

Frequently Asked Questions...

What's the difference between a "track" bike and a "regular" bike?

A track bike has a 'fixed' gear and no brakes. A rider will select the size of the cog on the rear wheel that s/he feels most comfortable with. To speed up, the rider pedals faster; to stop, the rider must force the pedals to slow down. Special clips hold the rider's foot onto the pedals to avoid injury and to enhance control.

Can track bikes and road bikes both ride on the Velodrome?

Yes—but not at the same time! Part of what makes "pack" racing possible is that no one can 'slam' on the brakes and change speed drastically. Monday nights are reserved for "road bikes only" for our *Ride Hard, Turn Left* fitness nights. Come on out and give it a try!

What is a "prime"? (pronounced PREEM)

Spectators may affect the outcome of a race by offering a "prime" - an bonus prize (cash or merchandise) usually given for a special 'sprint' within a race. If you'd like to participate, take the prize to the announcer!

What are the lines on the track for?

Starting on the lowest part of the track, you'll see a white stripe whose primary job is to contrast the black and red lines.

- The **black** line is called the "pole" line, or measurement line. Following this line for exactly one lap is a distance of 333 meters, and it is this line which determines the official length. All racers, regardless of the type of race in which they are competing, must stay on or above the pole line. Riders coming "off the track" may be disqualified.
- The **red** line, just above the pole line, is the "sprinter's" line. During the last 200 meters of a race, the leader may not swerve above this line. Also, a passing rider cannot pass the leader on the left; s/he must take the higher line and pass on the right.
- The **blue** line, around the "middle" of the track, is called a "stayers" line. During practice, slower riders should stay 'above' the line, while faster riders should stay below. In team races, the 'relief' rider must stay above the line until his/her turn to re-enter the race.

