting motorsport within the wider community. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Displaying club gazebos, banners, signage, merchandise or stickers at the Next Step goal/event;
- Writing articles, becoming an editor or other written contributions to the club newsletter or GCTMC website;

- Organising a group presence or team entry at other club events;
- Sharing your experiences at club nights with a presentation;
- Promoting the club on social media, using innovative platforms that target broader audiences;
- Displaying your pride and joy, with GCTMC merch, at car shows, school fetes or community festivals;
- Volunteering to lead a project that makes the club's khanacross venue or events even better; or
- Assisting or running information sessions or "how to" workshops.

Applicants can request access to GCTMC resources (marquee, merchandise etc) as part of their sponsorship proposal.

Assessment process

All properly completed and submitted applications will be assessed against consistent and pre endorsed criteria by the GCTMC NextSteps assessment panel.

The panel will review the applications for sponsorship support and determine if the eligibility criteria have been met, whether an applicant has successfully demonstrated they are a new or notice competitor for the goal, and whether the proposed items to meet their goal could be achieved via a cheaper means.

The panel may contact applicants for further information during the assessment period, and updated applications may be received if required for this purpose. The panel will decide whether an application / applicant will be recommended for one, all or none of the requested items, based on the value for sponsorship support for the GCTMC club or motorsport, in accordance with the criteria described in this guideline.

Applications will then be ranked according to the assessment criteria by the panel. The assessment ranking will not be made available outside of the panel, independent reviewer or the GCTMC committee.

An assessment summary, prepared by the panel, will be de-identified and reviewed by a third party, independent reviewer appointed by the GCTMC committee. The purpose is to ensure consistency with the process, aims and principles of the Program. The removal of names for the independent third party review ensures any potential, actual or perceived personal bias associated with the Program panel or GCTMC committee members is removed.

Final approval of successful applications (Recipients) rests with the GCTMC Committee. GCTMC committee decisions are final. The decision to provide support or not provide support will be made by the GCTMC committee at its discretion.

No correspondence will be entered into regarding the assessment of sponsorship support or the decision-making process generally. GCTMC will offer individual feedback about applications at its discretion.

GCTMC will endeavour to notify successful applicants within 8 weeks of the closing date. Successful applicants will be notified by email.

GCTMC will send successful applicants an Offer Letter for sponsorship support, which the applicant must sign and provide back to the GCTMC. This letter will form an agreement between the Recipient and the GCTMC about the support and commitments made by the Recipient, and any other requirements, obligations and terms and conditions, based on the successful application.

Sponsorship support will then be provided to Recipients in accordance with the timing and method described in the Offer Letter.

GCTMC reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to modify the processes outlined to meet the objective and principles of the Program at any time.

Assessment criteria

Sponsorship support will be decided on merit in line with the principles for the program, and the criteria outlined below:

1. Active, contributing members and / or longstanding membership;
2. Work already underway towards their goal, demonstrating readiness and commitment;
3. New or novice competitors ready to take a genuine next step;
4. A clear, realistic plan to enter a new type of, or level up for, a motorsporting event in 2026; and
5. Complete, authentic and evidence-backed applications.

The sponsorship proposal must clearly outline how GCTMC support will be spent. The amount should cover a part, if not all, of the required cost.

No preference will be given based on age or gender. Members who are not juniors are equally eligible and encouraged to submit applications.

Lower preference will be given to:

- individuals who have already received GCTMC funding for next steps; and
- applications that do not meet the criteria.

The panel may seek further information from applicants during the process.

Successful Recipients

GCTMC will provide the successful applicants (Recipients) with sponsorship support by making payments to suppliers for goods or services for the amounts, determined by GCTMC in its sole and absolute discretion, based on the applications submitted.

Expenditure of the support must be completed by 30 November 2026. Any support not used by this time will lapse. The recipient is responsible for ensuring that any sponsorship support is used in a manner that complies with all applicable laws. GCTMC is not responsible for any illegal activity which takes place, whether intended or not, in connection with an individual's use the sponsorship support provided.

GCTMC will not be responsible for any additional costs, nor be obliged to pay for any other support additional to the amount provided.

Obligations of Recipients

Recipients must sign and return the Offer Letter for sponsorship support from GCTMC, and any other agreements as required by GCTMC, before support is provided.

Recipients must deliver their commitments as described in the Offer Letter. If there is any reason the commitments can not be met as described, the Recipient must notify the club in writing via email to gctmcnextsteps@outlook.com as soon as possible.

The support must be used and applied for the purpose as stated in the application and Offer Letter from GCTMC. Where the purpose changes, then the recipient must consult back with GCTMC to regain written approval, which may or may not be provided.

Sponsorship items must not be sold; nor profit made. Recipients may, after their Next Step goal has been achieved, choose to donate items (if relevant) to other new or novice competitors, in consultation with the club.

GCTMC sponsorship support to the Recipient's activity/project must be acknowledged. The Recipient must display the GCTMC logo, or state in writing publicly that GCTMC has provided sponsorship support. For example, where there is an opportunity to nominate a 'sponsor' on an event entry form, and the Recipient has received sponsorship support via this Program, they could note the GCTMC.

Recipients must provide evidence (photos) via email to gctmcnextsteps@outlook.com of how the items were used to take their next steps, within 6 weeks of when taken.

Recipients are also responsible for obtaining written permission from any individuals featured in photographs or videos provided to GCTMC.

GCTMC may promote the Program and the Recipients. Recipients (or, for individuals under 18 – parents or guardians) agree to be included in various promotional, media,

communication and marketing material and will cooperate with GCTMC in promoting the Program or the club.

Withdrawal or repayment of sponsorship support

GCTMC reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship support, in its sole and absolute discretion, if any program objectives, principles, process or aspect described in these Guidelines are not met by the Recipient, even after a Letter of Offer has been made and/or accepted.

If the Recipient is in breach of these Guidelines, or it is subsequently determined that the Recipient was not eligible for the sponsorship support, the Recipient must repay to GCTMC any sponsorship support the Recipient has received.

If GCTMC association with the Recipient or the project may or would, in the opinion of GCTMC, adversely affect the GCTMC name or reputation, GCTMC may withdraw the sponsorship support (if the support has not yet been provided) or the Recipient must repay to GCTMC any sponsorship support the Recipient has received.

If, at any time, the stated purpose of the Next Step is no longer possible or cannot be completed in the manner described in the application and proposal submitted to GCTMC, the Recipient must advise GCTMC as soon as possible. The Recipient must return any remaining unspent amount of the sponsorship support provided by GCTMC within two weeks of this becoming apparent. However, GCTMC may (in its sole and absolute discretion) agree to a variation provided it still meets the Program objectives and principles.

General

GCTMC and its panel and committee or members, will not be liable for any loss, damage, or personal injury suffered or sustained in connection with an application or sponsorship support. GCTMC does not accept any liability or responsibility for the outcome of the sponsorship support or activity/program/project. Applications must not infringe the intellectual property rights of any person or entity.