



Your first day at the track

Here are some hints and tips on what to expect, to make your first day enjoyable and memorable:

Before you leave home

It's an exciting day, and you'll be anxious to get to the track and get started.

There are a few very important things you must remember to bring:

- your current CAMS licence
- your current valid Club membership card
- correct racing apparel, gloves and helmet (and, if you have one, your HANS device)

Plus, empty your boot and cabin of any loose, non-essential items and leave them at home; any excess you bring will have to be left unattended while you're out on the track.

On the way

Fill your fuel tank!

There are no refuelling facilities at the circuits.

- Fill and bring one or two 10-litre plastic fuel containers for a top-up during the day.



At the track

Where to park and who to see/how to register

It can be a little confusing when you first arrive at a new motor sport circuit, but we've all been through it.

- Look for other MX-5s already there and park near them.
- Make yourself known to your fellow enthusiasts, explain that it's your first day and ask them to direct you to the **Club Captain - Motor Sport** or his Assistant.

These fine people will show you where to park, where to sign in and what you need to do to get ready for the day.

Scrutineering

Before anything else, your car will need to be scrutineered to ensure it meets all the specified safety requirements for the event. The scrutineers will check that you have all the safety equipment outlined in the supplementary regulations ("supp regs"), that you will have submitted with your entry form for the event, and tell you if anything needs to be addressed before you can hit "the black stuff".

Drivers' briefing

The next – and most important – thing is to do is attend a briefing of all drivers. This is given by the **Clerk of the Course** and other officials, and outlines all the vital things you need to know for the day – eg, any issues with the track, which group you're in, the timetable for the day, safety messages and so on.

- **Attendance at the drivers' briefing is compulsory** for everyone planning to drive during the event.

Officials

The main officials you'll encounter at one of our Club speed events are:

Clerk of the Course in charge of the entire event ... what he says, goes!

Dummy Grid Marshal controls who enters the track ... and when

Flag Marshals stationed at various posts around the circuit, these dedicated enthusiasts wave different flags (see right) at different times to tell you and your fellow competitors what's happening on the track ahead.

They are in radio contact with the Clerk of the Course, so they might have a specific message for *you* (such as a blue or black flag!)

It's important to follow the instructions of all officials, for your own and everyone else's safety. Remember, the officials are aware of the bigger picture and give their instructions for a reason.

It's also vital to remember that all our motor sport officials are volunteers who give up their time so that you can go out and play ... so, please – "play nice"!

The "flaggies", in particular, often spend hours standing at flag stations in the furthest corners of the circuits, in conditions that are far less comfortable than in your car's cabin.

Without them, we would not have a sport.

Flags – what they mean for you

blue



you are holding up/being overtaken by a faster vehicle

white



there's a slow-moving vehicle or service vehicle on the track ahead

yellow



there's danger ahead – slow down and prepare to take evasive action

yellow with red stripes



slippery surface ahead

red



the race or practice session is being stopped

green



the track is all clear ahead

black & white diagonal



warning flag – displayed to a driver behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner

black



there's either a problem with your car – or the driver ... you must enter pit lane on the next lap

black & white chequered



finishing flag – end of the event or practice session



Questions

For anything you want to know while you're at the track, the best people to ask are the **Club Captain - Motor Sport** and his Assistant. However, any of your fellow Mazda MX-5 Club members will be more than willing to help you out. Please remember that they are there to compete as well, so be patient while they find time to address your questions.

Behaviour

The key ingredient of a day at the track is "fun", but it's important that your fun is not had at the expense of other competitors. Motor sport is dangerous, and it's vital that we all play by the rules and treat each other fairly and with consideration.

Most behaviour falls under the heading of "common sense", but the Club website has a members' code of conduct (see "About the Club") which we ask you to read.

The essential message is: **treat others as you would like to be treated**. The Clerk of the Course has the power to send anyone home for behaviour that oversteps the boundaries, and further disciplinary action, including bans from future events, could follow.

Please remember:

- **alcohol is not permitted** anywhere in the pits and paddock of every circuit, and
- **smoking is banned** in the pits and within seven metres of refuelling areas.

Disputes

Disputes can arise in a competitive environment, but it's important to remember that *we're all here to enjoy ourselves* and that everyone is doing their best to help you enjoy the experience too.

Should you have an issue with an official or a fellow competitor, please raise it – calmly and coolly – on the day with the **Club Captain - Motor Sport**. If he can't sort it out on the day, the Club has a grievance process to address your concern.

Please note: social media is not the place to air any grievances against the Club, officials, your fellow members or other competitors. This just gives us all a bad name! Please raise any issues with the Club Captain.

And finally ...

Have fun!

That's why we're all here, after all. There are no sheep stations at stake at our events!

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania stresses that all forms of motor sport are dangerous, and participation is at your own risk. The Club and event organisers take great care to ensure our events are as safe as possible, but much of your own safety depends on how well you prepare yourself and your car for competition.

To find out more

To find out more about the Club's Sprint Championship, including:

- Championship calendar
- results and records
- permitted modifications
- driving technique
- general tips

please visit the motor sport section on the Club's website (mx5vic.org.au) for more information.

If you still have questions, feel free to contact the Club Captain <captain@mx5vic.org.au> or Assistant <captain2@mx5vic.org.au>.

They will get back to you as soon as they can.



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