

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITED PHOTOGRAPHERS

SAFETY FIRST

Whether you're a pro or amateur, the most important rules are to never turn your back on the cars or motorcycles, don't get too close to the track, know where you're going to run if the cars or motorcycles crash off the track in your direction, and avoid danger zones, like the end of fast straights!"

It is acknowledged that the media play an important role in motorsport, and each member of the working media must be permitted to carry out his or her work in the best possible conditions.

However, the media are not exempt from having to respect general safety rules.

In general, this should not interfere with their ability to perform their duties. However, if a choice has to be made between carrying out their work and being exposed to an unacceptable level of risk, safety must always take precedence.

MSA Accredited Photographers are issued with official Media Bibs and passes which authorise them to move outside the areas which have been set aside for spectators. This of course is to enable them to obtain clear action photographs; however, at no time can the photographers place themselves in a position which is a danger to them or to the competitors.

NO SPECIAL VIEWING POSITION IS NECESSARY FOR JOURNALISTS.

Meet with the race secretary of an event and register your attendance, also provide them with emergency contact details.

Ensure that all officials and particularly the senior marshal at each location is fully briefed of your location at all times.

MSA Accredited photographers need to be clearly identifiable to the public so that they realise why and on what authority they are standing in an area where they are not allowed to go.

All accredited media must ensure that they are clearly visible at all times, and is not covered by any other garment.

If a Senior Marshal considers that a photographer is in a dangerous location, then he must ask the photographer to move to a safe location. Be firm and calm and do not enter into a situation of confrontation.

Motorsport can be unpredictable, but use your common sense

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES – CIRCUIT EVENTS

- Always sign-in at Race Control so officials are aware who is trackside
- Check with the marshals if it is safe to cross the track between events
- Never cross the circuit during a race
- Always stay behind the Armco barrier, or on the embankment (as applicable)
- Red Star, Dezzi and East London circuits offer no protection – stay alert and never turn your back to the circuit
- Stand as far back as possible
- Always wear your media bid when trackside

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES - NON CIRCUIT EVENTS

For your own safety, and that of competitors and event officials, MSA-accredited photographers are required to be aware of – and adhere to – rules surrounding motor rallies/off-road events.

RULES OF RALLIES:

- Zero car runs approximately ½ an hour ahead of the rally. After it has entered a stage, the stage is out of bounds to everyone (unless permission has been granted by the Clerk of the Course)
- Never drive in a stage against the direction of travel. There are various official vehicles in the stage checking the route, or a competitor running behind schedule. It is criminally dangerous.
- If you are in a stage, you may not leave until the Sweep vehicle has passed. Be aware that a competitor's service van/s may be in the stage to retrieve damaged vehicle/s. Turn your headlights on.
- Do not tamper with or remove bunting/candy tape/barrier tape or any other route marker. It is there for a sound safety reason.
- Do not tamper with, remove or obstruct the red or green direction arrows or other route markers

SHOOTING POSITION:

- If standing on the outside of a corner with a fast approach, stand well back and use a 'long' lens (at least 200mm or longer). Barrier tape is not a crash barrier and will not protect you!
- If standing on the outside of a corner with a slow approach, be aware that drivers use every inch of the road (and more!) and can slide wide. Stand back.
- Drivers cut corners! If on the inside of a corner, stand a few car widths back from the apex.
- Be aware of your surroundings: Think "what if...", "where will I go", "what obstacles could I trip over"
- Try and use solid objects like trees, tree stumps, large rocks, concrete parapets and so on to stand on, or next to.
- Ideally, wear brightly-coloured clothing

GENERAL BEHAVIOUR: THESE GUIDELINES ARE SELF-EXPLANATORY

- Rallies/Off-Road races are largely held on private property. Respect the landowners' property: close gates behind you, do not litter.
- Be courteous to land owners, their guests and staff. Introduce yourself and ask permission if you want to stand on an object on their property.

- Reduce speed drastically passing dwellings to reduce dust and be alert for excited children running into the road
- If at public spectator areas, set an example. Always wear your MSA-accreditation badge and/or event accreditation badge and/or media bib/jacket.