

TRACK LIMITS (CIRCUIT RACING)

Guidance notes, 2014

MSA Regulations regarding track limits in circuit racing have been amended with effect from 1 January 2014. This document is intended to clarify the new rules and how they affect competitors and officials alike.

What are the new rules?

Regulation Q14.4.2 in the MSA Yearbook 2014 begins:

‘Drivers must use the track at all times and may not leave the track without a justifiable reason’

The principle is that all cars must remain on the asphalt at all times and must not use the grass verges.

Q14.4.2.a states that:

‘the white lines defining the track edges are considered to be part of the track’

Therefore competitors can drive their cars onto the white lines at the edge of the track without penalty.

Q14.4.2.b states that:

‘a driver will be judged to have left the track if any wheel of the car either goes beyond the outer edge of any kerb or goes beyond the white line where there is no kerb’

For illustrative purposes, the images below show cars in acceptable and unacceptable positions.

For the avoidance of doubt, this means that competitors can drive on the circuit, including the white line, and any kerb.

What are the penalties for breaking the new rules?

Qualifying

In qualifying a report is received and where it is shown that a driver has gained advantage on that particular lap, i.e. a faster lap time, then that lap time will be removed. This can be done as often as is required.

Race

In races, a rising scale of penalties will be applied according to the number of times a competitor is reported to have exceeded the track limits, as follows:

- Second report: Black & white warning flag
- Next report: Five-second time penalty
- Next report: Drive-through penalty
- Next report: Black flag.

All of the above penalties, plus alternative penalties, are available to officials if a competitor is judged to have exceeded track limits, particularly where any advantage has been gained.

