

Introduction to Motorkhanas

Motorkhanas are one of the easiest, most accessible ways to get started in motorsport in New Zealand and form a key part of the Sports Car Club of New Zealand's (SCCNZ) event calendar. They are designed as a low-cost, low-risk environment where the focus is on driver skill rather than outright speed.

What is a Motorkhana?

A Motorkhana is a timed driving event where competitors navigate a series of short courses marked out by cones. Each course must be driven in the correct direction and sequence, with penalties added for mistakes like hitting cones or taking the wrong route. Drives start and finish the course with the car stationary within the 'garage' marked by 4 cones.

Events are typically held on sealed car parks, grass paddocks, or similar open spaces. Speeds are low, and courses are tight and technical, often involving slaloms, tight turns, and sometimes reversing, making them a true test of car control and precision.

Most events consist of multiple tests, with drivers getting more than one attempt at each. The winner is the driver with the fastest overall time after penalties.

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What You Need

One of the biggest advantages of Motorkhanas is how little is required to take part. This makes Motorkhanas one of the most beginner-friendly forms of motorsport available:

- **A car:** Almost any road car can be used, from daily drivers to dedicated vehicles.
- **Basic vehicle safety:** The car must be in a safe, warrantable condition with working seatbelts, steering, and brakes (if you are driving to the event, please ensure your car is road legal, otherwise bring a trailer).
- **Minimal safety gear:** SCCNZ Motorkhanas do not require helmets, overalls, or a competition licence.
- **Club membership:** New drivers can usually try a couple of events before needing to join a MotorSport NZ-affiliated club.
- **A competition number:** When entering the event, you can nominate a competition number, or one will be assigned to you. This number must be clearly displayed on the vehicle during competition, this number at a minimum should be on the driver's side of the car and in a clear contrasting colour, drivers often print these in large bold text on an A4 sheet of paper or make them using various forms of adhesive tape. Vinyl or magnetic numbers are a good idea and look great.

How to Enter

Entering an SCCNZ Motorkhana is straightforward:

1. **Find an event** on the SCCNZ website (<https://sccnz.co.nz/>) and download the entry form and supplementary regulations (Event entry forms will be sent to SCCNZ members when new events are added to our calendar).
2. **Submit your entry** via email to events_sccnz@outlook.com using the provided form.
3. **Pay the entry fee** (typically around \$40 per driver).
4. **Arrive on the day**, complete documentation and attend the compulsory drivers' briefing before competing.

Events have limited spaces and can fill up quickly, so early entry is recommended.

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Tips for Competing

Although Motorkhanas are beginner-friendly, a few simple tips can make a big difference:

Focus on Accuracy First

It's not just about speed—precision is critical. Hitting cones or missing elements of the course will add time penalties that can outweigh a fast run.

Learn the Course

Study the course map and walk the layout before driving. Knowing where to go is half the battle.

Use Low Gears

Most tests are driven in first gear (and sometimes reverse), so focus on control rather than speed.

Use Weight Transfer

Lift the throttle or brake lightly to rotate the car (Especially important for FWD). Careful use of the handbrake can be beneficial.

Watch and Learn

Take time to watch other competitors. Observing different driving techniques is a quick way to improve your own performance.

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Final Thoughts

SCCNZ Motorkhanas are all about having fun, building driver skill, and learning car control in a safe and social environment. Whether you're completely new to motorsport or looking to sharpen your driving abilities, they provide an ideal starting point with minimal cost and barriers to entry.