

Southeast Michigan Porsche Club of America

Driver's Education – Minimum Standards - 2021

The following is a list of the minimum rules for participating in a Driver's Education event. While we have made every effort to cover all subjects, oversights may have been made. Please contact the DE-Chair or Chief Instructor with any questions or further clarifications.

Entrant Age

The minimum age for any driving entrant is 18 years.

Driver's License

All entrants must have a valid driver's license (state, country or province as appropriate).

Clothing

All car occupants must wear a Snell approved helmet, which has the current available or one prior Snell SA rating. Other helmets are acceptable if they are approved for PCA Club Racing. Footwear must be enclosed, non-slip, with a relatively smooth sole (examples such as aggressively lugged hiking shoes or boots are highly discouraged).

Helmets

We require Snell SA (2015 or 2020) rated helmets for anyone who is on the track. Other helmets are acceptable if they are approved for PCA Club Racing.

Car Occupancy

If two people are in a car, one must be an approved event instructor and the other must be a registered entrant in the event. There are no exceptions to this rule. A registered entrant is defined as a person who will be participating in substantially all appropriate aspects of the event (on track, classroom and exercises).

Car Safety Inspection

The car owner must certify that the car is safe to run on the track and that the car has been inspected by a regionally approved person or shop within 30 days prior to each event. If the vehicle has participated in another track event within those 30 days it must be re-inspected prior to the next event. SEM PCA provides an Inspection form that can be found on the Club website

(<http://sem.pca.org/drivers-education/drivers-educational-forms/>) and attached to the event registration confirmation email.

All cars entered in the event must have fenders attached to the vehicle body at all four corners.



Cabriolet/Convertible Cars

Any make of car delivered with factory installed roll over protection meets the minimum standards for PCA DE events. In these cars we recommend the soft-top be in the up position or the hard top installed. If the top is in the down position, SFI and/or FIA approved arm restraints are mandatory.

If a car does not have factory installed roll over protection, a roll bar or roll cage must be installed, which meets the "broomstick" rule (the driver's helmeted head is below a bar placed on top of the roll bar and windshield). Design, installation and materials of roll bars or cages and their installation must meet PCA Club Racing specifications, contained in Appendix A-Roll Cage Specifications of the PCA Club Racing Rules. All targa tops must be installed unless there is addition roll over protection. All sunroofs must be in the closed position. The windshield alone is not considered to be factory roll over protection.

1997 – 2009 (996 / 997.1) Porsche 911 - GT2 / GT3 / Turbo motors (Mezger engines) coolant pipes

These vehicles have a known issue with certain coolant pipes that can have catastrophic failures at speed. In order to maintain safety for all participants, Owners of these vehicles must have these pipes addressed with one of 2 options:

- Either weld or 'pin' these pipes into the block. (Proof of service for tech inspection is recommended)
- Exchange the coolant for a combination of water and Water Wetter (there may be other products available as well). Obviously this will require exchange back to anti-freeze prior to exposure to colder temperatures. (Proof of service for tech inspection is recommended)

Automatic Emergency Braking Systems

It is known that “Automatic Emergency Braking Systems” can have unintended reactions at speed in the HPDE environment. For the safety of all participants, PCA has decided not to allow affected vehicles to run at HPDE events unless the system can be and is turned off. We have no doubt that this equipment is very helpful in street driving; however, we cannot risk endangering drivers, instructors and their vehicles at our on-track driving schools.

Equal Restraints

Both the driver and passenger must have the same restraint system, and both the driver and the passenger must use the same restraint system. All vehicles must be equipped with a properly installed lap and shoulder restraint system. Good condition, OEM installed 3-point systems meets this requirement.



Harness Systems

If the participant chooses to install a five or six point driving harness, several changes to the automobile must be made to create a safe occupant restraint system. Harnesses must:

- Include an anti-submarine strap.
- Must be SFI and/or FIA certified – five and/or six-point system (non-expired).
- Have all harness attachment points secured/mounted in an approved manner consistent with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Be used in conjunction with a seat that has been manufactured with supplied routing holes for the shoulder and anti-submarine belts.
- Have the shoulder straps mounted in an approved manner consistent with the manufacturer's instructions.

The participant should BE AWARE that the addition of such a seat and harness system results in the occupant being fastened upright in the vehicle. Therefore, in order to have a COMPLETE SYSTEM, **a properly padded roll bar or roll cage is recommended, and an approved head and neck restraint device is required.** A head and neck restraint device certified as meeting the standards of either SFI 38.1 or FIA 8858 or its successor is required. The use of such a harness system without roll protection and a **head and neck restraint device** may result in an unsafe environment and is not a COMPLETE SYSTEM. Roll bars or cages and their installation must meet PCA Club Racing Standards.

When using a head and neck restraint device, it must meet the standards of either SFI 38.1 or FIA 8858 or its successor is required. It is recommended that one follow the SFI Recertification process for the head and neck restraint device. The instructions for this can be found on the device. Additionally, it is recommended that the straps be replaced every five years.

The SFI standard requires seat belt to be replaced every two years based on date of manufacture. The FIA standard requires seat belt to be replaced every five years based on date of manufacture.

Four-point systems are **not** allowed, EXCEPT as noted below, in Porsches because of the integrated headrest supplied by the factory. In addition to the standard SFI and/or FIA-approved five or six point system, a four-point system is allowed in non-Porsches that meet the following requirements:

- Meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 209.
- Attaches to the factory seat belt mounting points.
- Each belt is designed to work in a specific vehicle and that vehicle tag must be attached to the belt system.



(Harness Systems - Continued)

Four Point Belt Exception: Schroth has developed a four point harness for specific vehicles. These vehicles must be fitted with the original factory seats with which the cars and belts were tested. The belts must also be installed per the Schroth instructions. The belts are Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 209, and as such they are deemed street legal and approved by federal seat belt safety regulations. These belts also have labeling confirming the intended use for these specified vehicle models. They are ONLY allowed in the vehicle with which they were tested. These belts are allowed for five years from date of manufacture. Equal Restraints must be used by both Driver and Passenger.

No Alcohol or Controlled Substances

NO ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CAN BE CONSUMED BY ANY PARTICIPANT DURING THE HOURS OF EVENT OPERATION, OR BY ANY PERSON AT THE SITE OF THE EVENT DURING THE HOURS OF EVENT OPERATION. This is not intended to prevent participants from taking medication as long as it does NOT have an effect upon the person's ability to control a vehicle at speed.

Lap Timing

PCA DE Programs are not timed events. Any timing is done for instructional purposes only.

Drivers Meeting

All participants must attend the Drivers Meeting in order to be allowed to drive at the event.

Disclaimer

Porsche Club of America is a private, non-profit organization. It reserves the right to deny the acceptance of any Driver's Education application, or to revoke any application previously accepted, for any reason or no reason, except that it will not deny or revoke a Driver's Education application solely on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religious affiliation, or national origin.

