

Eddyville Raceway Park Drag Racing 101!

Are you new to Drag Racing and want to race but you aren't 100% sure what's involved? You've come to the right spot!

First, your car. Before making the trip to the track make sure your car is in safe and good running condition. Things like all your lug nuts are on and properly torqued. Make sure all of your tires are in good condition (and are not studded snow tires). In addition, make sure all your glass is in good condition and not cracked to the point of being dangerous. Also, check that the vehicle doesn't have any leaks from the engine, transmission, rear end, etc. The reason for this is if the starter thinks that the car is leaking an unsafe amount of fluid, he will back you off from a run and ask you to repair the leak before coming back for another run. Another good idea is to make sure your car is clean (inside and out) so that when you leave the starting line your car doesn't dump out any foreign debris. If you are running a pick-up truck, please make sure that the bed of the truck is cleaned out and your wheel wells are clean. Just a good once over of your car is always a good idea before you head to the track. Doing all of this not only helps you get more runs, but your fellow racers as well. Most of these instructions were written with the stock street car in mind. If you have a modified vehicle, from mild to wild, check the general safety the General Safety Regulations in the IHRA Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Once you get to the track, if your vehicle you're driving is equipped with air conditioning, now is a good time to shut it off for the rest of the night. Not only does air conditioning rob power from your engine when racing, but the condensation that drips out will get on the track and this takes time for the starting line clean.

Now that you have paid for your tech card at the front gate proceed into the pit area. Please keep in mind the 10-mph speed limit in the pits. Burnouts and dry hops are NOT ALLOWED in the pit area. Find an open pit space and park there. Most of the pit spaces on cement and just South of the track are rented spots by Racers. If you accidentally park in someone else's spot please move ASAP when asked. If you have questions about where to park, seek out a Track Employee for information. While you're parked go ahead and fill out your tech card completely and legibly, at this point put it in your car where you won't lose it. This is also a good time to remove any loose items in the car (tool boxes, jacks, etc.).

Once you have completed the above, proceed to the Tech area, which is located between the Office and the Maintenance Shed. When asked, give your Tech card to the Tech Advisor and stay with your car should there be any questions about your car. The Tech Advisor will check your vehicle for required safety equipment according to your class or speed. Make sure your car number from the tech card is on the Driver's side window and on the upper right side of the windshield. If you do not have chalk, the Tech are will have it for you. If your car passes Tech you may proceed out of the Tech Area and back to your pit area and wait to be called for Time Trials. If your car does not pass Tech, the Tech Advisor will recommend what needs to be repaired. After repairs are made, the vehicle will need to return to the Tech Area for reinspection of the repair.

The announcer will start calling cars to the staging lanes about 10-15 minutes before racing is to start. Once you have heard this call, head to the staging lanes with your car. At Eddyville, we have 4 lanes. During most events we use all 4 lanes. Pay attention to the announcer, as he will usually let you know which lanes are being used for what car type or

class. The far-left lane is number 1 moving to the right with lanes 2, 3, & 4. The 4th lane is normally used for Jr. Dragsters and Motorcycles. The 5th lane, not marked, is to be kept clear for ambulance use.

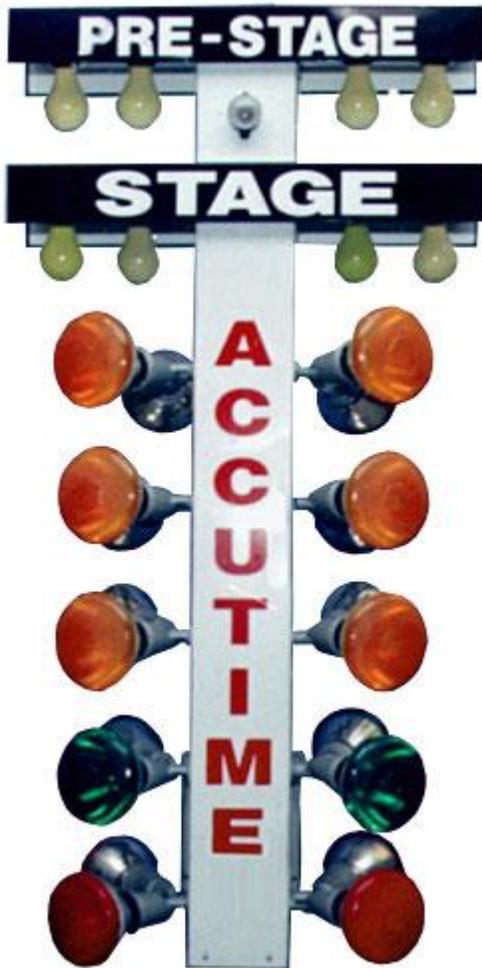
Once you arrive in the staging lanes, do not leave your car unattended in the staging lanes. When you near the front of the lanes pay attention to the staging director, do not leave the lanes until he has instructed you to do so. He will motion you to the correct lane.

When you pull onto the track you do not have to drive through the water box, if you would like to, just drive around it. The water box man will motion you to start your burnout once he has determined that the pair of cars in front of you has made it sufficiently down the track. DO NOT start your burnout until instructed to do so.

Now here is where opinions differ. Some people think with a regular set of street tires that little or no burnout is required. Others on the other hand seem to prefer a smokey burnout with their street tires. Really it is up to you. Either way, a dry hop to knock any debris off of your tires is probably a good idea. Once you have a few runs under your belt you should get a feel for what the tires you are using want.

Once you have completed your burnout watch the starter. If the Starter is holding his hands out with palms flat towards you, stop and wait for him to motion you towards the starting line. At this point start watching the Christmas tree. On the top of the tree on each side there are four yellow light bulbs (as pictured below), the upper most set of lights is the pre-stage lights. The pre-stage indicates that you are only seven inches away from the stage beams. Creep forward until the pre-stage

lights are lit and then until the stage lights are lit as well. Now wait for the ambers on the tree to start to count down. Of course, the idea is to leave just as the green light comes on, resulting in a perfect reaction time. If you wait until the green light comes on you will have a late reaction time. After several runs with the same car you should start to get an idea of where its spot is on the tree. Meaning, some cars launch hard enough that you wouldn't want to hit the gas until the third amber is full on, others might need to leave as the second amber goes out. Again, this takes practice. Standard transmission cars will spin the tires unnecessarily so launching takes practice.



If you are in the left place, once you leave the starting line, stay in your lane until you can safely move to the right and turn off the track. The finish line is at the flags and NOT at the

scoreboards. You can take 1 of 3 roads to leave the track. It would be good to check those out before you run.

Questions? Ask an Employee with a red Eddyville Shirt. As their time allows most of the Eddyville Racers will gladly answer questions. We are more than a Race Track. We are Family!

Good luck and thanks for coming to Eddyville Race Park! We hope you become a regular!