**Race Day Plan: 2024-2025**

**Compiled by Jasper Waghorn**

This plan goes through how race days have been run for the past few years, what to expect and preparation that is needed.

**Staff:**

* Usually, two members of staff go to a race, one member of staff (normally the club leader) drives the minibus with the students to the venue and the other member of staff drives the minibus with cars in.
* Once at the venue staff help unpack, register the cars in and then the day is mostly student led. The parts they may need to help with is scrutineering and the practice laps. After that teachers are not permitted by Greenpower to help during races, so just watch from the stands.
* Normally, some parents come to the race day to support or help, which can be useful with the younger year’s students.

**Transportation:**

* Recently, we have used two minibuses for transportation one with students one with the cars, but in the past, we have hired a Zipcar van to transport the cars.
* The advantage of the Zipcar van is that it can be driven by a parent helper, reducing the number of staff needed to one. However, the wheels of the car must be removed for this to happen and less kit can be taken.
* Occasionally some parents take students to and from if they are supporting.

**Timings:**

* Students arrive at school at 6:00am, some older ones arrive earlier 5:30am to sort out kit and load cars onto the minibuses.
* ****We leave school at the latest of 6:20am (varies depending on distance of the race), we aim to get there for 7:45am; you can arrive from 7:30am.
* Scrutineering opens at 8:15am, it is good to get in first as the queues are often long, which sometimes doesn’t allow for the full time in the practice race. If problems with scrutineering occur, we may miss the practice and for spare parts there is a small selection available for purchase on site.
* There is a team briefing at 9:00 am, which everyone must attend as it gives safety information and track information. You cannot miss this!
* Practice runs from 9:30am to 11:00am, we often only use one set of batteries for this and switch them between each car only having one on the track at a time, as we do not have enough batteries for each car. A lot of the time we use practice to give nervous drivers and new drivers a chance to get out onto the track.
* At 11:10am there is another team briefing to share anymore information or just to serve as a reminder to teams.
* Race one starts at 11:30am, it is vital to be on time for this and get onto the track straight away. The race is 60 minutes and ends at 1:00pm to allow for time to get everyone on the track.
* After race one there is a break to whilst the F24+ races takes place, which we do not compete in. In this break we do any modifications needed to the cars and switch batteries. It is important we allow time for the motor to cool down. Students also have lunch, which they provide at this point (there is some expensive food and drink available on site though).
* Race two starts at 1:45pm and is slightly shorter ending at 2:45pm, this race runs the same as race one apart from timings.
* Prize giving is at 5:15pm, as it takes a while to recover cars whose battery dies on the track and teams pack up before this. Blenheim doesn’t normally win any prizes though.
* These timing vary per race day and are subject to change on the day.

**Races:**

* In races we always use a new set of batteries for each car, each race; we make sure these batteries are the best (have the highest voltage).
* There is a minimum of one pit stop required, so normally only four people drive each race, two for each car to maximise track time. Also, ****as the lap which you enter the pit to swap driver doesn’t count towards your total.
* Each car needs a crew of four people, one person in the pitlane who communicates to the driver when to pit using a pitstop sign, two people who manage the driver change in pitlane and the final person is a runner. So, in total including drivers and crew each car requires six people.
* It is also nice to have at least one person taking photos of both cars for social media and parents.
* It is important that there is only one person in the pit lane at once, due to Greenpower rules.

**Communication:**

* Normally, there is two walkie talkies carried around to communicate across the venue.
* A useful investment would be some more walkie talkies to improve communication.
* A message group is also set up for people to communicate using phones, but signal is sometimes spotty.

**Additional information:**

* At some circuits each car has a bay to work in, which provides adequate space, but most circuits do not, so we use gazebos instead.
* Twelve students usually attend each race, with older students (or people who have been to races before) having priority, but also having younger students to balance it out. A requirement is that there must be at least four people who gave driven the car before attending.