

Southeast Michigan Porsche Club of America

Driver's Education – Minimum Standards

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 (see below). 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 has the sole responsibility to insure that the car is safe to run on the track and certify that the car has been inspected by a regionally approved person or state licensed mechanic within 60 days prior to events. SEM PCA provides a Technical Inspection form that must be completed for every vehicle registered for an event. This form can be found on the Club website

(<http://sem.pca.org/drivers-education/drivers-educational-forms/>) and is also attached to the event registration confirmation email. If the Entrant's car has had an incident requiring an Incident Report or has experienced a mechanical failure at a prior PCA or other organization event, the Entrant must provide a new completed Technical Inspection Form in order to participate in a PCA HPDE Event.



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, it is recommended that Owners of these vehicles 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)

Lane Change and Auto Braking

Cars with Automatic Braking and/or Lane Drift Correction Systems / Lane Change Assist will only be allowed to participate in DE events if the systems can be turned fully off while the car is on-track. Proof of the ability to fully shut off these systems must be provided (i.e. information in Owner's Manual, etc.). Drivers must be aware if the system reverts back to operating position if the car's ignition is turned off and on again.

Equal Restraints

Both the driver and passenger must have and use the same type of restraint system. For instance, if a harness is used on the driver's seat, a harness must be used in the passenger's seat. Entrant must not arrive at the track with a harness system in the driver seat and a 3-point belt system in the passenger (instructor) seat. In the driver and passenger seats, the harness manufacturer and number of attachment points do not need to match; five, six or seven point systems are considered equal.



Harness Systems

If the Entrant chooses to install a driving harnesses of five or more attachment points, several changes to the automobile must be made to create a safe occupant restraint system. The systems must follow these standards:

- SFI or FIA-approved competition harnesses of five or more attachment points are required and must be properly mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and instructions, including harness attachment points and shoulder strap mounting. No Y-type shoulder harnesses are allowed. (Note: See four-point exception below.)
- Harnesses may not be mounted to the seat or seat rail, except as noted in Section 10 (h) below. Mounting must be to the chassis backed by large diameter washers (if stock mounts are not used) or to the roll bar. No two harness straps may be attached to a single mounting bolt.
- Harnesses bear a date of expiration. The SFI standard requires seat belt to be replaced every two years based on date of manufacture. The FIA standard allows the seat belt to be used until an expiration date at the end of the fifth year after the year of manufacture. It is left to the Entrant's discretion as to whether the strap material or harness should be replaced more frequently than required by SFI or FIA Standards.
- Harnesses must be used in conjunction with a seat that has the supplied routing holes for the shoulder and anti-submarine belts. (An additional Standard is listed specifically for Porsche GT Seats below in Section 10 (h).)
- The Entrant 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.
- An approved head and neck restraint device is required for all cars using harness systems. Cars will not be allowed on track if the Entrants do not have a head and neck restraint device while using harnesses.



(Harness Systems - Continued)

- If the driver seat has a harness system, but the passenger seat does not, both the driver and passenger must use the 3-point belts, according to the Equal Restraints section 10 (f) above.

When using a head and neck restraint device, 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.

Four-point systems are not allowed in Porsches because of the integrated headrest supplied by the factory, EXCEPT as noted below. In addition to the standard SFI and/or FIA-approved five- and/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.

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. [Current information from Schroth may be found here: <https://www.schrothracing.com/item/schrothquickfit/>].

Porsche GT Seats

For Porsche GT seats with an existing factory anti-submarine belt punch-out on the passenger seat, it is acceptable to remove the punch-out for installation of an anti-submarine belt per the equal restraints rule. This is the only permissible way to implement an anti-submarine belt for these seats. For Porsche GT seats, the lap belts of the harness system may be attached to the carbon seat stock mounts. The harness shoulder belts shall be attached to either a properly mounted harness bar or to the roll bar.

Open Wheel / Open Cockpit Cars All open wheel

Open cockpit cars participating in the event must have fenders attached to the vehicle body at all four corners. In addition, all occupants of open cockpit cars must utilize an SFI and/or FIA approved arm restraint system.

Hybrid / Electric Vehicles

Due to safety of both the event site and participants, no Hybrid / Electric Vehicles will be allowed to participate in Event.

Non-Permanent Mounting Brackets

Mounting of phones, cameras, Garmins or other recording or data devices must be presented during the onsite Final Safety Inspection. Regions may opt to require tethers or other safety securing measures for these devices.



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.

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.

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.

