

# LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE LANGLEY QUARTER MIDGET ASSOCIATION!!

I am glad to hear you are interested in Quarter Midget Racing at the LQMA (Langley Quarter Midget Assoc). My name is Dino Bianchi and I am the club Driver Trainer. My family and I have been very involved since we started out 5 years ago. Racing quarter midgets is an excellent children's sport with many cool opportunities you will not find in baseball, soccer, hockey, etc. I have tried to provide some answers to the most common questions below to help you get a better picture of our club and sport.

- ✓ **Costs :** This is often the biggest concern for new members. It needn't be, however. Most cars range from about \$1400 to \$3000. Cars have come down in price however and you can often buy a car, pit cart and substantial extras for about \$2500 Canadian. This will put you into a good car that will last for many years; something your child can grow into. Our initial membership is only \$150/year. This is a family fee and you can race as many kids as you want. During your first years you will find that other than the odd bent component on your car the maintenance costs will be proportionally low.
- ✓ **Cars:** When shopping for a car you can often find many choices by just asking around. If you are not familiar with anyone currently racing we have many new and old members come out to the Driver Training to sell their cars. Another source that can be utilized is our website classifieds. At the Driver Training you will meet plenty of people that will be able to source you a car that fits your needs. Please educate yourself prior to buying a car! I can bring you up to speed on current regulation and technology. I will give you the straight goods on what you probably need and how much you should pay for it.
- ✓ **Time :** Your time commitment is solely dependent on you. We have a race more than every second weekend for the entire period of time from March through October. There are 3 levels of racing you can get involved in at our club 1) local, 2) regional and 3) national. Most beginners stick to local races until their child becomes competitive. At that point many of them begin to travel our Region 9 ( BC, Wash, Oreg ) and some even travel to various National events across the States. Although it is a smaller venue, our local racing can be very exciting also. I recommend you race all the local races in your first year. Some minor work will be required on your cars in the form of maintenance. In the first years this is minimal as the speeds are slow and driver development is the focus. Get out on the track as much as possible when the track is open. With a membership you are given keys to the gate and safety compound so you can practice in-between races. This is key in developing you child's driving skills.
- ✓ **Commitment :** As a member of our club we hope you will develop your own skills as well. Parents become 'corner workers' and learn the ropes with their children while assuming a role of their own. When the cars stall on track it's the parents that safely direct traffic and get our kids back under power. During the year we maintain our track at several 'work parties' where we all get together and perform upkeep. The club also has various fund raising events that are lots of fun to attend and help us pay our bills. For the most part we hope to see all members putting in a reasonable amount of volunteer time to help out. With the size of our club this does not equate to a very large time commitment but every minute counts!

- ✓ **Safety** : In forty years + of Quarter Midget Racing there has never been a life threatening accident. This is mostly due to the diligence of members and stringency of safety rules both locally and nationally, as part of the larger organization the QMA ( [www.quartermidgets.org](http://www.quartermidgets.org) ). Every race your car will be given a 'safety' and inspected. This is repeated on track and in the pits by various officials during racing to ensure nothing is overlooked. The standards are not unlike real Nascar racing and are aimed at maximum protection for our kids. 4 point safety belts, SA 2000 rated helmets and fireproof suits are just a few examples of the strict regulations. Once most parents get racing with their kids they witness the standards for themselves and quickly become comfortable with their kids driving a small race car. Soon you will find yourself quite knowledgeable in race car safety, also.

The track offers camping overnight (with hookups – free to members!) and lots of camaraderie. We always compare our facility to a small park where the kids can roam safe and free (and they do!). It's like a day at the farm with bike riding, scooter riding, playing in our small forest or in our own playground. We also have showers and flush toilets for all. Finally, we also offer a well stocked snack shack with a huge assortment of food from grilled cheese sandwiches and salads to hamburgers and drinks.

If you are still interested please let me know and we can offer you a ride during our spring driver training or anytime during the race year to see if your child is comfortable with the idea of driving. Please visit our website for more information. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

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