

WA's 'Double or Nothing' law will improve
the behaviour of bad drivers.



Or it'll keep them off the road for twice as long.



'Double or Nothing' Fact Sheet



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport

Under Western Australia's Double or Nothing law, drivers who lose their licence through a demerit point disqualification will no longer be able to apply for an Extraordinary Licence. And they may face DOUBLE the time off the road.

What is Double or Nothing?

Double or Nothing is an option that eligible drivers with 12 or more demerit points can elect once they have been served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice.

By electing the Double or Nothing option a driver can continue to drive on a 12 month Good Behaviour Period. However, if they accrue more than one demerit point in the 12 month Good Behaviour Period or if they commit an offence which results in a disqualification, they will be disqualified for DOUBLE the original disqualification period.

Under the laws Extraordinary Licences are no longer available for demerit point disqualifications.

Why has this been introduced?

Double or Nothing has been introduced as part of a larger program of change which will see Western Australia's licensing system become more closely aligned with other Australian jurisdictions.

Double or Nothing is really about improving driver behaviour in the long term. The option already exists in other States/Territories and their statistics show that a high number of disqualified drivers who took the second chance offer did not commit any further offences.

Who is eligible for the new Double or Nothing option?

All Western Australian driver's licence holders can elect to take the Double or Nothing option, unless:

- They do not hold a current WA driver's licence
- They hold a provisional driver's licence
- Their licence is already disqualified
- Their licence is invalid for any other reason
- Their licence is under fines suspension. (If the fines are paid to clear this suspension within the 21 day election deadline a driver can elect to drive on Good Behaviour Period.)

How do I make a Good Behaviour Period election?

Once an eligible driver has been served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice, they can elect to continue to drive by submitting a Good Behaviour Period election form at any Licensing centre, regional licensing agent, online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/ndls or by post to PO Box 8090, East Perth WA 6892.

The Department must receive the election form within 21 days of a driver being served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice. Once this deadline has lapsed a driver can no longer elect to continue to drive, therefore the disqualification will begin 28 days following the service of the Excessive Demerit Points Notice.

Election forms are available at any Licensing centre, regional licensing agent or online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/ndls

What if I don't want to take the Double or Nothing option?

If you are served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice and do not want to take the Double or Nothing option, the disqualification period will start 28 days after the Excessive Demerit Points Notice was served. If you choose this option, you will not need to notify the Department.

Under Double or Nothing law, Extraordinary Licences are no longer available for demerit point disqualifications, whether a driver elects for the Good Behaviour Period or not.

Can I make an election if I am currently driving with an Extraordinary Driver's Licence?

If you are already driving on an Extraordinary Licence and you get a subsequent demerit point disqualification, you can still elect the Double or Nothing option. However, the Good Behaviour Period will be postponed until the disqualification period related to your Extraordinary Driver's Licence has ended.

The table below shows how this will work:

| Number of demerit points | Period of disqualification | Period of disqualification if you breach the Good Behaviour Period |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 12 - 15 points | 3 months | 6 months |
| 16 - 19 points | 4 months | 8 months |
| 20 or more points | 5 months | 10 months |

For a list of offences and their relevant demerit point penalties, please see the Drive Safe book. (Available from Forms and Publications at www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing)

Can I change my mind once I have made my election?

No. Once you have elected to take the Double or Nothing option, you cannot reverse your decision. You must drive for 12 months under the Good Behaviour Period conditions.

What offences breach the Good Behaviour Period?

If you commit certain driving offences during the 12 month Good Behaviour Period, you will be disqualified for **DOUBLE** the original disqualification as the conditions of the Good Behaviour Period will have been breached.

The following will breach the Good Behaviour Period:

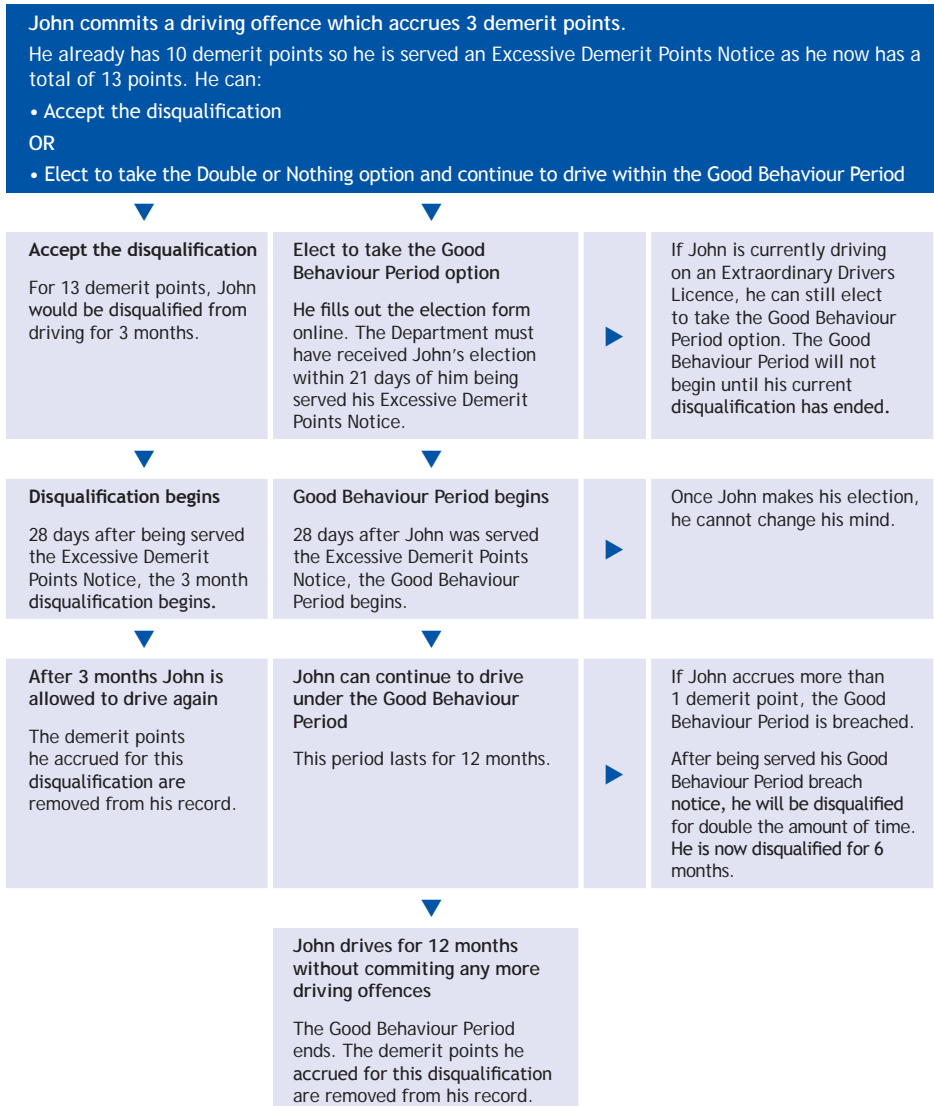
- Accrue more than one demerit point for offences committed during the Good Behaviour Period.
- Commit an offence during the Good Behaviour Period that results in a disqualification.

If you breach the Good Behaviour Period, you will be disqualified for **DOUBLE** the length of the original demerit point disqualification.

You will not be able to apply for an Extraordinary Licence after breaching this period.

Practical Example of how Double or Nothing will work?

The below is an example to help explain how the new system will work.



For more information on Double or Nothing or any of the other National Drivers Licence Scheme changes visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/ndls or call 13 11 56.

