

# GAMER GUIDE

NEED FOR  
SPEED UNBOUND  
EDITION



the need to know you didn't know you needed



# WHAT IS IT?



Need for Speed Unbound is a racing video game by Criterion Games, published by Electronic Arts. It's the 25th instalment in the Need for Speed series and features a unique art style combining cel-shading and graffiti with realistic visuals. The game was released for PlayStation 5, Windows, and Xbox Series X/S.

## NFS UNBOUND

NFS Unbound marks a return to the series for Criterion Games as the main developer, and its blend of distinct visuals and engaging gameplay offers a fresh experience for both Need for Speed enthusiasts and racing game fans.

# BREAKDOWN THE BASICS

In Need for Speed Unbound, the ultimate street racing challenge, The Grand, awaits you. Over four intense weeks, you'll race to earn cash, enter weekly qualifiers, and outride the competition while staying one step ahead of the cops. Prove that you have what it takes to make your mark on the street racing scene!

## Mechanics

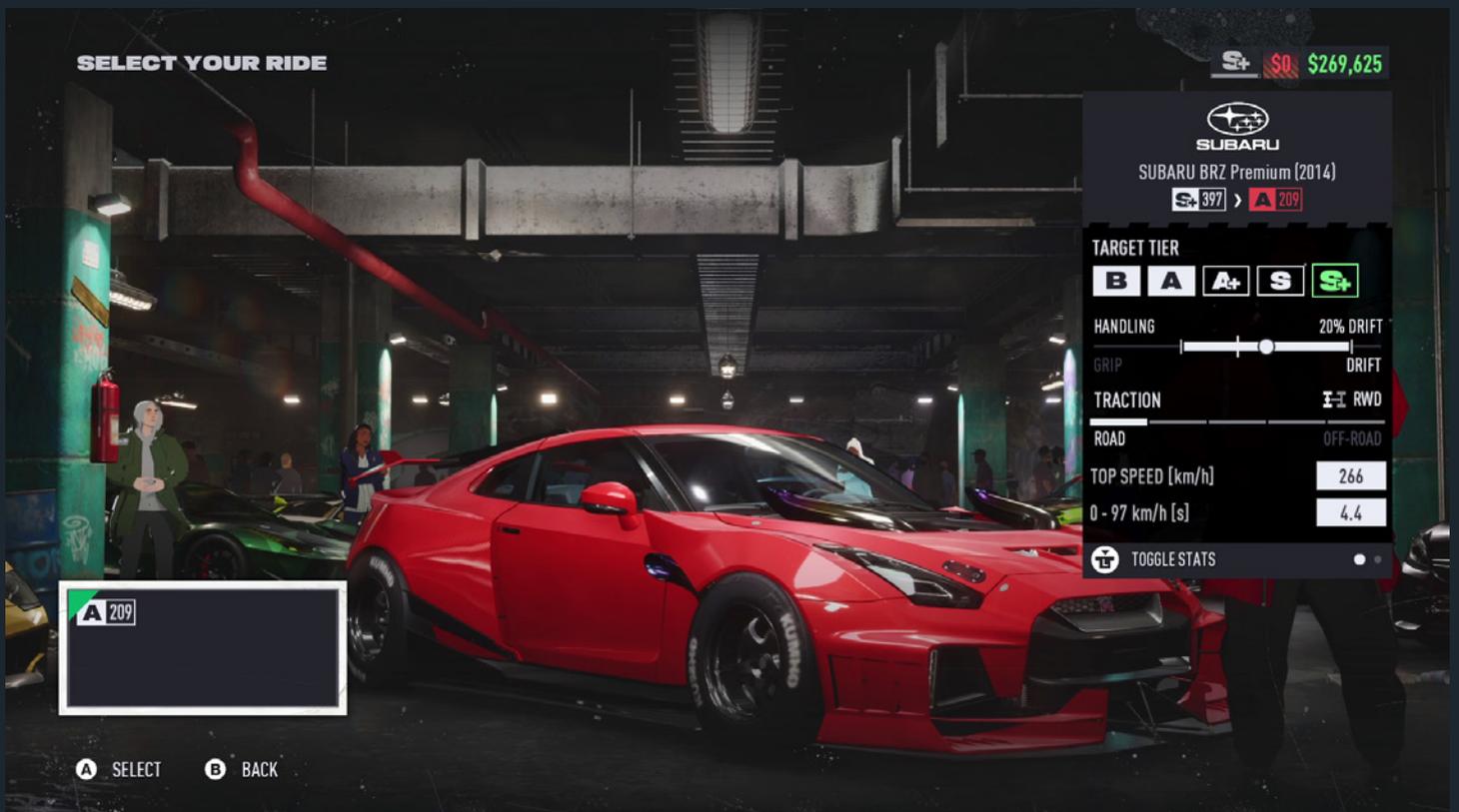


## Challenge Level

In Need for Speed Unbound, you have three Challenge Level difficulties to choose from. It's essential to pick the one that matches your proficiency in the game to fully enjoy the experience. The difficulties are as follows:

- Relaxed: 10 Restarts per day.
- Challenging: 4 Restarts per day.
- Intense: 2 Restarts per day.

Besides the number of restarts, the difficulty you choose will affect your car's health. Higher difficulty levels offer less health to your car, making cop chases and rival races tougher. Remember, you can switch difficulties anytime by going back to the garage.



## Vehicles & Classes

Need For Speed Unbound boasts a wide array of fast and beautiful cars, but unlocking them and acquiring cash is no easy feat. Collecting great cars has always been a highlight of NFS games, and Unbound doesn't disappoint with its massive roster of 143 cars in the base game. The Palace Edition adds four more cars, bringing the total count to 147.

To ensure these cars deliver their best in NFS Unbound, you'll need performance upgrades. Understanding the NFS Unbound Standard Performance Rating is crucial for optimising the performance of your vehicles.

The performance rating in NFS Unbound generally falls within the range of 100 to 400. When upgrading your car's performance, you can compare its statistics with the standard performance rating to determine its tier.

- S+ = 330-400+
- S = 270-329
- A+ = 210-269
- A = 160-209
- B = 100-159

According to the table, cars with a performance rating above 270 are considered super racing cars with excellent performance. The vehicles are ranked from best to worst based on their performance rating, with the S and S+ Tier housing the best cars. On the other hand, cars in the B Tier are less favoured in NFS Unbound. For practical use, a car's performance rating must be greater than 159. However, for top-performing cars, the performance rating can exceed 400.



## Performance Upgrades

In NFS Unbound, there are many high-performance racing cars with top-notch specifications. As you progress in the storyline, you have the opportunity to upgrade both the external and performance aspects of your vehicle. Upgrading tires, paint, windows, and various parts of your racing car will significantly enhance its statistics, pushing your chosen car to its maximum potential.

**Engine:** The engine is the most critical component in NFS Unbound, as it is responsible for the following key features.

- High Acceleration
- High Horsepower
- High Speed
- Nitrous System
- Chassis

**Nitrous System:** Improved engine performance enhances the nitrous system in NFS Unbound, providing a lower fuel consumption rate and an additional boost to the car's engine.

- Horsepower
- Fuel Consumption Rate
- Exhaust
- Speed
- Acceleration

**Fuel System:** Crucial for engine efficiency and better power output.

**Exhaust System:** Maintains the integrity of the car's performance.

Induction: Ensures smooth cooling of the car's engine by managing air quality.

ECU: Controls all electronic-related circuitry of the car.

Brakes: High-quality brakes improve system performance, allowing for better time laps and increased car performance.

Tires: Essential for the best handling and traction profiles, impacting the car's performance in NFS Unbound.

Gearbox: Determines the vehicle's speed and improves horsepower, acceleration, and speed performance.

Clutch: Responsible for shifting gears and affecting shifting time.

Chassis: Weight and stability of the chassis impact vehicle acceleration.

Auxiliary: Parts in this section affect the vehicle's speed.

Differential: Can improve or downgrade performance, but careful consideration is required for upgrading.

Drivetrain: Critical for upgrading the car's performance, with related parts influencing various features.

- Power of the Engine
- Speed of the Car
- Acceleration of the Vehicle
- Handling Profile

Suspension: An essential factor in upgrading the car's performance, impacting the following factors.

- Handling Profile
- Traction Profile

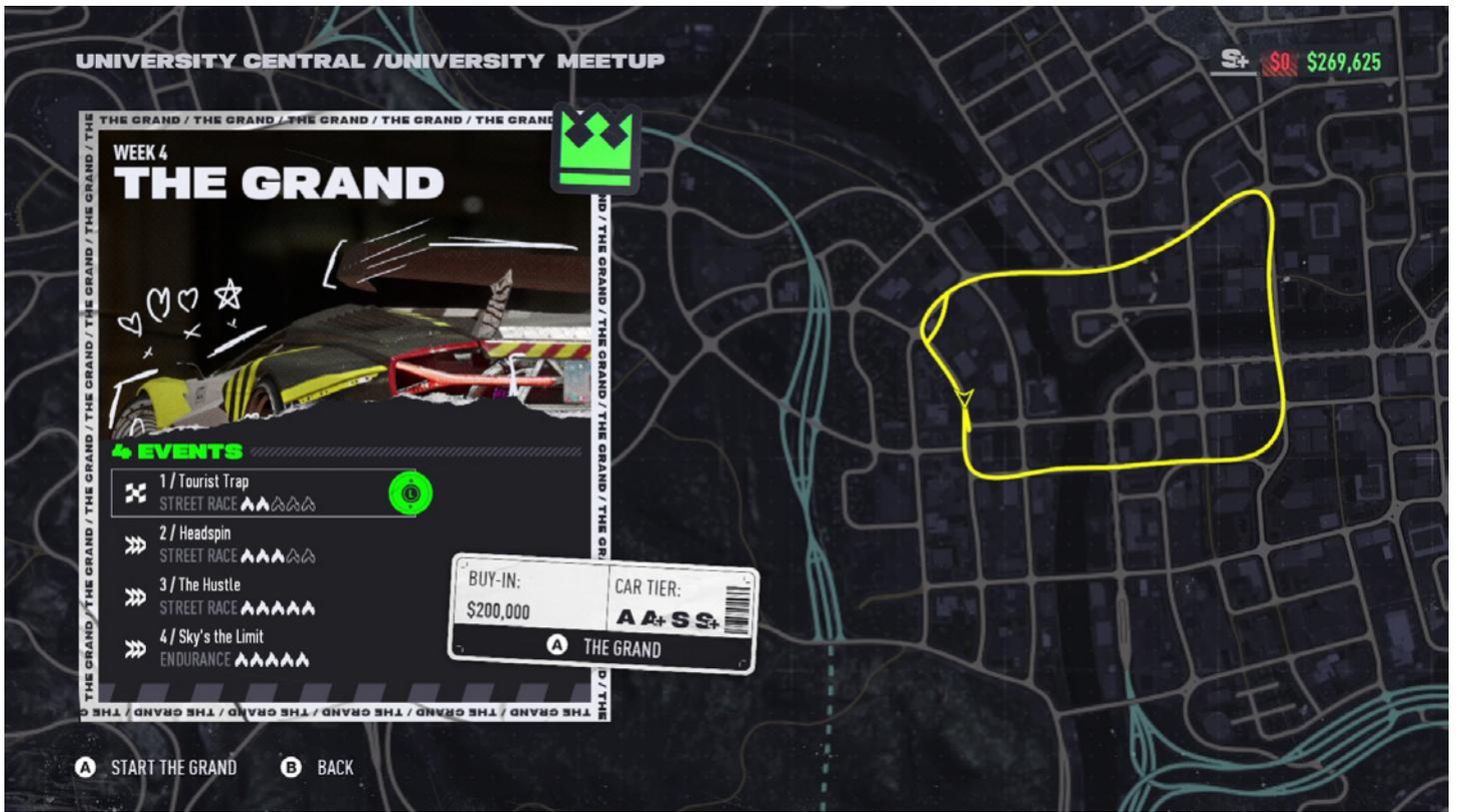
Aspiration: Responsible for efficiently boosting the vehicle's power, with two available chargers.

- Turbo Charger
- Super Charger

Quality is a crucial factor to consider while upgrading your car's performance. Higher-quality parts lead to better car performance. Here is a list of quality options available in NFS Unbound:

- Elite Quality
- Superior Quality
- Pro Quality
- Sport Quality
- Stock Quality





## Races

Need for Speed Unbound offers more than just winning races; it introduces various event types that add variety and challenges for players:

**Corner King:** A circuit or sprint event with a checkpointed route featuring multiple tight or successive corners.

**Drift Event:** A checkpointed circuit event where participants earn points by drifting their vehicle.

**Endurance:** A circuit or sprint event with an excessively long distance checkpointed route.

**Head to Head:** A circuit or sprint event involving only two participants.

**Speed Race:** A circuit or sprint event with a checkpointed route designed for high top speed.

**Street Race:** A circuit or sprint event with a checkpointed route along urban roads.

**Takeover:** A checkpointed circuit event where participants earn points by performing stunts using their vehicle.

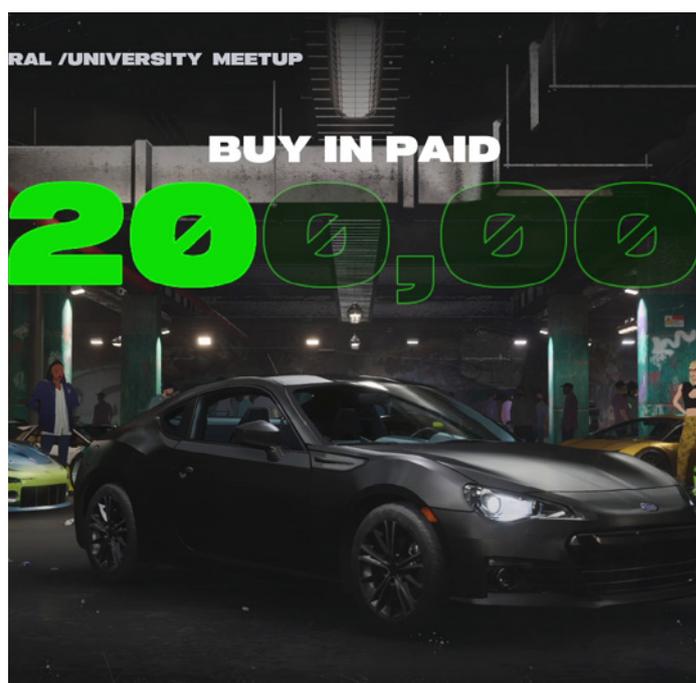
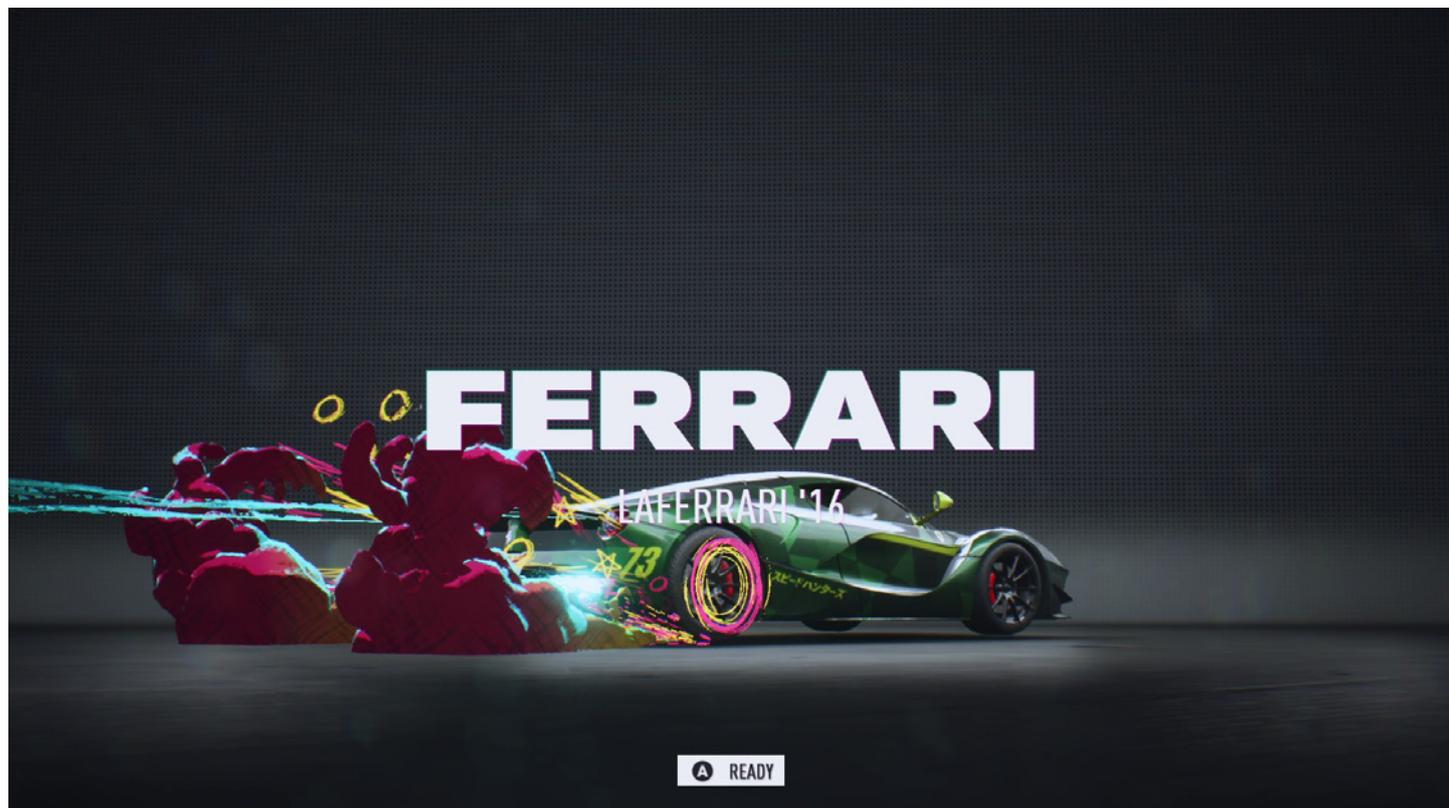
**The Grand:** An invitational event and the single-player story finale. Eight participants compete along four checkpointed routes, and the last few finishers get eliminated from the next event. The winner is the first racer to cross the finish line in the final event.

**Qualifier:** An eliminator event at the end of Week 1, Week 2, and Week 3 of the single-player story. Winning a qualifier progresses the player to the next week of the story and towards The Grand at the end of Week 4.

High Heat Delivery: Tasks the player with delivering a vehicle to a highlighted spot while avoiding the Lakeshore Police Department.

Racer SOS: Tasks the player with picking up a fellow racer within a certain time limit and dropping them off at their safehouse while evading the Lakeshore Police Department.

Rydells Rides: Tasks the player with delivering a client's vehicle from a pickup location to a drop-off location within a set time, following a specific route with checkpoints.



# Environment

Lakeshore City, the open-world setting of *Need for Speed: Unbound*, is a fictional location inspired by Chicago, Illinois. There are key locations as well as plenty of activities and collectables for you to find.



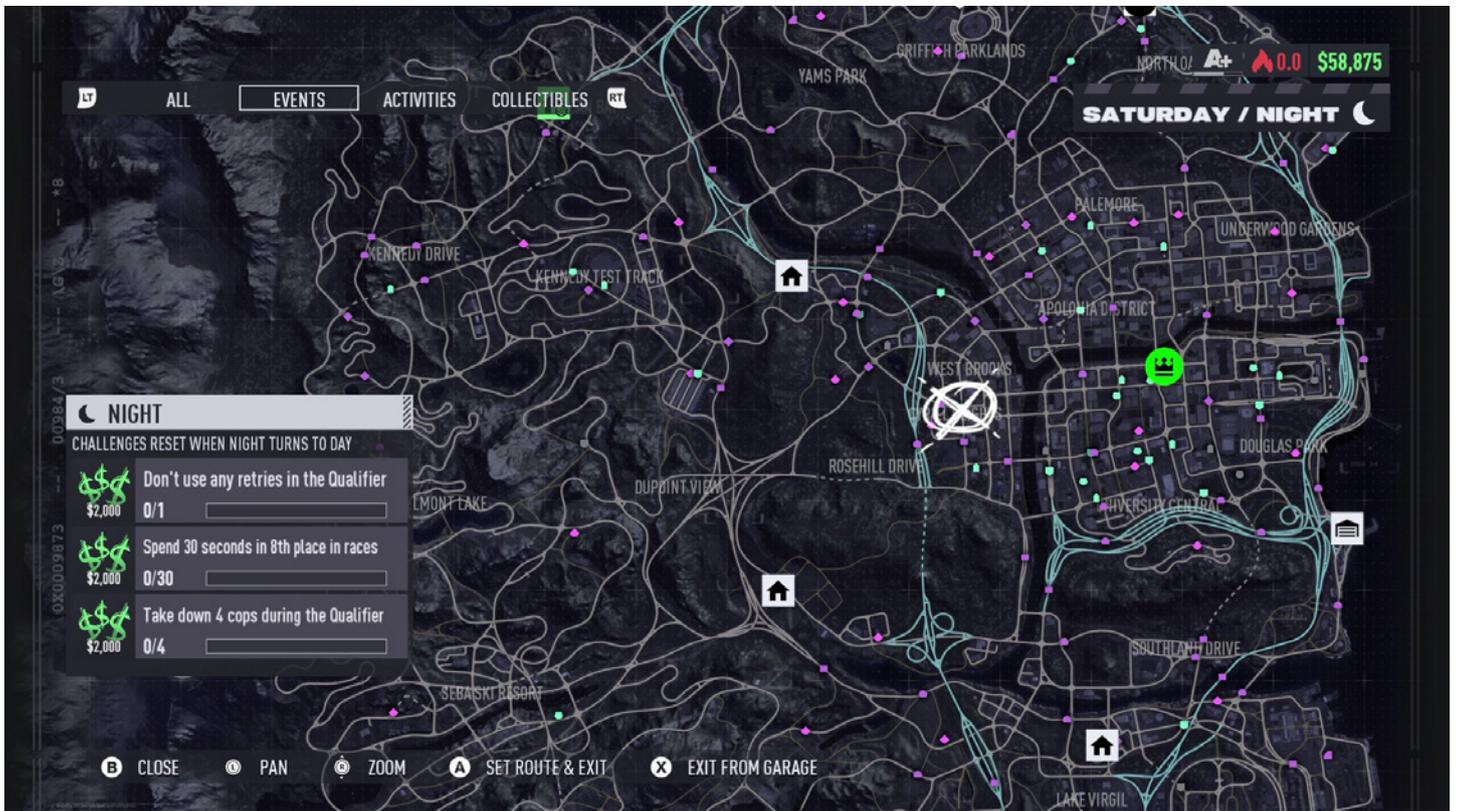
## Locations

**Rydell's Rydes:** Located southeast of Lakeshore City, Rydell's Rydes serves as the player's first safehouse. It offers customization options for vehicles, a place to bank cash, and a sanctuary to evade pursuits and lower heat levels.

**Safehouses:** Scattered throughout Lakeshore City, these safehouses provide a strategic way to evade pursuers and lay low until the heat subsides. Additional safehouses can be unlocked by completing Passenger Delivery jobs.

**Meetups:** Found across Lakeshore, Meetup locations are popular gathering spots for the underground racing community. Players can engage in events and place side bets to earn extra cash.

**Gas Stations:** Conveniently placed throughout the city, Gas Stations offer quick repairs for vehicle damage. However, there's a cooldown timer that must expire before using them again.



## Activities

**Drift Zones:** Players must achieve a set drift target score in Drift Zone activities to earn rewards. Leaderboards track their performance.

**Speed Traps:** Speed Trap activities challenge players to surpass specific speed targets to secure rewards.

**Speedruns:** Speedrun activities require players to maintain an average speed between two checkpoints, striving to beat the set target for rewards.

**Jumps:** Jump activities set distance targets for players to achieve and earn rewards.



# TIPS & TRICKS



## Watch your heat levels

In Need For Speed Unbound, the Heat level measures cop aggression as you drive. It rises with completed races and has five levels, each increasing police strength. Evade capture using skillful manoeuvres, or risk losing your earnings if busted.

## Cheeky mission hacks

When you're doing those side missions, don't stress about sticking to the suggested routes too much. If they want an undamaged car, just swing by a gas station before handing it over! And if it's all about speed, feel free to take shortcuts, break through barriers, and make that timer your friend! Keep it cool and get creative, you'll ace those missions in no time!

## No need for perfection

Hang onto those restarts! Winning every race isn't the be-all and end-all. If you snag 2nd or 3rd place and still make more than your buy-in (and it's not one of those "first place wins a car" deals), consider taking it and heading to another race. Keep restarts for the super-profitable races or when the buy-in's a bit steep. Play smart, and you'll roll in the cash!



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# CONCLUSION

When all's said and done, having a new Need for Speed is a treat. Unbound brings back those classic NFS vibes, feeling like a time capsule of old favourites and retro games with a similar style. It's a delightful blend of the best! It might not please the racing purists, but it's certainly an enjoyable game.