

Landowner's FAQs

Over 5000 events are held by Motorsport UK's 750 registered motor clubs each year – 2000 of which are off-road competitions held on farmland.

Some of the different types of event include:

Autocross: This is normally held on at least a 8ha (20+ acre) grass field or stubble field after harvest and consist of up to four cars racing around a kidney-shaped grass track against the clock.

Autotest: One car at a time drives around a complex cone-marked course against the clock. This has very little impact on the ground and can be held on grassland, tarmac or stubble.

Rallying: Cars drive at speed around tracks or field margins, often crossing many adjoining farms.

4-Wheel-Drive: Off-road events usually held on undulating or wooded terrain.

Hill Climbs and Sprints: Cars race singly against the clock on a tarmac track – often held on private estate roads.

Trials: Cars attempt to climb a steep off-road section of terrain – whichever reaches the highest point without stopping wins. Held in the winter, this can have quite an impact on the land.

In fact, there is a huge range of motorsport activities to suit almost every type of land.

Need to know

Events are arranged directly between the landowner and the organising club, but insurance, safety and noise levels are all regulated by Motorsport UK. **It is therefore vital to check that you are dealing with a reputable, Motorsport UK registered club.**

How does it work?

Anyone interested in hosting an event should contact Motorsport UK's Competitions and Clubs Team who will advise you of local motor clubs. You can contact them on 01753 765000. Once you have contacted your local club, they will then visit the land and, if it is suitable, will discuss a proposed route/field layout and event date.

Good access to your land is essential, as is plenty of parking space for vans and trailers.

Before the competition, off-road courses will be roughly set out and toilets and other facilities brought onsite.

The day before the event the final taping, arrows, and fencing are installed. After the event has finished everything is cleared – including litter.

How much should I charge?

Rents vary according to the terrain, venue size, and suitability to the discipline which should be discussed with the club.

Contracts tend to be verbal and based on trust, but the farmer must be sure of what he is agreeing to. Written agreements are a good idea where larger sums of money are involved.

Do I need planning permission?

If there is a change of land use – for example a brand-new tarmac track or man-made motocross course – you will. However, metalling of an existing farm track doesn't require planning permission if it is needed for an agricultural purpose. If the primary use of the track is no longer agriculture, then it could be subject to business rates.

Timed events can be held for up to 14 days a year without planning permission under your permitted development rights. Anything over that will generally require planning permission.

Do I need insurance?

Any Motorsport UK permitted event will be covered by the Motorsport UK master insurance agreement to a maximum of £100 million. You can view all the details about what the insurance covers [here](#).

However, the Health and Safety Executive advises farmers to be absolutely clear about how the event will be held and inform the club of any potential dangers to competitors or the public, such as slurry lagoons or electric wires.

Will it affect my Basic Payment Scheme?

Events can be held on Basic Payment Scheme registered (BPS) land at any time outside the 10-month period in which land has to be under your control, and for up to 28 days within the 10-month period.

However, cross-compliance measures must be observed, and the track reinstated after each event, including re-seeding grassland if necessary.

It is important that the track is still used in agriculture; permanent tracks cannot be claimed upon under the BPS.

To check for the latest guidance on Basic Payment Schemes, [please click here](#).

How much demand is there?

Most motor clubs have been running for decades and often go to the same farms year after year. However there is considerable demand for new venues; having additional sites allows the sport to manage and minimise its impact on the land in one particular area.

What's the downside?

Motorsport can create noise and so any effect on local residents needs to be considered. However, Motorsport UK lays down strict rules on all aspects of the sport, including noise, organisation and safety.

There can be some temporary damage to the land used, especially in poor weather, however this is normally just superficial and with a little work land can be back to normal in very little time.

For more information on Motorsport UK please visit [motorsportuk.org](https://www.motorsportuk.org) or contact our Competitions and Clubs Team on competitionsandclubs@motorsportuk.org.