FORCC Club members’ etiquette/sportsmanship

Marshalling etiquette/sportsmanship

As a marshal we ask that you have a responsibility for your own safety as well as others. Injuries have occurred recently and near misses can be clearly seen on the latest videos, we all race for the competition, the fun and the entertainment, but as stated by the BRCA to which we are affiliated, FUN does not mean RECKLESS.

1/ When you are marshalling, please only monitor your post, DO NOT attempt to watch the entire race – This is to ensure your own safety as you will have more opportunity to observe vehicles/parts that could harm you in an incident and you can monitor inappropriate actions such as rope or track jumping and alert the committee, our preference is that you call it out verbally to the driver at the moment it occurs to allow the race to continue rather than adjust after the fact.

2/ As a marshal it is hoped you will safely and efficiently recover vehicles in order to keep the race clean and competitive. Attend the incident as safely and efficiently as possible. Please don’t be distracted by phones or watching your friend’s position in the race, **please marshal as you would hope to be marshalled in your own race.**

3/ If you see a vehicle that needs recovery, please make sure it is safe for you to go out and recover - if appropriate call across to another marshal if they are in a safer position to recover the vehicle safely and efficiently.

4/ As a marshal if you see a vehicle crash from one part of the track to another part of the track, you should with best endeavours return the vehicle to its original point, no one should use a crash to gain an unfair advantage (track jumping) drivers can call out to the marshal and provide guidance on where they were if the marshal was perhaps attending another incident when they had theirs.

5/ As a marshal on the first corner you are also the impartial party who will be called upon in the event that a driver asks that laps are added to their race because they feel the sensor didn’t count their car. If you see a vehicle rope jump, call out to the driver involved, they then decide to return or accept they missed the loop.

6/ If a vehicle is involved in an incident on the straight, this is one of the most dangerous parts of the track as cars will be up to full power, in order to minimise risks to injury and further vehicle damage creating risks to people, please shout loudly and clearly “Straight – Slow Down”, drivers should respectfully let off the power, move around the incident and yourself once the vehicle is recovered, shout loudly and clearly “Clear”. As a driver see section 7 below, DRIVERS should call it first but if not please speak up.

7/ As a marshal your focus should be in your own zone to allow you to effectively and appropriately recover vehicles – This means that in the event of a multiple vehicle incident you will be able to recover them in the correct order, for example the leading car impacted by a trailing vehicle (rear end shunt), the lead vehicle should be recovered first.

8/ If it is possible for you to carry out a safe repair and return the car to the race then do so, but do not endanger yourself or others to facilitate that.

9/ When you recover a car to the track ALWAYS try to place it in a safe space to return to racing – for example please do not drop the car straight in front of another vehicle that is racing.

10/ While recovering vehicles, attempt to minimise your impact on the drivers view of the field, for example kneel in a position or bend down while returning to your post. (Within reason, we do understand this isn’t physically possible for all members and we are an inclusive club so stand-in marshals are acceptable)

Driver etiquette/sportsmanship

As a driver you have a responsibility to race safely and be conscious of your speed and the consequences that could occur in any incident. Always err on the side of caution and slow down around incidents and marshals. Remember we are a family club and we have children racing with us.

1/ Practice is exactly that – Practice the track. **DO NOT** start driving until all drivers are on the stage and all marshal posts are covered and the timing has begun.

2/ As a driver please be respectful as well as competitive, remember no one comes to our hobby to be hurt and unable to work the next day. Use speed appropriately and wisely, being the fastest to crash at every corner isn’t an award.

3/ As a driver, please make yourself aware of who you are racing with (The names are on the sheets giving you your driver/position number), this is useful for you to politely communicate with each other during your race.

4/ As a driver if you have an incident with your vehicle or parts, call out to the marshal in that zone by name or zone number to alert them to the fact that something has occurred, they will endeavour to safely and efficiently assist you. i.e “Marshal 6 car recovery please”

5/ If you are leading and catching up with other drivers in your race politely let them know that you are the lead car and that you are over taking. (While drivers can see the monitor from the stage showing their driving position, they can’t always have time to look up and we don’t have blue flags like everyday F1 races etc.)

6/ As a driver, if you are involved in an incident, LET GO of the throttle and DO NOT apply power until you are returned to a safe position. NO marshal is expected to put their hands into recover three cars all trying to power out of being stuck together, its dangerous for them and others. Being vocal and politely calling out where you have had an incident will ensure the recovery is as smooth as possible, all drivers are in the same position and out of good sportsmanship we should all behave the same.

7/ AS PER SECTION 6 above, it is an equal and joint responsibility… If your vehicle is involved in an incident on the straight, YOU know it’s happened, this is one of the most dangerous parts of the track as cars will be up to full power, in order to minimise risks to injury and further vehicle damage creating risks to people, please shout loudly and clearly “Straight – Slow Down”, the other drivers should respectfully let off the power, move around the incident and yourself, once the vehicle is recovered, shout loudly and clearly “Clear”.. If you hear “Straight – Slow Down” then respond appropriately, let off, DO NOT use full power, you want to keep your car in one piece to continue and perhaps win your race/championship so hitting a static car or pieces of another car won’t help that. Once you hear “Clear” then return to full power racing conditions.

8/ As a driver that creates an incident involving another car it is polite to either pull to one side while the other competitor regains their position or ensure that the other driver is recovered first if you both require marshalling.

9/ Never attempt to deliberately take out another driver as people could be hurt especially children, if something occurs with another drivers driving style, please call it out on the stage as it is happening, then marshals can observe it and if necessary the committee can observe the race.

10/ Always race fairly, a championship earned through on-track antics like, rope jumping or cutting out sections after falling off a ramp and being able to half the track is a hollow victory, similarly complaining about something weeks after the fact makes it hard for us to do anything, that’s why I am encouraging a culture of being vocal at the time and it being a safe environment to do so.

The club has previously done/considered options such as:

/having a table on the stage where cars are placed as soon as you finish your race and you then marshal no returning to the pit area

/modern technology and motor options being too fast for the space and to use 13.5t motors

/ an extra marshal purely to referee the races

At this point in time I would rather we continued with the long standing history of this club and worked together without strict rules to improve the sportsmanship in our championship, slowing the speed down for safety and hopefully crash less and improve the overall driving skills and competitiveness of our club. If Hattie, James, Kyle and Matthew can all race within tenths of a second of each other and not crash out, then it is possible for us all to do so.