

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

Wiscombe Park



SPEED HILLCLIMB

Getting Started



Guide

Club Motorsport Since
1958

www.wiscombepark.co.uk

Speed Events (this covers Hillclimbs and Sprints) – Getting started

These reference points are intended as a “starting point” for anyone considering entering hillclimb and sprint events. The community is very friendly - joining your local motor club is a great first step into the world of motorsport. There will be plenty of advice and guidance available to you from existing competitors.

If you have any questions please send an e-mail to
wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com

Please note that this guide does not cover motorbikes and sidecars. If you are interested in competing on motorbikes, then please look at the National Hill Climb Association web site www.nhca.co.uk The NHCA organise 2- and 3-wheel speed events in the UK under the Rules of the Auto Cycle Union (ACU) www.acu.org.uk

The governing body for speed events (and other types of 4-wheel motorsport in the UK) is Motorsport UK (see: www.motorsportuk.org) and the regulations covering the sport are laid out in the National Competition Rules (see - <https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd>)

Motorsport UK – Getting started

<https://www.motorsportuk.org/get-started/types-of-motor-sport/hill-climb/>

National Competition Rules

What are these rules that apply to speed events? There are many rules and regulations, which can be confusing when you look at them, however for speed events there three main areas to read in the National Competition Rules:

- **Chapter 7** – Competitor Vehicles and Vehicle Safety Equipment
<https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p248>
- **Chapter 9** – Competitor Personal Safety Equipment, see:
<https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p342>
- **Chapter 14** – Sprint, Hill Climb & Hot Lap Challenge
<https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p527>

TOP TIP – Read these three sections and do your best to understand them, but do not worry if you cannot understand them, just ask and we can help.

How do I start?

- **Visit some events** and chat with the competitors, particularly those running a car the same or similar to your car. Also speak to the scrutineers at the event - they are there to check all the cars for safety and that they are eligible for the class that they are entered into.
- **Join your local motor club** - a good starting point (make sure that they are involved in speed events – hillclimbs and sprints – some motor clubs specialise in certain disciplines). At your local motor club there will be plenty of help and advice available from existing competitors. They will also put you in touch with a scrutineer who can offer guidance on the eligibility/Class of your car.

Club Directory

This is the link to the club directory on the Motorsport UK web site
www.motorsportuk.org/clubs-organisers/find-clubs/

TOP TIP – if you want to undertake hillclimbs in one area, such as the South West, then join one club that is a member of the Association of South Western Motor Clubs (ASWMC) www.aswmc.org.uk/ as all ASWMC events invite all ASWMC member clubs.

Also take a look at the Hillclimb & Sprint Association website
www.hillclimbandsprint.co.uk

- **Apply for a Motorsport UK RS Inter Club Competition Licence** (cost £82 as of October 2025) - available to anyone aged 14 or above
<https://www.motorsportuk.org/competitors/competition-licences/>

Note - For Junior drivers age 14-16 only - competitors must successfully complete 3 sprint events before entering a hillclimb
<https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p533>

Car

You can use your standard road-going car in hill climbs without any additional safety items.

You can also build (or buy) a modified hill climb car or even a specialist single-seater. There are a wide variety of classes catering for many options. Modified production cars, or specialist sprint or hill climb vehicles are required to be fitted with a Roll Over Protection System (ROPS)

Due to the high-speed nature of hill climbs you will need to buy some Motorsport UK-compliant safety gear such as a helmet, fireproof overalls, gloves and, for some classes, a Frontal Head Restraint (HANS) device.

All technical regulations for sprints and hill climbs are contained in chapter 14 of the National Competition Rules <https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p527>

TOP TIP – When you do decide to enter an event, take your car to a scrutineer beforehand to get your car inspected before the event.

Guidance on Class

The golden rule when thinking about modifications is that if the Motorpsort UK National Competition Rules doesn't say you CAN, then you CAN'T.

Before undertaking any modifications to a car – check with a scrutineer – he will provide guidance on the effect your mods will have, and the Class that you will run in.

Motorsport UK divide all types of cars into categories. Road Going Classes, where the cars have current Road Tax (but not on SORN), have a current MOT (unless exempt) and be insured for the road at the time of the event:

- **Standard Car Class** - Saloons and Sports Cars produced in quantities of not less than 5,000 per annum of unitary construction, two wheel drive and up to 2 litre engine capacity. The cars must be manufactured after 1st January 2000
- **Road Going Series Production** (over 1,000 made per year – e.g. Audi TT, MX5, Renault Clio)
- **Road Going Specialist Production** (over 20 but less than 1,000 made per annum – e.g. Morgan, Davrian etc.) All other classes DO NOT NEED current Road Tax, MOT or insurance, except the Rally Car Class which need a current MOT only.

- **Modified Series Production** (over 1,000 made per year but highly modified – e.g. Renault Clio). These cars can be stripped out internally and run on slick tyres etc.
- **Modified Specialist Production** (over 20 but less than 1,000 made per annum), e.g. Morgan, Davrian etc.

Within the broad groups above, the classes are sub-divided by engine capacity. Note - there is an equivalence factor of 1.4 for forced induction car (turbo-charged and supercharged cars) eg 1,000cc turbo is treated as 1,400cc etc

TOP TIP – Ask your local scrutineer to check that you are in the correct class for your car.

Mandatory requirements for a road going car running in a Road Going Class:

- **A sticker on the ignition switch** to indicate how to switch the engine off if you have an emergency;
- **Some yellow tape around the negative / earth cable on the battery** (so the marshals know which cable to cut in case of a very serious accident or fire risk);
- **Attach towing point eyes both front and rear** (in case you break down) – these must be clearly marked in a contrasting colour -
2.11 <https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p537>

TOP TIP - You can fit the standard towing eyes that come with your car – you will need two - one front and rear. (This is mandatory for all cars, not just road going)

- **Attach a timing strut / beam breaker to the front**
11.1 <https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p539>
- **A set of race numbers to stick on your car** – these will vary for each event (many people use magnetic backgrounds – motorsport suppliers are the simplest source) – ***please note these should not be on the car when you rejoin the public highway, or at least crossed out***
<https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p547>

TOP TIP - for a road going car - you can print off numbers on your home printer and stick the numbers on the inside of each rear side window

Competitor personal safety equipment – helmet, overalls etc – refer to <https://ebooks.motorsportuk.org/najd/p342>

General guidance before your first event

- Get your car checked over beforehand by a local scrutineer.
- Enter your chosen event. Specific event or Championship regulations are found in Supplementary Regulations (SRs) made available by an event organiser.
- Check your personal safety equipment (helmet, overalls and gloves etc)
- The organising club will send you joining instructions before the event. Get there early and allow yourself time to walk the hill before the event. Practice is just that – there are no benefits in setting a quick time in practice – save your speed for the event runs - those are the ones that count.

Other Information

Wiscombe Park

Clubs that run events at Wiscombe Park are listed below along with their web sites:

• Burnham on Sea Motor Club	www.bosmotorclub.co.uk
• MG Car Club (SW)	www.mgcc.co.uk/south-west-centre
• Plymouth Motor Club	www.plymouthmotorclub.co.uk
• Torbay Motor Club	www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk
• Wildlife Autosport	www.tauntonmc.co.uk
• Woolbridge Motor Club	www.woolbridge.co.uk

Videos

Motorsport UK TV – Hillclimber beginner series videos

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzFfk_hp9n4wwZf-rBDddodCrKNqLrj0A

These short video's produced by Speed on Screen are also worth viewing:

Entering your first Hillclimb or Sprint

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faNQkZUdARc&t>

Hillclimb & Sprint – Class structure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhS89cKB79k&t>

Hillclimb schools

Some venues run hillclimb schools – more details on The Association of Hillclimb and Sprint Schools web site <https://ahass.co.uk/> The one local to Wiscombe is with the BARC(SW) at Gurston Down <https://gurstondown.org/gurston-down-hill-climb-school/>