
RACE TIPS: A LAP OF TEAMWORKS KARTING BIRMINGHAM

with our Senior Instructor & Race Director, Ian Seager

Driving across the Start Line we are accelerating hard towards our first corner so we bring the kart gently across to the left hand side of the circuit being careful to avoid touching the barrier with the left hand side of the kart. The first corner is the right handed River Corner.

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This is a fast corner and an important one for a good time. The turn in is smooth but aggressive and a short touch of the brakes will normally be used. Once past the apex keep the maximum throttle on that will ensure you have full traction and this normally means a slight slide all through the exit. Too much power and you will spin or eventually have to correct the slide and lose speed. Watch karts in the race trying to come past on the right or left if you don't get this section right!

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We now approach the tight right hand Inside Hairpin. The turn in needs to be quite late and some braking is needed to ensure the corner entry speed is right. Once you have the kart into the apex you again squeeze the throttle as the kart straightens and heads towards the Pits Complex.

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The first part of the complex is a tricky quick left. Hold a tight line here and allow the kart to move out to the middle of the track before a late turn-in to the Pits Hairpin itself. You need to brake smoothly and very accurately through here to control speed and position the kart whilst maintaining maximum momentum through the tightest corner on the track. As the kart comes through the apex throttle control is critical to maintain a nice steady power slide as the kart straightens. The final part of the complex is a very tricky right hand flick past the pit exit. You must roll off the throttle on turn-in to get maximum acceleration out of this corner. Full throttle power slides here are very entertaining but not the quickest way so curb your enthusiasm and wear light shoes!

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Don't let anyone tell you that there is no finesse needed in driving an indoor kart and ignore anyone who says they don't brake into this section here because they will be off the pace!

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We now accelerate hard (manage the traction!) and into Sweepers. This is a long double apex left hand sweep. We bring the kart to the first apex and then either a lift off the power or a dab on the brake is used to drift the kart through the corner. Maintain the slide with some delicate throttle control, bring the nose of the kart back in through the second apex then stop the slide as you run across to the exit barrier. Sounds easy enough but this is a very challenging corner that needs very good driving technique to maximize. Race spins here are very common and even minor mistakes will result in you losing places. Equally, if you are slow through here you are going to get punished through the next section of track so you have to push hard!

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Having exited Sweepers in the middle of the Wellchild kink we are now at the turn-in for the fastest corner on the track, Canal Corner. The kart must be absolutely under control and well balanced as we turn gently into this corner; you are going very fast now if you got Sweepers right and we don't want to lose any speed at the exit of Canal since that is the main straight. Smooth steering and gentle throttle control are needed to drift the kart through here. If you are hitting the exit barrier then you got it wrong! If you are correcting a big slide you were too greedy with the power or clumsy with the turn-in! Either way your friends are going to cruise past down the straight!

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You should be getting towards full power only at the exit as you head off down the very fast straight, accelerating all the way to the braking area for the last bend, Gallery Corner.

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Very hard braking here and a late turn-in. Get the kart right into the apex and hold it there as you squeeze the power back on. There is a second part of this corner that finally turns you onto the Finish straight and it important to maximize traction and not let the back slide through this final part of Gallery.

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There you have it. A track that rewards the very best of drivers. You must be smooth on the throttle, brake and steering. Committed right to the very edge of the cornering grip and not one little bit past it!

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A very rewarding track to drive on and to race on. Enjoy!