

ACU Road Race Competition Licence



Below are some of the most frequently asked questions, and the answers, that first time Road Race applicants ask.

If you do not find the answer to your question please contact Road Race Department, ACU House, Wood Street, Rugby, CV21 2YX 01788 566406/405 rowena@acu.org.uk www.acu.org.uk

What is the ACU

The ACU is the governing body of motorcycle road racing in England and Wales, including the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man.

What is a Road Race?

This is an event where the racing takes place on 100% tarmac surfaces. This includes permanent short circuits and temporary street circuits.

Do I need a licence of any kind?

Yes - You will need a Road Race Licence from the ACU to race your motorcycle at authorised race meetings.

For 2014 a Road Race Licence will cost you £45.00 and will be valid from date of issue until 31st December of the same year.

Provided you are reasonably fit there is no need for a medical, you will need to complete the self-certification form, but an eyesight examination will be required with your first application and every third year thereafter.

What should I do first?

You have to be a member of a Motorcycle Club that is affiliated to the Auto Cycle Union, the ACU for short. The club will provide you with a Unique Code that needs to be put on your application form.

The cost of Club Membership varies but is normally a few pounds each year. You then have to decide which Club(s) you wish to join.

You may have to obtain information from several Clubs to help you decide.

Training and Motorcycle Riding Ability

First time Road Race Licence applicants are required to complete a Competitor Training Course and a Basic Rider Assessment before their first Road Race Licence can be issued.

Details of venues, dates and contact details will be posted to the ACU website www.acu.org.uk. Alternatively riders can contact the club that they intend joining for details of their course dates. The Costs will vary according to venues.

The Competitor Training Course

This course is designed to ensure that you have a knowledge of the rules of the sport and the safety procedures in place at all club meetings to allow you to compete in Road Race events.

Riding ability

You will be required to prove your competency to ride a motorcycle.

Every applicant will have to undergo the Basic Rider Assessment to prove that he or she is able to ride a motorcycle on the race track in an appropriate manner.

The Assessment will comprise of a structured set of riding skill assessment sessions that will take place both on and off track. It will include the procedure for a full Road Race start, perhaps the most stressful part of any new competitors' first race-day!

Submitting your application

When you have completed the Competitor Training Course and Basic Rider Assessment you should send the following documents to the ACU.

- 1) Competitor Training Course Certificate
- 2) Basic Rider Assessment Certificate
- 3) 2014 Licence Application Form, don't forget to
 - i) Complete your details including your signature.
 - ii) Have the Eyesight Report completed by your optician.
 - iii) Include your Unique Code from your club.

You should send your application to
ACU Licence Department
ACU House
Wood Street
Rugby
CV21 2YX

Alternatively if you put a stamped addressed envelope to the ACU with your Licence application form etc (remember the cheques), and send it to the Secretary of your club with your Club Membership they will normally add your Unique Code and forward to the ACU for you.

What bike can I race?

There are restrictions as to size and type of motorcycle you may race if you are a **newcomer** to road racing.

- 11 years** Up to 125cc Automatic Production Scooter
- 12 years** Up to 80cc GP machine (treaded tyres only)
Up to 125cc Production based machine
Up to 250cc single cylinder 4 stroke Production machines (restricted to maximum 37hp)
- 13 years** Up to 80cc GP specification machine
Up to 125cc Production based machine
Up to 300cc single or twin cylinder 4 stroke Production machines (restricted to maximum 37hp)
- 14 years** Up to 125cc GP specification machine
Up to 250cc 4-stroke single or twin cylinder machine (unrestricted)
- 15 years** Up to Formula 400 specification or 450cc Production based machines
Up to 500cc single or twin cylinder 4-stroke machines
Up to 650cc single or twin cylinder 4-stroke Production based Machines
- 16 years** Up to Formula 400 specification or 450cc Production based machine
Up to 500cc single or twin cylinder 4-stroke machines
Up to 650cc single or twin cylinder 4-stroke Production based Machines
- 17 years** Any classic or Vintage machines over 650cc
Up to Formula 600 or Supersport 600 specification machines
Up to 250cc Grand Prix Machines
- 18 years** **Novice** - Any classic or Vintage machines over 650cc
Up to Formula 600 or Supersport 600 specification machines
Up to 250cc Grand Prix Machines
- 18 years** **Intermediate Novice*** - Unlimited capacity machine
*riders holding a Full Class "A" DVLA Licence

Sidecar and Three-wheeler Machines

Driver

- 17 years** F2, F350, Classic, Vintage, Morgan Three Wheeler
Unlimited 4-stroke or 2-stroke machine

Passenger

- 16 years** F2, F350, Classic, Vintage, Morgan Three Wheeler
Unlimited 4-stroke or 2-stroke machine

Parade

- 14 - 70 years Single Grade All Classes

As a newcomer to Road Racing you are required to wear an orange vest over your leathers, this is currently issued free of charge and will be sent to you with your first licence.

What next?

When you take out your first ACU Road Race Licence – you will be given an ACU Handbook that contains the rules and regulations governing Road Racing.

Also in this book are the technical regulations concerning the safety requirements of your machine and clothing (including your helmet etc)

You are advised to pay particular attention to these requirements because failure to observe them may result in your not being eligible for a race meeting.

What Clothing do I need?

During practice and racing riders and passengers must wear the following clothing and footwear.

A complete (all in one, not zipped together at waist) leather suit of at least 1.2mm in thickness (on all parts of the suit). Non-leather material may be used if it meets with the following requirements.

The following characteristics of the material must be at least equivalent to 1.5mm of cowhide (not split leather)

Fire retardant quality - Resistance to abrasion - Coefficient of friction against all types of asphalt - perspiration absorbing qualities - Medical test - non toxic and non allergenic - Fabric of a quality that does not melt. It must be non-flammable.

The following areas must be padded with at least a double layer of leather or enclosed plastic foam at least 8mm thick:- Shoulders, elbows, both sides of the torso and hip joint, the back of the torso, knees.

Competitors must wear complete undergarments if they use suits that are not lined. Suitable undergarments may be of the Nomex type, they may also be of silk or simply cotton. Synthetic materials which may melt and which could harm the riders skin in an accident are not allowed, neither for the suit nor for the undergarments.

Kevlar suits are not acceptable for Sidecar Passengers competing at Public Road Venues.

Footwear must be of leather or an approved substitute material and of a minimum height of 200mm to provide, with the suit, complete protection (i.e. no exposed areas.)

Competitors must wear leather protective gloves.

The use of metallic material in any item of clothing or personal protection that regularly comes into contact with the track is prohibited (i.e. metal studs in knee sliders, boots etc.).

Helmets bearing the current ACU gold stamp and in sound condition and properly fitted must be worn by all riders and passengers while practising and racing. Overseas riders may use helmets as approved by their own Federation.

How to enter a race?

The Club(s) that you have joined will normally send you Regulations and Entry Forms for the meetings they are holding. These regulations are in addition to those in the ACU handbook, and not instead of them.

All entry forms will have a closing date for acceptance of entries. You are strongly advised to enter well before the closing date to avoid disappointment.