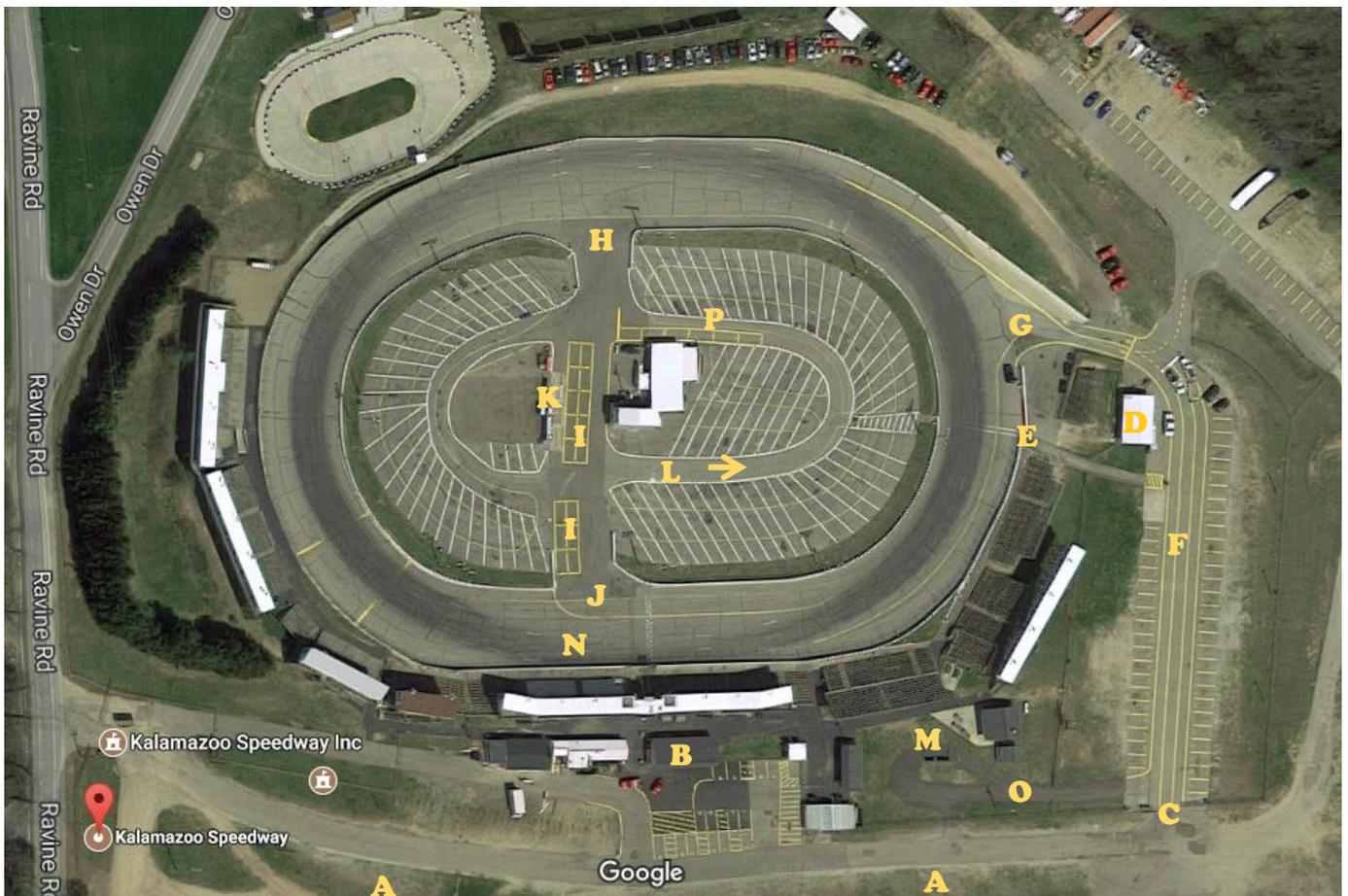


# NEW DRIVER TUTORIAL



Welcome to Kalamazoo Speedway where you'll be competing on the fastest 3/8 mile oval in the nation. Built in 1949 with racing commencing in 1950, we're proud that 2021 marks our 71<sup>st</sup> season. Whether you're a new driver or just new to Kalamazoo Speedway, this information packet will help acquaint you with the Speedway. We want you to have a safe and rewarding day and we hope once you've given us a try, you'll join the Kalamazoo Speedway family.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A General parking (south of the main entry road)  | G Backstretch entry/exit from upper pits |
| B Ticket windows (choose ones labeled Pit Passes) | H Infield pit entrance                   |
| C Pit entrance                                    | I Make ready chute                       |
| D Storage building                                | J Track entry                            |
| E Pedestrian crossover                            | K Tech area                              |
| F Upper pit roadway                               | L Inner loop (ring road)                 |
| M Victory Lane (top)                              | N Victory Lane (track)                   |
| O Victory Lane roadway                            | P Inner loop (staging)                   |

# RACE DAY

## Arrival at the Track

- ✿ The pit gates open at 3:30 pm. Qualifying typically begins at 5:30 pm. Plan accordingly in terms of arriving at the track. Only vehicles hauling trailers may park in the pits; other personal vehicles may be parked in the general parking area [A].
- ✿ Stop at the ticket office [B] to sign in (even if you have purchased a Pit Pass Punch Card).
- ✿ While at the ticket window, drivers will sign applicable release waiver(s) and receive a pit pass. Drivers 17 and under are reminded to have completed the Minor Waiver Form prior to arriving at the track.
- ✿ Wearing the pit pass (wristband), head to the pit area [C].
- ✿ Each driver must have a RACEceiver (a one-way communication device that allows track officials to communicate with drivers). A small number of RACEceivers are available for rent or purchase; these may only be obtained from the infield tower. Request how it works if unfamiliar with its use.
- ✿ A member of the team must sign out a transponder (for use with the automatic scoring system). Transponders are available outside the tire barn in the infield pit area. Transponders must be placed in a protective mounting pouch; no plastic pouches permitted. Pouches are available for purchase at the infield tower. Request direction from a uniformed official if unfamiliar with its proper placement on the car.
- ✿ Unless otherwise directed, all cars should plan to pass through tech [K] BEFORE qualifying. Plan accordingly; do not wait until the last minute. Drivers may be required to pass through tech a second time when requested or following a top placement in a feature. If tech is backed up, officials will point drivers to circle the inner loop (ring road) counterclockwise [L].

## Race Day Schedule

- ✿ The typical order for race day is qualifying, then heat races followed by the feature events. A race day schedule will always be published on the Speedway website no later than the Thursday prior to race day. It is recommended that teams print out a copy of the schedule and bring it with them to the track. Schedules will be posted trackside in the infield on the front of the concession stand, on the red storage building [D] in the main upper pits as well as on the board in the rear upper pit area. Occasionally, weather and/or other circumstances cause schedule adjustments.
- ✿ Do not miss your class's call to line up.
- ✿ Drivers in the upper pit areas may use the pedestrian crossover [E] next to the red storage building to access the infield pit area to purchase tires or visit the tower. Modern restrooms and concessions are located on the midway and may be accessed through these gates as well. Portable toilets are available in the upper pits and modern restrooms are available in the infield.

## Qualifying

- ✿ Typically the Zoo Stock is the first class to qualify and may do so as early as 5:20 pm. This means drivers will be in line in the infield make ready chute at least 15 minutes before then.
- ✿ Upper Pits: A uniformed race official will line up all Zoo Stock drivers (as well as each subsequent class) in the two-way upper pit roadway [F] (located between the two sets of pit stalls). Once lined up, drivers will wait for a uniformed race official to direct drivers to the infield (lower) pit area. Drivers will be released from the upper pits in turn two [G] and immediately enter the infield pits from the backstretch [H]. Once in the infield pit area, a uniformed race official will direct drivers to line up in the make ready chute [I].
- ✿ Infield Pits: Drivers will drive around the one-way ring road [L] to the ring road staging area [P]. A uniformed race official will direct drivers into the make ready chute [I].
- ✿ Over the RACEceiver, drivers will hear a countdown from 5 ending with the word "green". At this point, the qualifying session starts and a uniformed race official will direct the first group of drivers in line onto the track [J]. All lap times are recorded; even those spent getting up to speed.

- 🚩 As drivers from the initial group exit the track, additional drivers will be directed onto the track. Stay below the yellow line (toward the inside wall) until enough speed has been gained to merge into existing traffic. (See Group Qualifying [Driver tab] for additional information on qualifying.)
- 🚩 Attempting to record a slower qualifying time to achieve a more favorable starting position later is done so at a driver's peril. Each class has a breakout limit. For the Zoo Stock this is 0.5 seconds; it is tighter for all other classes. This means if a Zoo Stock driver's fastest lap in qualifying is 18.500, the driver may run no faster than an 18.000 in the heat race and feature. Going faster than 18.000 seconds will result in being black flagged. For only the Zoo Stock class, there is a limit to how fast you may compete in the class. For the 2021 season this time is set at 16.750 (subject to change); exceeding this speed will result in the driver being moved up to the Outlaw Front Wheel Drive class.
- 🚩 Exiting the track – Upper pits: When ready to pull off the track under green flag conditions, move to the upper groove (near the outside wall) and maintain speed through the finish line. Going into turn one, speed may be reduced while driving above the yellow line. Exit the track slowly through the upper pits exit/entry [G]. This is a blind turn; do not make the turn at more than 5-10 MPH.
- 🚩 Exiting the track – Lower pits: Drivers pitting in the infield will enter the pits along the backstretch and may turn right on to the ring road or proceed straight and turn left past the infield tower/concession, depending on pit stall location.
- 🚩 If a driver wants to make another qualifying run, coordinate this through a uniformed race official, there may or may not be sufficient time left in the qualifying session.
- 🚩 After qualifying is complete, the starting line-ups will be posted at the same locations as the schedules.

## Heat Races

- 🚩 Heat races, when scheduled, begin at 7:30 pm sharp.
- 🚩 Pay attention to announcements over the PA and the posted schedules.
- 🚩 Drivers should be wearing all safety equipment (except the helmet), be securely strapped into the car and in line in the upper pit roadway two races prior to the time the respective class is scheduled to race. This is also true for drivers pitting in the infield. Heat races go rapidly; do not miss the call to line up.
- 🚩 When instructed by a uniformed race official, head to the infield pit area (exiting the upper pit area in turn 2 and entering the lower pit area from the backstretch). Once in the infield pit, a uniformed official will direct drivers to their starting positions. Drivers in the infield should proceed along the ring road to the ring road staging area where a uniformed race official will direct drivers into the make ready chute.
- 🚩 For comfort purposes, it is permissible to put the helmet on while waiting in the make ready chute.
- 🚩 Stay close to your car. Heat races go by quickly, know when your feature is scheduled to run and be ready; this is especially true for the class scheduled to run its feature races first in the lineup.
- 🚩 Drivers are lined up for heat races based on qualifying times. Faster qualifiers are in the back with slower qualifiers to the front.
- 🚩 Photos of heat race winners are taken on the track in front of the Kalamazoo Speedway painted wall sign near the finish line [N]. The car should have the nose pointed toward the finish line and drivers should remain in their cars.

## Features

- 🚩 Typically, any necessary Last Chance races for the upper classes will run first on the feature part of the lineup followed by the Zoo Stock feature.
- 🚩 Know when your feature is to run and be ready. Announcements are made over the PA; however, drivers are responsible for knowing when their feature will run and paying attention.
- 🚩 Drivers will be lined up in the upper pit roadway until being sent to the infield pit area to be merged with drivers pitting there.
- 🚩 Uniformed race officials will line drivers up in the proper starting order in the make ready chute.
- 🚩 Remember to
  - 🚩 watch the flagman;

- 🚩 know what each flag means; and,
- 🚩 watch for caution lights.
- 🚩 Make sure the RACEceiver is on and tuned to the correct channel. Race with respect for yourself, your car, as well as competitor's cars. Be alert, be aware and have a good time.
- 🚩 It is permissible to make a pit stop for car adjustments under green or yellow flag conditions. Keep in mind the feature is a relatively short race (with cars under green flag racing putting in lap speeds between 13 and 20 seconds per lap).
- 🚩 Except for specialty races and the last feature of the night, photos of feature race winners are typically taken in Victory Lane [M]. (Use entrance/exit to upper pits [G], follow the upper pit roadway toward the main pit gate [C] turning right at the gate immediately before exiting the pits [C] and follow the Victory Lane roadway [O] to the Victory Lane sign. Pull up in front of the sign [driver's side next to the sign]. Track photographers will present the trophy). When photos are taken on the track, they will be taken in front of the Kalamazoo Speedway painted wall sign near the finish line [N]. The car should have the nose pointed toward the finish line; drivers should remove their helmets and exit the car.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Safety Equipment**

- 🚩 It is the driver's responsibility to look over and upgrade all personal safety equipment: a full containment seat, a head and neck restraint, a fuel cell with all of the proper check valves in place, an up-to-date fire suit including proper undergarments, gloves, socks and shoes that are SFI/I approved and Snell 2015 rated are highly recommended. Failure to wear any of these items will result in being black flagged.
- 🚩 All cars will be equipped with a minimum 5-point seat belt harness with 3" wide belts. All belts should be properly mounted and should be no older than 3 years.
- 🚩 Each car will be equipped with a taunt driver's side window net with quick release. Drivers will be black flagged for failure to have the window net secured when entering the track to race.
- 🚩 Before entering the track, pull on the shoulder and lap belt straps to make sure they are tight. If a caution comes out, give them another tug to make sure they are still tight.
- 🚩 If a driver is unsure about whether belts are properly buckled or helmet secure, ask for assistance from a uniformed race official. Safety is a top priority at Kalamazoo Speedway.

### **General Information and Rules**

- 🚩 Do not enter the racetrack without the direction of a uniformed race official.
- 🚩 Always drive on the right side of the upper pit roadway (as if driving on a public road); the infield roadway is one-way (counterclockwise).
- 🚩 Pit speeds will not exceed 10 miles per hour.
- 🚩 When coming out of turns two and four, cars will want to push up the racetrack.
- 🚩 During a race, if you need to pull into the upper pit area and are unable to exit the track in turn two, ride around the bottom apron of the track. Pull off of the track on the backstretch. If the car can't make it that far, it is acceptable to carefully pull off the track on the front stretch.
- 🚩 When entering the track under green flag conditions, stay on the low side of the track (when entering from the infield) until you are up to speed. When entering from the upper pit area in turn two stay on the high side until up to speed.
- 🚩 Always keep an eye out for people walking or driving in the pit areas.
- 🚩 The use of any alcoholic beverage, marijuana, controlled substances or illicit drugs is prohibited in the pit areas. If a driver is found consuming any of these, they will forfeit the privilege of racing for the evening.
- 🚩 Kalamazoo Speedway does not tolerate physical violence or verbal altercations. Drivers are responsible for the friends and family accompanying them into the pit areas.

## Explanation of Flags and Caution Lights

- ✿ There are lights mounted on the wall in all 4 corners, down the backstretch and on the flag stand. Pay attention to these. The flagman is only visible from turn 4 to the middle of the front stretch. The lights are visible from all areas of the track: green (racing), yellow (caution) and red (stop).
- ✿ The white flag is used to tell drivers they are one lap away from green flag racing (i.e., at the start of the race or for a restart). Prior to the heat race and feature, there will be a couple of laps following the pace car around the track. Before the start of the race, the flagman will wave the white flag and the pace car will exit the track. The white flag will be waved when there is one lap to go in the race.
- ✿ When the green flag is displayed the race has started. All drivers will be racing for position.
- ✿ The yellow flag is thrown when there is an accident on the track, debris needs to be picked up or a car is leaking fluid. Listen carefully to the RACEceiver. When the yellow flag is displayed: SLOW DOWN. Do not slam on the brakes, instead, lift off the accelerator and proceed with caution.
- ✿ Whenever a caution comes out keep to the bottom of the track. The top lane is for the safety truck.
- ✿ The red flag indicates a serious accident or other incident when cars must remain stationary. When the red flag is displayed, do not slam on the brakes. Come to a complete stop as if stopping at a red light on a public road. Watch for the track safety truck; it will be rushing to the scene of the accident.
- ✿ The black flag is waved at a specific car/driver and signifies get off the track. The tower will advise the driver they have been black flagged and why via the RACEceiver. Do not panic. If the car is leaking fluid, slow down and safely exit at the nearest pit access point (infield backstretch or front stretch or upper pit). If black flagged for a breakout violation in a heat, head to your pit stall; the driver has been disqualified and the driver's time is reset for the feature. When black flagged for a breakout violation during the feature, enter the infield pit area from the backstretch, slowly drive through the make ready area and await the signal from the track official to rejoin the race.
- ✿ The checkered flag is waved to indicate the end of the race. After the checkered flag is waved the yellow caution lights will come on. Leave the track slowly in accordance with directions provided earlier. It is a good practice to pump the brakes a few times to make sure the brakes are working.

## Handling Accidents/Incidents

- ✿ If a car is involved in an accident and can no longer keep going and no extenuating circumstances exist such as smoke or fire in the cockpit, do not loosen any personal safety equipment or exit the vehicle until directed to do so by safety personnel or a track official. Drivers must tell safety personnel immediately if they are hurt. If the driver is not hurt, staff will look the car over to assess if the car/driver is able to continue. If the car has any minor damage (e.g., dragging bumper, flat tire, etc.) drivers will be advised to go to the pit area. If there is no damage, listen to the RACEceiver; someone in the scoring tower will provide direction on where to line up. There is an official on the front stretch who will also provide assistance if necessary. The official receives direction from the scoring tower and is not in a position to make any changes.
- ✿ Any time the yellow or red flag is displayed, listen to your RACEceiver, someone in the scoring tower will provide all drivers with lineup directions.

If after reading the tutorial, you have questions or do not understand a particular clause, please ask us for clarification. Drivers are responsible for knowing the rules for the class in which they race; these are located under the drivers' tab on the Kalamazoo Speedway website.

**Thank you for racing at Kalamazoo Speedway**