

READY, STEADY, GO 2021

Getting Started in Hillclimbing and Sprinting

You will need a Competiton Licence

These are issued by Motorsport UK, and your first licence will be a Motorsport UK Competiton RS Interclub Licence. This will cover all events that you may wish to enter, and neither a medical examination nor ARDS training course is required. There are some simple questions on your medical history for obvious reasons, but basically all you have to do is fill in the application form and send it off with the necessary payment. Call Motorsport UK on 01753 765000 for your form or download from their website.

A Race Helmet is mandatory

This must conform to the Motorsport UK Blue Book section K.10 (p166). You will receive a Blue Book - the Motorsport UK "bible" that covers all the relevant motorsport regulations with your new licence. A suitable helmet can be obtained from any of the retailers specialising in race equipment, at prices from around £220 to several hundred pounds. You will also need a balaclava.

A Race Suit is mandatory

This must be of a recognised standard meeting Motorsport UK requirements - the Blue Book details what is required. Section K.9 covers clothing and though not essential, it is a good idea to have a vest and socks made from similar flame-resistant material. Prices for the suits vary from around £250 upwards. You will automatically receive catalogues from the retailers after applying for your competition licence, and these will show the range of clothing available.

Motorsport UK Approved Gloves

Gloves are also mandatory and these must be flame-resistant, see K.14.3(e). Race boots, whilst not mandatory, are recommended.

A Timing Strut

Must be fitted to the front of your car when competing. It should be matt black, not less than 254mm x 51mm, and with the bottom between 180mm and 200mm from the ground (as described in S10.10 of the Blue Book). These cannot be bought, but are very simple to make out of strips of aluminium, and easy to both fix and remove from the car at the meeting. (Those already competing will always give advice on how to fix struts to the different Ferrari tipos)

Seat/Safety Belts

Road registered cars are permitted to compete with lap and diagonal belts, but a four point full harness is worth investing in (from £150), not just for the increased safety but for holding the driver more securely in place at the higher cornering speeds likely when competing.

Fire Extinguishers

These are not mandatory, as the event marshalls have proper fire fighting equipment. They are however required for club Track Days so it is still a good idea to have one installed in your Ferrari.

Car Preparation

This is minimal assuming your car is properly serviced and roadworthy. Modern tyres are needed if you want to be competitive. Recent tipos from F355 onwards have to be to original manufacturer specification - the only changes allowed are those related to safety. You will also need indicators for door opening and ignition off. More detail can be obtained from Anne Swift annemswift@btinternet.com

Wear & Tear

Surprisingly not a lot, with tyres the main consumables. If you take part regularly rear tyres will do at least a couple of seasons and fronts up to five, though you can halve this if you do all the rounds and are out to win! Brake pads will last the same as for normal road use, and clutches need not be a problem.

Entering Events

You need to enter each event in the calendar that you plan to do about a couple of months beforehand or enter on line from the beginning of the season– leave it late and you may not get an entry. Entry fees are usually not much more than £130 or so.

Hillclimb Schools

If you wish to have some instruction before your first outing, the following Clubs organise driving schools.

Organising Club	Location	2021 dates
BARC (SW)	Gurston	6 April, 4 May, 8 June, 3 August
BARC (Yorkshire)	Harewood	*29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 19 August
BOC	Prescott	21 April, 26 May, 9 June
MAC	Shelsley Walsh	20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 3 August, 7 September
H&DLCC	Loton Park	12 May, 7 July, 25 August
Curborough Sprint School	Curborough	4 May, 2 September

*fully booked

Anything else?

You will need some commitment as early morning starts are usually necessary. This is a road car series and you have to drive your Ferrari to and from the meeting as trailers are not permitted. You also need to check your car beforehand and make up your competition number door panels ready to apply to your car on arrival. The panels are provided by the FOC, but as you are allocated a different number for each meeting, it is necessary to purchase a supply of these yourself. Once you arrive in the paddock you will find the Ferrari competitors are very helpful and the camaraderie is second to none – you will soon be hooked!