

 **MUSTANG**  
**CUP**  
AUSTRALIA



**Motorcraft**



**2026 SERIES INFORMATION**



# BRAND NEW IN 2026

The Mustang Cup is a one make Series brand new to the Australian market. Sanctioned by Motorsport Australia, and professionally organised by Driving Solutions Events with support from Ford Racing.

The Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia offers flexibility to meet any racer's goals, whether aiming for advancement to other National Championships/Series or just competing at a National level. There is a class structure to appeal to a wide range of racers.

From 2026, the Series has locked in an exciting six (6) round calendar, running on the popular SRO Shannons SpeedSeries platform.

The SpeedSeries is the perfect platform for the inaugural Mustang Cup Australia season. The SpeedSeries has many high-profile National categories competing and has a high-quality media/broadcast platform on the 7 Network.

All cars will be the track only Ford Mustang Dark Horse R that is developed by Ford Racing and powered by a fourth generation 5.0L Coyote V8.

The Dark Horse was introduced to bridge the gap for drivers to the GT4 and GT3 cars.

**FORD RACING**



# SERIES OVERVIEW



The Mustang Cup is a great 'entry pathway' from grassroots racing to wheel-to-wheel competition and, as customers wish, up through the likes GT4 and subsequently the GT3 ranks or other National/International Series/Championships.

As well as being an ideal destination for 'gentlemen' drivers.

The Mustang Cup offers flexibility to meet any racer's goals.

\*Minimum Driver Age is 16yo

Unique to Mustang Cup is the option of an optional two-driver format. Each race in a doubleheader format will count towards separate championships –

The Johnson Cup and Ambrose Cup (named after Australian motor racing legends Dick Johnson and Marcos Ambrose) – allowing two drivers to pursue separate championships or one driver to compete in both.



# THE RACE CAR



## MUSTANG<sup>®</sup> DARK HORSE<sup>™</sup> R



Turnkey, track-ready beast

A turn-key racing car, capable of generating more than 500 horsepower and ready to compete at the most demanding racing circuits, the Mustang Dark Horse R is engineered for competition by Ford Racing.



# MUSTANG DARK HORSE R



## SPECIFICATIONS

### POWERTRAIN

500+ horsepower 5.0-liter Coyote V8  
TREMEC® 3160 manual transmission  
Torsen limited slip differential with 3.73 final drive ratio  
Upgraded transmission cooling  
Upgraded engine cooling system  
Upgraded oil system with Ford Performance oil pan  
Upgraded differential cooling  
Borla racing exhaust system  
Upgraded radiator and revised grill

### EXTERIOR

Front and rear tow hooks  
Underbody tie down hoops  
Delivered in a white paint finish  
Track width, front (mm) 1,611  
Track width, rear (mm) 1,621  
Overall width (mm) 1,914  
Wheelbase (mm) 2,718

### BRAKES/ WHEELS/ TyRES

Bosch Motorsport ABS  
Brembo® race calipers – front  
Brembo® race rotors – front  
Brembo® race pads  
Race brake cooling ducts  
Apex VS-5RE Forged Enduro Wheel (18x11)  
Series specified tyre  
MSI wheel studs and open lug nuts

### CHASSIS

FIA compliant roll cage  
Multimatic DSSV dampers  
Adjustable front camber plates  
Select seam welding  
FIA compliant fuel cell

### INTERIOR

Recaro FIA compliant racing seat  
FIA compliant harness  
Quick-release steering wheel  
FIA compliant fire suppression system  
FIA compliant safety nets  
MoTeC data display and logging system

# BUYING A CAR



## FORD MUSTANG DARK HORSE R

MSRP: **US\$159,000**

(+ TAXES)

\*Price does not include shipping

Your Mustang Dark Horse R will be completed in a white paint finish, ready for livery and decals

Sales will be through Multimatic Motorsports.

\* *For all purchase enquires please contact –*

**Andrew Miedecke**

Tel: 02 6583 8855

Mob: 0418 653366

Email: [andrew.miedecke@miedecke.com.au](mailto:andrew.miedecke@miedecke.com.au)



# FORD RACING



Few brands can match the racing heritage of Ford Motor Company. Whether competing in single-seaters or stockcars, the famous blue oval emblem carries a rich history of innovation and success. Ford Racing, the brand's high-performance arm, oversees the development of Ford Racing engines and vehicles competing in series such as NASCAR, IMSA, SRO GT World Challenge, British GT, FIA World Rally Championship, Supercars Championship and Formula Drift. Ford Racing will also spearhead the much-anticipated return to Formula One competition with Red Bull Ford Powertrains from 2026.

Perhaps the most famous name in Ford's racing armory is the Mustang, a model that has enjoyed huge success in racing over the decades. That fine tradition continues in the modern era with the new Mustang Dark Horse R, offering from keen racers a turn-key race car ready to compete in the all-new, single-make Mustang Cup Australian Series.

Joining the recently announced Mustang GT3 and Mustang GT4 derivatives, the Mustang Dark Horse R bridges the gap between Dark Horse and Mustang GT4.

Production-based Mustang vehicles have raced from the very beginning, all the way back to winning the 1964 Tour de France, even.

Dark Horse R offers not just an attainable, factory-built race car, but also a racing series to compete with other Mustang enthusiasts.

*"All of us at Ford Racing are excited to introduce Mustang Cup into Australia as an additional avenue for racing enthusiasts to pursue their passion. Mustang Cup is a foundational starting springboard in our global sports car racing program, and it also offers advancement into Mustang GT4 and Mustang GT3."*

Mark Rushbrook  
Global Director, Ford Racing Motorsports



# 2026 RACE SCHEDULE



 **SHANNONS  
SPEEDSERIES**



The 2026 Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia Series will be run across six (6) rounds, in five different States at all top Australian circuits as part of the 2026 SRO Shannons SpeedSeries

<b>RND</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STATE</b>
1	Phillip Island	27- 29 March	VIC
2	The Bend	8 -10 May	SA
3	Queensland Raceway	12 -14 June	QLD
4	Hidden Valley Raceway	24 -26 July	NT
5	Sydney Motorsport Park	18 -20 September	NSW
6	Sandown Raceway	30 Oct – 1 Nov	VIC



# BROADCAST PARTNERSHIP



The Shannons SpeedSeries visibility and accessibility of racing categories is unmatched in Australian motorsport, the Mustang Cup Australia is one of the categories featured as part of a diverse motorsport package.

Every race of the Ford Mustang Cup Australia Series is televised live, ad-free and on-demand on 7 Plus.

Additional free-to-air coverage is broadcast on 7mate.

## Shannons SpeedSeries Viewership

Audience figures 2025 to date - includes Round 1 Phillip Island, Round 2 Sydney Motorsport Park & Round 3 Queensland Raceway.

### BROADCAST DATA (LIVE and STREAM+VOD)



TOTAL AUDIENCE

173.7K

LIVE AUDIENCE

162.6K

TOTAL REACH

1,103M



REACH (LIVE+VOD)

119.9K

TOTAL VIEWING MINS

6,269M

TOTAL STREAM STARTS

129.7K



# SERIES ENTRY



## ENTRY FEE BREAKDOWN

**Full Season Series AU\$26,700+ GST**

- Drivers must commit to a full season to be eligible for the Championship
- A series entry deposit of \$5,000+ GST will need to be paid with the purchase deposit of a Mustang Dark Horse R. This is a non-refundable deposit which will be deducted from the total full series entry fee.
- Full series entry will be invoiced and need to be paid prior to the first round in April 2026

Series Entries will be capped at 24 Cars

Single Event Entry is available – **AU\$4,990+ GST** (entry to be invoiced prior to chosen events),

\* Darwin entries receive a travel rebate of \$1,500

## ENTRY PACKAGE

Each season entry fee provides:

- Entry into Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia sanctioned events
- Events broadcast
- Event garaging
- Eligibility for Championship points and prize program
- Access to Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia hospitality
- Ford Racing trackside engineering support (non-primary)
- Trackside spare parts service
- Car decals - Ford Racing, Mustang Cup, series sponsors
- End of season awards dinner (TBC)



# MUSTANG CUP SERVICES INCLUDE



## ENGINEERING SUPPORT

Ford Racing engineering personnel on site to support teams and drivers.

## TYRE SUPPLY

Official tyre supplier, Michelin, will be present throughout the race weekend to service all teams and drivers.

## SPARE PARTS

A supply of a selection of parts will be available trackside at each round.

## HOSPITALITY

The Mustang Cup lounge area will be at the heart of the racing action and will provide a hub for drivers to welcome guests to the paddock. With refreshments, seating and a live stream of the on-track action, it's the perfect place to relax in-between sessions.

## PR & MEDIA

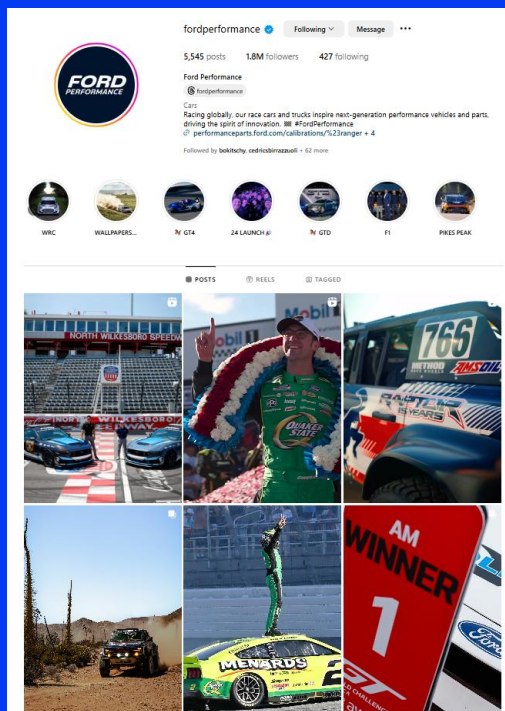
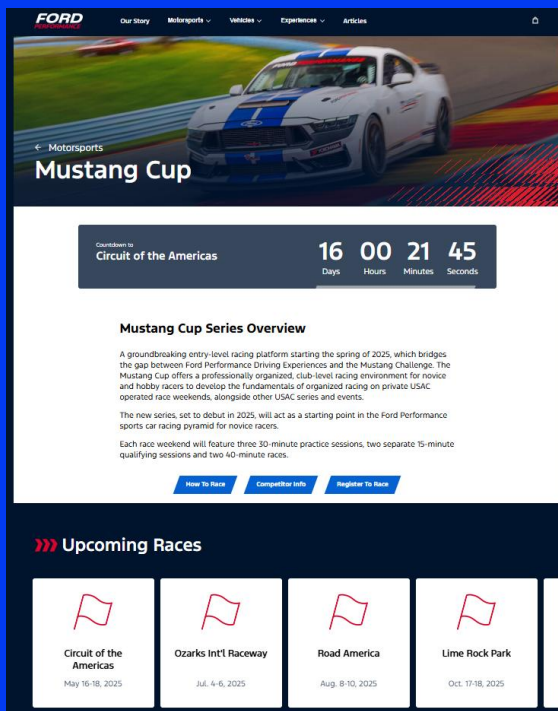
- Professional Series Media Management, including Social media, race reports, press releases and website content. This will also include media support/coverage from Ford Racing.
- Live coverage of all races via the Shannons SpeedSeries broadcast on the 7 Network through 7Plus and 7Mate.
- YouTube live coverage - Via Ford Racing's YouTube channel.



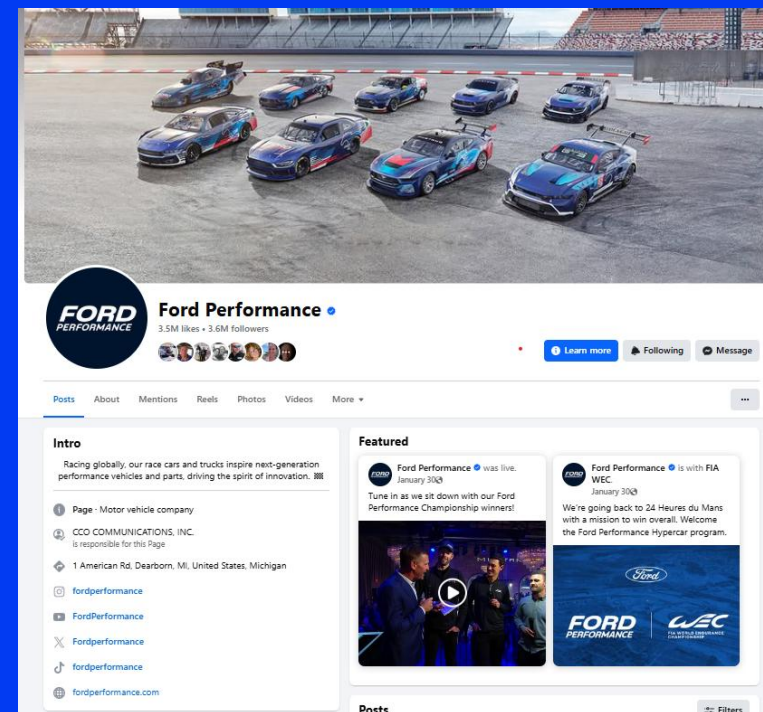
# PR, MEDIA AND MARKETING



On top of the Series PR & Media management, Ford Racing will utilise its broad social media and marketing reach to promote Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia. In combination with their efforts on Supercars, GT3 & GT4, Ford Performance has a unique communication platform already established in market.



Instagram: 1.8m Followers



Facebook: 3.6m Followers



# FORD RACING DRIVER DEVELOPMENT TEAM



The Ford Racing Driver Development Team is an exciting initiative tasked with discovering and nurturing the future stars in motorsport. It is designed to identify then build on their skill by providing significant support – on and off track.

Mustang Cup Australia has been confirmed as an eligible pathway for the Ford Racing Driver Development Team, ensuring young guns in the category can gain amazing opportunities through the manufacturer's vast motorsport portfolio.

Young drivers participating in the inaugural Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia will be eligible for selection in the Ford Racing Driver Development Team alongside those from the US-based Mustang Cup and Challenge Championships plus others competing in Ford Racing machinery across other Championships.

Near the end of each year, a selection committee will assess and select the most outstanding drivers to participate in a three-day Performance Evaluation, monitored by a Ford Racing Factory Driver / Mentor (likely around late-November).

The Performance Evaluation will comprise of a variety of on and off-track tests, with the winners and continuing participants in the program being presented at the annual Ford Racing season launch in the US.

Mid-season each year (after Round 3) all the Ford Racing Driver Development Team will have a further assessment to see how they are developing.

## Drivers will be evaluated based on:

- Performance in Ford Racing Mustang Cup & Mustang Challenge globally
- Driver stats
- On-track improvement
- Feedback from industry bodies



# FORD RACING DRIVER DEVELOPMENT TEAM CONTINUED..



## Program Benefits

- Ford Racing Driver Development Team Driver Race Suit
- Ford Racing Driver Development Team Driver Off Track Uniform
- Where permitted, Drivers compete carrying a Ford Racing Driver Development Team Windshield Banner
- Access to a Ford Racing Factory Driver Mentor
- Ability to schedule time in the Ford Racing Technical Center Simulator (Concord, NC), in Dark Horse R, GT4 or GT3 setup.
- Participation in national or international dynamic driving events as a paid instructor
- Participation in dedicated training modules throughout the year including Vehicle and Chassis Dynamics, Sanction Body Training, Social Media and Media Training
- Professional Networking
- Mid Season review
- Continuous on-track and off-track evaluation during the competition season



# RACE WEEKEND FORMAT



**PRACTICE 1**

20 MINUTE DURATION



**PRACTICE 2**

20 MINUTE DURATION



**JOHNSON CUP**

SATURDAY



**AMBROSE CUP**

SUNDAY



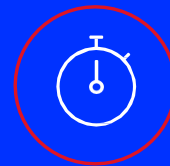
**QUALIFYING 1**

20 MINUTE DURATION



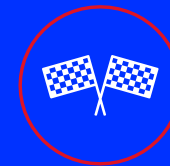
**RACE 1**

40 MINUTE DURATION



**QUALIFYING 2**

20 MINUTE DURATION



**RACE 2**

40 MINUTE DURATION



# SPORTING AND TECHNICAL & KEY OFFICIALS

The Series is in the process of developing 2026 Sporting & Technical Regulations in consultation with Motorsport Australia. These Regulations will underpin the operation of the category on track.

Experienced Motorsport Australia Race Director Kaye Callander has been assigned to the Series to manage on track operations.

We will confirm our Motorsport Australia Technical Delegate shortly, they will implement technical compliance and work with the tyre supplier on any technical matters in consultation with Series management.

Experienced Driving Standards Advisor Craig Baird has been appointed to manage/implement the Motorsport Australia and Series driving standards.



# MICHELIN TYRES



Michelin (via European Technique) will provide professional tyre support at all rounds

The planned tyre allocations per round are –

- At each *Round*, a maximum of 8 dry weather tyres, of which 8 may be new, will be permitted for use by each *Automobile* during all qualifying sessions and races.  
Each of these tyres must be marked prior to the first qualifying session at each *Round*.  
Only 4 marked tyres can be used on *Automobile* in each Qualifying session. The tyres may not be changed on an *Automobile* during a qualifying session.  
The tyres used on an *Automobile* in Qualifying 1, must be fitted to that *Automobile* to commence Race 1.  
The tyres used on an *Automobile* in Qualifying 2, must be fitted to that *Automobile* to commence Race 2.  
With the exception of treaded tyres used on a damp or wet track, these marked dry tyres are the only tyres permitted to be used on that *Automobile* during any qualifying session or race at that *Round*.
- *For the entire Series, 12 additional new dry weather tyres are allocated to a specific Automobile (identified by its chassis/VIN#) can be used as joker tyres during practice only at each Round. The use of 1 or more joker tyres must be announced to the TA prior to the commencement of practice. If an Automobile does not participate at 1 or more Rounds, the total number of joker tyres will be reduced by 2 for each of these Rounds.*
- *The number of “previously nominated” tyres is unlimited. A previously nominated tyre is any tyre that has been scanned into the tyre bank for that specific Automobile during the 2026 Series.*

Tyre information -

- Slick – 30/65-18 Michelin Pilot Sport Cup GT H2
- Wet – 30/65-18 Michelin Pilot Sport Cup GT P2L
- Cost per tyre is \$850 (EX GST)



# MUSTANG DARK HORSE APP & FUEL



All teams use the Mustang Dark Horse App.

Mustang Dark Horse App is available for iPhone or Android from the relevant app stores or here is the link: [Dark Horse R](#)

The app is used for general communications from series management/officials at rounds.

Documents will be available from the App such as Sporting & Technical Regulations, Category Bulletins, Round Schedules etc.



RaceFuels will be the control fuel supplier and provided a professional fuel delivery service at each round.

The control fuel is Race 102. Cost per litre is \$5.92.

# CLASS STRUCTURE



**JOHNSON CUP** (optional to run Ambrose Cup also) – Driver 1

**AMBROSE CUP** – Driver 2

Unique to Mustang Cup is the option of an optional two-driver format. Each race in a doubleheader format will count towards separate championships –

The Johnson Cup and Ambrose Cup (named after Australian motor racing legends Dick Johnson and Marcos Ambrose) – allowing two drivers to pursue separate championships or one driver to compete in both.

**DARK HORSE (DH)** Outright - All Drivers eligible

**DARK HORSE JUNIOR (DHJ)** – All drivers 21yo and younger are eligible - \* Must be 21yo and younger at the time of Round 1

**DARK HORSE LEGENDS (DHL)** - All drivers 40yo and older are eligible



# PRIZES

The 2026 Series Prize Pool, awarded to Series and Class Champions at the end of the 2026 season, will feature unique opportunities. The complete prize pool will be announced in full shortly.

At each round a Pole Award for both Qualifying Sessions (Johnson Cup & Ambrose Cup) will be awarded. See page 20 for details.

## The trophies awarded at each round will be

- **Johnson Cup** - (Saturday Race) – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Ambrose Cup** - (Sunday Race) – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Dark Horse** - 1<sup>st</sup> Outright across both races.
- **Dark Horse Legends** - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> across both races.
- **Dark Horse Junior** - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> across both races.

\*Note. At least 5 cars must be competing in a class for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies to be awarded.

\*Motorsport Australia Super License Points will be awarded to Outright Series place getters. The number of points will be confirmed by Motorsport Australia shortly.



# PRIZES

## Supercars test drive with Triple Eight on offer to Mustang Cup Australia winner

The complete 2026 Motorcraft Mustang Cup Australia Prize Pool will be announced shortly.

In the meantime, we are pleased to announce our first prize.

Ford Racing's Supercars homologation team Triple Eight Race Engineering will provide a rare test drive as the top prize for the inaugural winner of the 2026 Mustang Cup Australia.

In an amazing opportunity for the winner of the outright Dark Horse class, Triple Eight will host a test of its Ford Mustang Gen3 Supercar at Queensland Raceway.

The test will occur following the final round of the inaugural Mustang Cup Australia season at Sandown on September 18-20.

Further information to follow.



# FORD INSURE POLE AWARD



## Cash prizes for Pole Awards

Thanks to Ford Insure we will have on offer at each round for each qualifying \$1,000 for the outright pole getter.

There are two qualifying sessions at each round, so \$2,000 will be up for grabs at each round.



# | Ford Insure



# SERIES CONTACTS



## SERIES MANAGERS

Liam Curkpatrick

Mobile: +61 438 033 246

E-mail: [liam@drivingsolutions.com.au](mailto:liam@drivingsolutions.com.au)

James Stewart

Mobile: +61 404 888 525

E-mail: [james@drivingsolutions.com.au](mailto:james@drivingsolutions.com.au)



# FORD RACING

