



motor
sport
UK

ACCESSIBLE CIRCUIT GUIDELINES

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The aim is to support event organisers in ensuring that events are accessible, safe, and welcoming for all participants, officials, and spectators.

We acknowledge that different events will have different challenges based on being held at fixed or non-fixed venues. The advice is non-specific and should be applied as practicable.

ARRIVING AT THE VENUE

SIGNAGE

There should be clear signage outlining where to go for accessible parking. Where possible, marshals and other staff responsible for guiding spectators should be fully informed of the location of accessible parking so they can confidently direct those who need it.

PARKING

Spaces should be widely spaced (at least 1 meter between vehicles) to ensure that any wheelchair user has enough space to fully open their door to exit their vehicle and can navigate between vehicles.

The terrain of accessible parking areas is also important, as it affects how easily people can move from their vehicle to where they need to go. While this may not always be possible at non-fixed or temporary events, permanent venues should ensure that wheelchair users have access to hard, stable surfaces rather than grass, allowing them to park safely and transfer easily to viewing areas and other event facilities.

Best practice includes allowing cars to access different viewing points such as a bank where people can watch the event from their car. Where this is offered other facilities such as accessible toilets and clear signage is ideal.

ENTERING THE VENUE

QUEUES

Where queues are likely, consider alternative arrangements for people who may find queuing difficult, and ensure these options are clearly signposted. Not all disabled spectators or participants are wheelchair users. For example, individuals with mobility impairments who use walking sticks may be unable to stand for long periods, queue, or walk long distances. Clear guidance should be provided, and where possible support offered, to help people bypass these challenges.

TICKETING

When tickets are available for purchase on the day, all front-of-house staff should be trained and confident in understanding ticketing requirements for people with additional needs. A clear escalation process should also be in place, so staff know how to seek further support if required.

ACCESS CARD

Some motorsport venues accept the Access Card. This is a recognised service that allows individuals to communicate their access requirements using standardised symbols. These can be discreetly shared with staff to ensure the cardholder receives appropriate support during their visit.

VENUE FACILITIES

All venue facilities, including lifts, should be checked before every event to ensure they are fully operational.

TOILETS

Accessible toilet facilities should be available at regular intervals throughout the event site and clearly signposted. Routes to these facilities must be wide enough for wheelchair access, free from tight corners, and have firm, stable surfaces suitable for wheels rather than grass. Venues should also check for any raised thresholds or lips at doorways that could restrict access.

All toilets must be checked regularly to ensure they are clean, that emergency alarms, buttons, or pull cords are functioning correctly, and that there is a clear and well-understood response process when an alarm is activated.

During these checks, all arm rests and support rails must be tested to ensure they are securely fitted and able to support a person's weight during transfer to the toilet. The importance of this cannot be overstated. Even people who do not use a wheelchair may rely on these supports depending on their disability.

Emergency pull cords should be easy to reach and must not be tied up or wrapped around walls. Toilet flush mechanisms should also be accessible and easy to operate.

Sanitary bins should be positioned within easy reach of the toilet.

If a radar key is required to access facilities, this must be clearly communicated in advance. Not all disabled people can communicate their needs easily, and carers may not know what questions to ask. Information about radar key requirements should therefore be displayed clearly at the event entrance and at multiple locations around the venue. Venues must offer temporary radar keys (with a refundable deposit if necessary) for those who have forgotten their own.

For larger events and permanent venues, best practice includes providing a Changing Places toilet with appropriate space and equipment, such as a hoist and height-adjustable changing bench. Under Building Regulations (Approved Document M), some new public buildings and major refurbishments are legally required to provide Changing Places facilities. Where not legally required, they remain strongly recommended to support people with complex disabilities.

Accessible toilets must be kept clear at all times and should never be used for storage.



Clear signage should state that these facilities are for disabled users only. Wording should respectfully explain that disabled people rely on these facilities due to limited alternatives, while the general public has access to a wider range of toilets.

Appropriate signage for accessible toilets must feature the International Symbol of Accessibility (the wheelchair symbol) and be high contrast (for example, white on blue or black on white). Signs should be clearly visible on or adjacent to the door and, where possible, include tactile text or Braille to support visually impaired users, in line with Equality Act 2010 requirements. Although it may not always be possible to prevent non-disabled people from using accessible toilets, clear and considerate signage can encourage greater awareness and respect.

SHOWERS

Where a venue provides showers, there should be at least one accessible option with appropriate supports. Flooring should be slip resistant to reduce the risk of falls, and there should be a safe, dry space to store wheelchairs, walking aids, or prosthetics.

It is essential that accessible showers include seating for changing (undressing, drying, and dressing). Many disabled people, even those who are not wheelchair users, are unable to stand unaided. Without seating, shower facilities may be unusable.

Examples include people with spinal injuries or amputees who may only have the use of one leg, making it impossible to dress or undress safely without a seat. Seating must be stable and secure. Small stools or unstable seating (for example, three-legged stools) should be avoided due to the risk of injury.

CAMPING

Where camping is provided for spectators, competitors, marshals and officials, accessible camping spaces should be available near accessible facilities. All guidance relating to toilets and showers should be followed. Routes between camping areas and the venue must offer level access where possible.

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING

Accessible viewing should be available for all spectators who need it. One option is an accessible grandstand, which should be easy to reach, offer a clear view of the track, and, where possible, be covered.

Consideration should be given to friends and family who wish to sit with disabled spectators. Where seating for companions is limited or unavailable, this must be clearly communicated in advance, including guidance on whether spectators may bring their own seating. Any restrictions on the number of companions should also be communicated clearly before the event. Providing power points to charge electric wheelchairs or mobility scooters in this area is strongly recommended.

Accessibility standards should mirror those of accessible toilets, including:

- No steps or raised door thresholds
- Ramps where needed
- Level access throughout
- Light switches and controls reachable from a seated position

Where possible, temperature control is strongly recommended. Some disabilities affect temperature sensation, increasing the risk of burns, while others cause heightened sensitivity to pain, making standard showers difficult or unsafe to use.

As the number of disabled competitors continues to grow, access to these facilities is critical. For multi-day, on-site events, accessible shower provision is a basic requirement, not an optional extra.

Another effective option is designated banked viewing areas that allow spectators to watch from their vehicle. These should be clearly signposted, communicated in advance, and supported by nearby accessible facilities.

Clear signage should be provided across the venue, and staff should be trained to answer accessibility-related questions.

CATERING

Where catering is available, counters should be at a suitable height for wheelchair users, with sufficient knee clearance. Menus should be accessible (for example, large print or digital formats), and allergen information should be clearly displayed, with options for different dietary requirements.

ASSISTANCE DOGS

Careful consideration must be given to both legal obligations and the safety of assistance dogs, their handlers, and all event participants. Motorsport venues are unique environments, with high noise levels and moving vehicles, and this must be clearly communicated in advance to anyone planning to attend with an assistance dog.

Staff who are likely to handle requests from individuals wishing to attend with an assistance dog should be appropriately trained, understand the venue's policy, and be able to communicate it clearly. Where it is not possible or reasonable to train all staff, those staff should be trained to refer the request to a senior member of staff with the appropriate knowledge and training.

SENSORY / QUIET SPACES

Depending on the venue and event, it may be appropriate to provide a designated quiet or sensory space for individuals who struggle with crowds, noise, or sensory overload. Motorsport is inherently loud, and attendees should understand this in advance. However, the combination of noise, crowds, and prolonged exposure can be overwhelming. A quiet space away from the main activity can significantly improve the experience for some spectators. Such spaces may also serve multiple purposes, for example as prayer rooms or quiet reflection areas, supporting inclusivity across different needs.

Where possible, staff should be prepared to assist by carrying trays for wheelchair users or those who use walking aids and may be unable to carry items safely. Support should also be offered to help clear tables where needed.

Chapter 10, Article 1.1 of the NCR states:

“In the interests of safety, animals should not be admitted to Race, Speed or Kart venues, but if present they must be secured inside a vehicle or building whenever Practice or Competition is taking place, working dogs excepted.”

Venues should ensure that any decisions relating to assistance dogs balance accessibility, legal duties, and safety considerations. Where attendance with an assistance dog may not be appropriate, reasonable alternatives should be explored, such as offering a companion ticket or additional support to ensure the individual can still attend safely and with dignity.

COMPETITION

COMPETITORS

Officials should be aware of any disabled competitors attending the event so that appropriate arrangements can be made, including accessible spaces for judicial hearings where required.

DRIVERS BRIEFINGS AND HEARINGS

Accessibility needs that may prevent a driver from attending briefings in person should be considered. Drivers with other disability such as neurodiversity or Deaf/hard of hearing may also require information to be shared differently, such as:

- One-to-one briefings
- Quieter environments
- Additional clarification time

Drivers should communicate their needs to the Clerk of the Course in advance, and organisers should make reasonable adjustments to meet this.

PADDOCK

Accessible facilities should be provided within the paddock. All key areas used by drivers and team members should have level access, and routes should be free from unnecessary obstacles.

PODIUM

Event organisers should plan in advance for the possibility of a disabled competitor reaching the podium. At modern venues, this may involve ensuring the podium is accessible. At other venues, a suitable alternative should be identified so no competitor is excluded from the experience.

VOLUNTEERS & OFFICIALS

RACE / RALLY CONTROL

Disabled officials and volunteers should have access to suitable spaces to fulfil their roles. Where buildings are inaccessible, access needs should be identified in advance and reasonable adjustments made. This may involve rearranging rooms or offering alternative roles following open and respectful discussion.

MARSHALS

Event organisers should understand in advance whether marshals or volunteers have access requirements and discuss these with individuals prior to the event. This helps identify appropriate roles and locations that allow volunteers to contribute safely and effectively.

Certain marshalling and officiating roles can be well suited to individuals with limited mobility, including paddock and assembly area marshalling, race/course/rally control, timing, scrutineering support, radio duties, and incident logging. These roles can be accommodated by clubs based on the individual's needs and the event environment.

Roles that involve high physical demands or exposure to hazardous track- or stage-side side zones (such as trackside

marshalling) may require additional consideration and, in most cases, are unlikely to be suitable for individuals with significant mobility restrictions. Where a volunteer is struggling in a particular role, alternative duties should be explored.

Motorsport UK expects clubs and organisers to make informed, proportionate decisions that prioritise safety while supporting inclusion. The organising club remains responsible for conducting appropriate risk assessments for volunteers and officials working at the event. Motorsport UK can be contacted for further guidance if organisers require support in determining suitable roles or good practice.

HEARING LOOPS

Venues should provide hearing loop systems in key areas where communication is critical, such as ticketing desks, information points, briefing rooms, and accessible viewing areas. This ensures that people with hearing impairments can access spoken information clearly and independently.

Staff should be trained to use and troubleshoot hearing loops and to alert visitors to their availability. Where hearing loops are not available, venues should provide alternative communication options, such as written information, captioned screens, or a dedicated staff member to assist. Clear signage should indicate the presence of a hearing loop, using the international symbol for hearing assistance. Information about hearing loops should also be

included on the venue's website and printed materials to allow visitors to plan.

Where possible, venues may consider supporting assistive technologies such as haptic shirts. These wearable devices provide tactile feedback or vibrations that allow deaf or neurodiverse spectators to experience the action in real time, such as engine sounds or race starts.

Venues should provide information in advance about the availability and use of haptic technology, including any support needed from staff. This can enhance the experience for spectators who may not fully benefit from standard audio cues, making motorsport events more inclusive for all attendees.

COMMUNICATION

RACE / RALLY CONTROL

Venues should clearly outline accessibility features on their website, including:

- An up-to-date map of facilities
- Ticketing policies
- Assistance dog guidance
- Accessibility contacts details

Information must be kept current. Out-of-date details can lead to confusion or distress. Best practice includes videos with captions and images showing the venue experience to help visitors plan.

ON THE DAY

Where possible, provide printed information for those who need it. Signage should be clear before arrival and throughout the venue. Temporary issues (such as facilities being out of order) should be communicated clearly.

CONTACTS & FEEDBACK

There should always be a clear point of contact for accessibility enquiries in advance of the event. Venues should also provide an easy way for attendees to give feedback, supporting continuous improvement.