

## Ten tips for Landspeed racing

1. **Familiarise yourself with the course before doing any runs.** Find out how long the run up and braking areas are, and what signs/markers are placed along the course. Be familiar with where to stop, and how you will exit the course.
2. **Inspect your vehicle before and after every run.** Make sure tyres are clean and pressures are correct before doing high-speed runs, check them for signs of damage or delamination after each run. Monitor your gauges, and visually check your vehicle for fluid leaks, broken parts, etc.
3. **Build up your speed in progressive runs.** Get used to how your vehicle handles at speed and get used to the course before going “full noise”.
4. **There’s no need to be aggressive on your launch.** You will have plenty of run up so take your time off the line. Remember you’ll be on cold tyres! Build speed gently and increase throttle progressively as you move up through the gears. Wheelspin is your enemy; if you have traction control leave it turned on.
5. **Be smooth and subtle with your inputs.** Changing gears, throttle and brake application should all be done gently and progressively.
6. **Pay attention to how your vehicle behaves.** You shouldn’t be fighting for control; if it starts to misbehave at speed then adding more speed will only make things worse. Gently back off and return to the pits to work out what’s going wrong.
7. **Watch a long way in front.** Don’t look at the road immediately in front of you; instead look as far down the road as you can as this makes it easier to keep your vehicle steady on the course. Keep an eye on the distance markers, and make sure you are aware of where you are on course for the entire run.
8. **Take your time when braking.** Make sure you have completely passed the finish line, roll off the throttle gently, let your vehicle settle, then gently start applying brakes. DON’T RUSH THE PROCESS, wind resistance alone will quickly start to slow you down and it’s easy to succumb to the temptation to close the throttle quickly and jump on the brakes, which can unsettle your vehicle. Not to mention that if you rush and mistime it you are likely to start braking before going through the final timing beam which will hurt your results.
9. **Advise a steward IMMEDIATELY if you notice anything unusual with the course.** In particular look out for debris on the course and monitor your own vehicle during your run. If anything is dropped on the course (fluids, parts, cameras, etc), let the stewards know as soon as you can. Get their attention before you pull off the course if possible, so they can prevent the next competitor from running and potentially hitting the debris.
10. **Ride / Drive within your ability and that of the stability of your vehicle.** Top results don’t happen immediately they take time and experience. Remember this is not your only chance to achieve your goal, Landspeed NZ will be around in the future and there will plenty more events to participate in.