

Racing a Formula Vee

Formula vee is the most affordable open wheel racing car category in Australia. It represents the ultimate in simple but effective technology in an affordable race car package.

In the sport of motor racing, where the cost of a car in most categories is in excess of \$75,000, the cost of a new Formula Vee is \$20,000 and you can expect to pay around \$10,000 for a competitive second hand car. Running costs are low, the VW engine and the VW components are most reliable, available locally and easy to maintain - and a Vee car remains competitive for many years.

A feature of Formula Vee racing is the drivers hitting 200 kph along the straights and then keeping the cars 'on the edge' for the whole race in tight formations. The strong VW engine can take revs of up to 7000 RPM.

Vee cars race hard and close together with frequent lead changes and close finishes. Laptimes are only slightly below those of much more powerful cars. Formula Vee is found on every racing circuit in Australia with sometimes over 40 cars in an event.

The chassis are simple and easy to repair with costs minimal. Despite the often intense wheel-to-wheel racing there are accidents. Due to the structural integrity of the cars, drivers generally walk away unharmed from this appealing and ageless form of motor racing. Drivers from 15 to 65 compete in evenly matched cars that emphasis driver skill.

Do I have to have raced something else such as Karts before racing a Formula Vee?

You do not have to have any experience at all to start racing a Vee. All you need to do is pass your CAMS driver observation test, and obtain a CAMS C3 license.



Formula Vee Specifications

A standard 1200cc or 1600cc air cooled VW engine with a standard 4 speed Volkswagon gearbox, and VW components in front and rear suspension. The engine is straightforward to remove and dismantle. The chassis are simple and body panels are either aluminium or fibre glass and easy to repair.

All up body weight of the car and driver is restricted to a minimum of 475kg for 1200cc, with a top speed of approximately 200 kph. Dunlop has exclusively developed an all weather racing compound tyre specifically to Formula Vee.

Contact Details

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For more information you can visit the National Formula Vee website at:

www.fvee.org.au



Formula Vee Association
of Western Australia

Join in the fun! Today!



Photograph: Brian White Media



Formula Vee Association of Western Australia

The Class

When Formula Vee was established it was designed as a learning class of motor racing. As the sport grew, the formula quickly established.



Photograph: Phil Luyer

In Australia this is the 36th successful year of Formula Vee, with over 300 racing Formula Vee's. Membership and car clubs have grown rapidly as it is a level of motor racing most enthusiasts can afford. It is the best value-for-money race car package in Australia.

Formula Vee racing provides the thrill of fiercely competitive motor racing at a budget cost. Permitted modifications are minimal so that greater emphasis is on driver skill rather than budget. As a result, the class is the first proving ground in motor racing and has always been a stepping stone to higher levels of motorsport. Larry Perkins, Colin Bond, John Blanchard, and John Bowe began their careers in Formula Vee.

Q How old do I have to be to race a Formula Vee?

A You need to be 16 years of age to hold a CAMS C3 license, which is required to race a Formula Vee in Australia.



Photograph: Brian White Media

Jason Bargwanna is a recent graduate from Formula Vee who is now a successful V8 touring car driver. On the international stage, Niki Lauda, Emerson Fittipaldi and Keke Rosberg, all Formula 1 champions, raced Formula Vees in Europe or America at the beginning of their careers.

Formula Vee is controlled by the Formula Vee Association of Australia (FVAA). Without any support from the motor sports establishment, Formula Vee is the fastest growing category with the largest pool of cars in Australian motor racing.

Vee History

The class originated in the U.S. in 1960 at the request of a Volkswagen dealer. Vee racing began in 1963 and was recognised as a class of racing by the Sports Car Club of America. Within a year it was rated fourth in numbers in the 17 racing classes, a year later it was a close second and by 1966 the class was way out in front.

Q Can I buy a second hand Formula Vee?

A Yes, there are several Formula Vees on the market in Western Australia. You can contact the club for a list and contact details, or alternatively refer to the classifieds at www.fvee.org.au.

Test Drive a Vee before buying

If your interested in buying a vee there is an opportunity available where you can test drive a vee on a real raceway.

The cost is \$150.00*. This will include:

- A days racing licence
- The hire of the raceway - 1hr
- The hire of the Formula Vee - 1hr
- Guidance from a professional driver

*This price may vary from time to time.

For more information please contact Derek Burns on (08) 9409 5356



Photograph: Phil Luyer

Q How much is it to join the Formula Vee club and entry into a race meeting?

A The cost to join the club is approx. \$65.00 per year and approx. \$135.00 for race entry. The Vees race at Barbagallo Raceway about 7- 8 times a year.