

Basic Car Operation

Driving a quarter midget race car is a very exciting thing for any child to do but it is important that once they are strapped into the car they are focused on the task at hand. As a driver your child needs to concentrate the machine they are in and what they are doing entering, driving on, and exiting the track. The most dangerous part of the car is the driver when they are not paying attention.

After getting in, buckling up, and putting on all the safety gear the next step is to get the car started. This is done by the handler telling the driver they are going then starting to push the car. Once the car is rolling tap the driver on the helmet to let them know it is time to turn the switch on. Within a couple of revolutions of turning the switch on the engine will fire as long as everything is going as planned.

As soon as the engine has fired the handler should let the car go by itself and turn to the outside or inside depending on where they are and get out of the way of the next car going out. If starting from the hot chute or staging area and your driver is following another car out make sure not to signal them to turn the engine on until the car in front of them is under their own power as well.

If pushing off from the track, always make sure the cars behind you know which direction you will turn after you start your car. Starting cars on the track while other cars are out there is about the most dangerous thing in quarter midgets and where the majority of any possible injuries will occur.

Once the car is started the driver needs to steer, use the gas pedal, and the brake pedal. While under green the driver should always have two hands on the steering wheel with the 4 fingers of each hand curled around the wheel in approximately the 10 and 2 o'clock positions. Their thumbs should NOT be curled around the inside, but instead pointing towards the top of the steering wheel laying flat on the top of the wheel. This is to make sure that if there is any wheel contact with the wall or another car their thumbs are not caught in a steering wheel that snaps to the left or right.

The gas pedal is the one on the right and should not really be used until your driver is on the track. The engine idle itself will be enough to get the car from

the hot chute or staging area to the track in a safe manner. Under green flag conditions most cars will be at full throttle in an open pattern.

The brake pedal is the one on the right and is often times the most important piece of the car. This is the piece that will get the driver out of trouble. With the types of motors in these cars stepping hard on the brake pedal will not only slow the car but it will stop it quickly and kill the engine all in one step.

Drivers should always tell their mother before a race begins if their brakes are not working or something about the brakes does not feel right.

Just like we use the switch to turn the car on, we also use it to turn the car off. Flipping the switch to the down position will shut the engine off, pressing the brake at the same time will make it happen even faster.

Note: Effective April 1, 2009 all Novice cars must be equipped with a Switch on the top of the roll cage. This is for the flagger or corner men to switch the car off with a pole or flag.