

NEW DRIVER INFO

Welcome to the National Ministox Club



WELCOME

Welcome to the National Ministox Club. We are looking forward to meeting you and your family at a track soon.

We know that some of our drivers are new to stock car racing, so hopefully the information below will tell you everything you need to know about how we run the club and where to go for information. Even if you have been racing for years, each formula is run slightly differently, so it may answer some of the questions you or your parents might have.

MEETING INFORMATION

We use our website www.nationalministox.co.uk to give drivers, parents and family members all the information they need about the club. Details about the next meeting, results, points and driver information is all on here. We recommend you check the website a few days before each meeting. We also have a members only area where we will update members on any news or important information. Speak to a committee member about the password for this.

Our Fixture List gives some important information about the the meeting, whether it is a championship meeting and if the races will count towards any championship grids.

You (if you are over 13 olds) or your parents may also want to join our closed Facebook group which lets you know if there has been any updates to the website or important information you might need to read. Ask a member of the committee to be added to this group if you are on Facebook.

RACECEIVERS

National Ministox drivers need to wear a raceceiver during racing. It will need to be tuned to Channel 550. Please make sure you are wearing your race receiver at least 1 hour before the start of a meeting so the club can let you know about any important information.

They can be bought from Spedeworth fabrications or from Julie Dyde (team #171) at a race meeting.



BEFORE YOU CAN RACE

All new drivers will need to take a National Ministox Club competency test before they can be issued with a licence. This is for health and safety reasons and is nothing to feel nervous about. The test will be in 4 parts:

Written Test

The first part of the Assessment test will be a multiple choice written test. This is to make sure the driver understands what they are expected to do on the track, around the pits and the Health & Safety aspects of racing. The test should take around 10 - 15 minutes.

Safety Check

The second part of the test is about making sure the driver has the right safety equipment and the positioning of the seat in the car is safe for the driver.

Driving Competence - Off track

The third part of the test is to make sure that the driver can drive safely in the pit area and any other areas before going on track.

Driving Competence - On track

The final part of the test is to make sure that the driver can drive safely on track, behind a safety car and follows signals correctly.



Someone from the club will be in contact when a date has been arranged with a track. It is likely that you will take your test with some other new drivers, so it will be a good chance for you to make some new friends and ask any questions.

Once you've passed your test, you'll be given a National Ministox Club licence which you'll need to bring with you to each meeting. You'll also be given a printed copy of our rule book, but if you need to find out any information before then, the rule book is on our website www.nationalministox.co.uk/about-the-club

BOOKINGS

National Ministox bookings are run by the club. In most cases, you won't need to book in with the track as well. Your booking with the club is enough. We will let you know via the website if this is not the case.

You can book in for meetings before you have taken your test, that's not a problem, but you won't be able to race until you have completed your test.

All bookings must be made to the booking officer (details at the start of the rule book) via text message only. No other form of booking will be accepted. Bookings will be open from 9am on the 10th of each month for the following month i.e from 10th April for May meetings. Bookings will be from 9am to 9pm. Any booking outside these times won't be counted.



Booking lists will be uploaded to the Next Meeting page of the website around a week before the meeting.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT TRACK

Each track runs a slightly different system, so we hope the following helps. It is worth noting most tracks are cash only.

- Aldershot, Birmingham, Ipswich, Mildenhall, Northampton, Skegness - drive into the pits and then go to the pit office to purchase your tickets and sign in. You will be given a ticket/wristband which will allow you to leave the pits and enter the racetrack
- Buxton - purchase your tickets as you enter the pits and then sign in at the pit office with your licence
- Hednesford, Kings Lynn, Sheffield - pay as you enter the pits, you don't need to do anything else

During the Covid pandemic, things have been run slightly differently and in a lot of cases you need to purchase pre-paid tickets, but this information will be on the 'Next meeting' page of our website before the meeting.

ON THE DAY

When you get to the track, make sure you find where the Ministox's white board is (usually with a committee member), as this will give you the running order of the day, show you which heats you are racing in and your starting position and also any important times such as the drivers briefing.

We always have a drivers briefing before racing starts. You must take a parent or adult with you to the briefing. This is normally done 1 hour before the start of the meeting. You will be called via your raceceiver and told where this meeting will be happening but it's usually at the same place as the white board.



Results will also be posted after each race on this board, so it's important to check back to see if there have been any updates, as grid positions could also change if any driver has car problems and needs to swap heats. We will try and let you know over the raceceivers if there are any changes, but it's good to check before you get strapped into your car for a race.

Some tracks offer a brief practice session before each meeting. Information will be on the 'Next meeting' page of our website. Please make sure you are wearing your raceceiver before going out for practice.



Your car will need to be scrutineered before you go out to race (or practice). You will be told over your receiver where to take your car for scrutineering or if the scrutineer will come to you. Please bring with you your licence, as well as your helmet, gloves, hans device etc so these can also be checked. You will be given a sticker to go on the roof of your car to show that your car has been checked and you can race.

Before going out on track for each race, a member of the committee will do a radio check with each driver to make sure their raceceiver is working. Please follow any instructions given by the committee, as it's for your own safety. If your raceceiver isn't working, they will do their best to help you, but with Covid, it might not be possible, so your parent/guardian may be called to help. Don't worry though, we will do our best to hold the pit gate open for you until your raceceiver is working.



STARTING POSITIONS

National Ministox run a handicap system for start positions. When you first start Ministox you will be asked to start at the back of the grid, behind the Superstars to allow you to gain confidence on the track. For health and safety reasons, it's expected you will start at least one meeting from the back of the Superstars before you start from the front of the grid with the whites, but this is at the committees discretion.

The drivers are gridded in graded order, with the person who has scored the least amount of points starting at the front of the grid, working backwards through the grades. You may start in different positions in each heat, so please make sure you check the white board for your starting position.

The grids for the heats will be taken from the current grading list, with the lowest scoring driver in each heat starting on pole position, working backwards through the grades. The grid for the final is worked out based on points scored at that meeting. The top 10 drivers in each heat are awarded points 10 down to 1. The highest scoring driver within each grade will start at the front of their grade. Where two drivers are tied on the same points, the driver gaining a better position in the heats will start in front of the other driver. Where this is still tied, the grading list will be used with the driver who is higher up the grading list starting in front. None scoring drivers start at the very rear of the grid, but still in graded order.

If you have any queries on the day about positions, starts or anything that has happened on the track, please do not go to the steward. Please speak to a member of the committee who will try and help with the problem and if necessary will take you to the steward to discuss.

GRADE AWARDS

At the end of each meeting, the committee will total up the points and the highest scoring driver within each of the lower grades (novice, white, yellow and blue) will receive a grade award for their hard work at that meeting. We try to hand out the grade awards at the next possible meeting.

The results for each meeting will be posted on the website the day after the meeting where possible.



50/50 PRIZE DRAW

We try to run a 50/50 prize draw at each meeting where possible. Someone from the committee will come to the teams in the pits with a sheet with all drivers numbers on. Each number is £1 and the prize pot is split between the winner and the club. All the money raised goes towards helping support our annual awards night, which is usually held in January/February.

NOVICE BOARDS

As a novice you will need to have novice boards on the back of your car (black and white vertical stripes of 70mm width on a plate covering outside of the rear bumper) to warn other drivers when they are coming behind you that you are new to racing. There should be no deliberate contact on other drivers when you are a novice and likewise other drivers should not be making contact with you. The committee and your parent/guardian will talk when its a good time to remove your novice boards. You can't take your novice boards off part way through a meeting.

Normally novice drivers don't take part in a final or start from the qualifiers grid, but you will take part in the heats. You won't score points when you are a novice, but if you are lucky enough to get a top 3 position in a race you will still get your trophy, but no points.

If there is a yellow flag and drivers are asked to line up in single file, all novices MUST move when instructed by a marshal and line up at the very back of the grid.



We are looking forward to seeing you at a track soon and hope that you have lots of fun, make new friends and learn some new skills with the National Ministox club!

Photo courtesy of MSF Stoxpics. National Ministox Club 2019 Awards night - held January 2020.

