

GETTING STARTED IN SPEED EVENTS – CHECKLIST

‘Speed Events’ is the overall name given to the sports of Sprinting and Speed Hillclimbing. In both, a car is driven from a standing start along a tarmac track to a finish line as quickly as possible, and the time recorded forms the basis of the competition. Cars run on their own as the competition is against the clock, although on longer tracks there may be several cars running at once at intervals, with the cars being well separated.

The difference between Sprinting and Speed Hillclimbing is that, in the latter case, the track goes uphill, with the finish line at a higher elevation than the start line, and the course length is generally shorter than for a Sprint. Otherwise, they are similar and as the requirements for the cars are the same many competitors compete at both.

How to start competing with the BDC

Your competition licence

As a beginner, you will need an Interclub Speed Licence from Motorsport UK (MSUK – the governing body for all forms of motorsport in the UK), and an application form can be downloaded from the MSUK website. You’ll also need a passport-sized photo. Generally, no medical is required, just your doctor’s name and address on the form. Your licence will come with a link to the MSUK website, where National Competition Rules (NCRs) are posted which govern all forms of motorsport.

Preparing your car

As you will be competing in your road-going Bentley, preparation of the car is straightforward:

- The car must be in good condition, with a valid MOT (if applicable), road tax and insurance.
- A sticker is required on the ignition indicating which way is ‘Off’.
- A sticker is required indicating the position of towing points front and rear.
- Yellow tape must be wrapped around the battery earth cable.
- A hand-held fire extinguisher must be carried.
- A timing strut (a simple vertical black metal strip) must be fixed to the front of the car.
- Your race number (self-adhesive) must be fitted to both sides and front of the car.
- Standard road tyres are adequate.

Personal Protective Equipment

For an enclosed standard car, technically all that is required is a helmet to specific BS standards (as stated in the NCRs) plus clothing that covers arms and legs, although flame-resistant racing overalls, gloves and boots are highly recommended as well. Additionally, you can buy flame-resistant underwear and balaclavas – they give added safety, but they’re not mandatory.

All of the equipment necessary for preparing your car and all of the personal protective equipment can be purchased from motorsport retailers such as Demon Tweeks (www.demon-tweeks.com) .

Further questions

If you have any further questions about how to go Sprinting or Speed Hillclimbing, just ask Vernon Moore, BDC Motorsport Ambassador (07811 159306 / vernon@mooresestateagents.com) or contact Harry Johnson, BDC Competitions Captain (Competitionscaptain@bdcl.org).