

Race Night Technical Help

For those of you that are unfamiliar with some of the setting up requirements for running a race night please read through the following basic information. It is all fairly straight forward, with many hotels, clubs and schools having all the necessary equipment already in place. It is normally the jargon and unfamiliarity with some of the connections which can cause confusion.

Video Format (DVD)

We do not use VHS videos so there is no need to worry about the different video formats such as PAL, SECAM and NTSC. Our DVD's are **region-free** and therefore can be played in any part of the world.

Video Player (DVD)

You have the choice of a stand-alone DVD player or else a computer (preferably a laptop) with its own inbuilt player. A stand-alone player main advantage is that they come with a remote so you may (if required) pause the disc from a distance. If you use a computer it should have a high quality video card and sound card. It will also have the connection ports for linking to your screening apparatus (projector) and amplifiers.

Warning: Always ensure you do a player compatibility and equipment check prior to the event.

Video Screening

Display equipment

Independent of the number of guests - where possible a projector and large screen will provide more impact and better chance of success.

Projector

Firstly don't worry about whether your projector is LCD or DLP technology! The most important specification of the projector is its brightness level in terms of the number of lumens. Most projectors now a days have more than 1200 lumens. The main benefit to having a higher level of lumens is when your venue has a lot of ambient light which you are unable or perhaps choose not to do anything about. An example would be light coming from the drinks bar area which you can't turn off while the races are being run.

Screen

Unless you have a flat white wall within the venue suitably positioned for you to project on to - you will need a suitably sized projector screen. In most circumstances the screen should be around 12 - 14ft from the projector. Most screens are between 60" and 84" as measured diagonally.

Audio amplifiers

Audio (sound) amplifiers are the best way of ensuring your audience enjoys the experience of being at one of our specially themed race nights. The race commentary needs to be heard for the evening to be a success!

The cables normally have at one end a black connector and at the other end two separate white and red connectors. Simply connect the black end to the output port of the DVD player or computer (eg: on a computer this is normally coloured green or a head-phones symbol) and the other two ends go into the left and right input of the speakers.

Connecting your equipment

For DVD players - most can be connected to a projector via a scart cable which carries both audio and video signals. Component video cables (three connectors green,blue,red) are also another common method of connecting the player to the projector.

For computers - normally a VGA connector cable is the quickest and easiest way to connect to a projector. The place to connect the lead is normally identified by its light blue colour and upto 15 very small holes. However bear in mind that the VGA connector only carries video signals so you will also need audio cables. Some of the brand new projector models from supplier Infocus now allow you to use a USB connection.