



2026 PCA Car Control Skills Minimum Standards

1. Purpose

Porsche Club of America's (PCA) Car Control Skills Minimum Standards ("Minimum Standards") is a common set of safety-based rules upon which to build and improve regional Car Control Skills programs (also known as Car Control or Driver Skills Clinics). The Minimum Standards are intended to minimize risk to PCA, Regions, and participants (drivers and non-drivers). Based on proven and safe practices, these Minimum Standards are designed to be basic in nature so any Region may have more stringent rules, but none more lenient.

2. Compliance

Any Region that plans to run a Car Control Skills Event ("Event") must meet all the Minimum Standards in this document. By following PCA's Minimum Standards, PCA provides event insurance at no additional cost to the hosting Region. Failure to comply could prevent issuance of PCA insurance for future Car Control Skills events.

3. Car Control Skills Event

- 3.1. Definition:** A Car Control Skills Event ("Event") is an all-forward gear non-competitive driving school in which one vehicle at a time drives exercise courses for one or more laps on a clearly defined closed course on a hard surface, running specific defined Exercises ("Exercises") for each segment. The Exercises are run in lower gears (typically 2nd) with an emphasis on handling and agility or other driving skills, rather than speed and power. There is no wheel-to-wheel racing, time trials or a gymkhana. More than one vehicle may be on an Exercise course at the same time as long as vehicles do not run in proximity to one another and workers are not put at risk. There is no official timing or comparison of times. **Car Control Skills events are non-competitive and not timed.**
- 3.2. Example Exercises:** Exercises may include slalom, skid pads or rings, emergency braking, balancing braking, braking and turning, emergency avoidance of objects combined with braking, figure 8, oval, or a combined skills course. This list is not exhaustive.
- 3.3. Combined Skills as an Exercise:** A combined course as an Exercise, not timed or competitive, as a culmination of a "skills learned" Exercise, is permissible if all Minimum Standards described herein are followed. A combined skills course may have a variety of elements defined by cones strung together.
- 3.4. Exercise Course:** An Exercise Course ("Exercise Course") is a single Exercise, or series of Exercises to be driven sequentially, with a defined start and finish. Depending on design of



the Event, on completion of an Exercise Course, cars may return to the grid for that Exercise course or proceed to a different Exercise Course grid. Exercise Courses define the hot areas of an Event. Exercise Courses may either be setup and torn down throughout an Event or remain in place for the entirety of the Event.

- 3.5. Joint Events:** Multiple PCA Regions may host a Car Control Skills Event; however, one Region must be designated the host and is to take the lead role. It is the hosting Region's responsibility to oversee the event, obtain PCA liability insurance, and submit the Combined Observers, Post Event, and Incident Reports (if necessary).

Joint events with non-PCA organizations are prohibited. However, other car marques may participate in PCA Car Control Skills Events and non-PCA organizations may market or advertise a PCA Event with the Region's approval.

4. Roles/Responsibilities

- 4.1. Event Chair:** Manages the Event from beginning to end. Submits the [Post-Event Report](#) within five (5) days to PCA.
- 4.2. Safety Chair:** Reviews and approves the Exercise Course design, including grid/staging areas, with an objective eye towards safety issues. This may not be the Event Chair, Exercise Course or curriculum designer.

As the event proceeds, the Safety Chair watches for unsafe situations and takes corrective action as needed. Any issues shall be discussed collectively with the Event Chair, Exercise Course designer(s) and Safety Chair. **The Safety Chair is the final arbiter for decisions related to safety.**

- 4.3. Event Observer:** Impartial member (not involved in the management of the event) who attends the event and submits the PCA [Combined Observer's Report](#) for Car Control Skills Events within ten (10) days after the event.
- 4.4. Driving Instructors:** Designated by the Event Chair, prior to the beginning of Exercise Course runs. Qualifications are at the Region's discretion.
- 4.5. Candidate Driving Instructors:** Designated by the Event Chair, prior to the beginning of Exercise Course runs. Event Chair may also designate mentoring Driving Instructors to train candidates. Qualifications are at the Region's discretion. Candidates cannot instruct unsupervised until they are approved as Car Control Instructors by the Region.



4.6. Entrants: A person who will be participating in aspects of the Event. See Entrant Section 7 below for further details.

5. Administration

5.1. Insurance: The liability insurance certificate issued by PCA showing the insurance coverage, date of the event and Facility shall be kept on site during the event. Any entities required to be named on the certificate by the Facility site owner must be included.

5.2. Waiver: All Entrants, Drivers, Driving Instructors, Volunteers and guests at the Event Facility location must sign the appropriate PCA insurance waiver(s) as designated in the then current Region Procedures Manual (“RPM”) and follow other procedures as designated in the Insurance Section of the RPM.

For Car Control Skills events, the [Minor Waiver](#) shall be used for licensed Drivers under the age of 18. Please pay particular attention to the instructions for the Minor Waiver as the **Minor Waiver may not be completed electronically** at this time. For paper waivers, signatures on the waivers must be witnessed by a Region representative, and the witness must sign the waivers.

Digital waivers for those aged 18 and older are permitted ONLY using the PCA-approved SpeedWaiver system through MotorsportReg.com and ClubRegistration.net.

5.3. Facility Contractual Requirements: Event organizers must adhere to any Facility-specific safety requirements that are more stringent than the PCA Minimum Standards (e.g., on-site medical, sound limits, electric vehicle or convertible safety standards).

5.4. Driver Safety Meeting: All Events must have a Driver Safety meeting to review event procedures, safety, site risks, restricted areas and policies before the start of event. **All Entrants must attend.** Site boundary safety shall be discussed and site boundary protocol shall be established to ensure site boundaries are clearly defined and maintained.

5.5. Incident Report: For any incident or other contact resulting in physical damage to an automobile and/or the Facility, an [Incident Report](#) is required to be submitted to the individuals indicated on the current Incident Report Form within five (5) business days. The electronic Incident Report Form is available on the PCA web site and is part of the insurance packet received from the National Office when an Insurance Enrollment Form is submitted. Any Verbal altercation on site requires an Incident Report.

For bodily injury to any Entrant or individual at the Event that requires medical attention, an Incident Report must be written and submitted to PCA’s National Insurance Chair and National Safety Chair by the next business day.



5.6. PCA Combined Observers Report: The PCA [Combined Observers Report](#) must be completed within 10 days by an impartial party (i.e., not the Event Chair or other event management) who attended the Event.

5.7. Post Event Report: The [Post Event Report](#) must be submitted within 5 days of the Event.

For further information on Event Insurance and required Reports, please refer to the current PCA Region Procedure Manual.

6. Site

6.1. Facility: A Car Control Skills Event must be held on a hard, paved surface (i.e., asphalt, concrete). Use of a non-paved surface, except for parking and paddock, requires approval from the National Safety Chair.

6.2. Entrance Control: Special care shall be taken to monitor Site and Facility boundaries to ensure non-participants do not wander through or enter the Site at non-designated entry points.

6.3. Off Limits Areas: The Facility, Event Chair or Safety Chair may designate areas of the Event Site as off limits and care must be taken to follow these requirements.

6.4. Restricted Areas: The Exercise Courses and the areas adjacent are considered Restricted Areas and access to these areas is restricted to adults only (18 years of age or older) or registered Drivers in the Event. 16 and 17-year old minors may be permitted in the hot areas with a printed [Minors in Restricted Area waiver](#), signed by both parents / guardians.

Additionally, areas near the Exercise Course in which off-course or out of control cars might enter are also Restricted Areas. The Event Chair and Safety Chair are empowered to designate, as necessary, other areas as restricted, and to further restrict parts of Restricted Areas, such as limiting the Exercise Course, Start and Finish to workers only.

Restricted Areas shall be limited to participating vehicles, Entrants, Drivers, workers, Instructors and photographers as approved by the Event Chair. Photographers in restricted areas must be accompanied by a spotter whose only responsibility is to spot for the photographer. General event viewing is not allowed in Restricted Areas.

6.5. Unrestricted Areas: Other areas such as viewing areas and paddock are considered unrestricted areas and are accessible to all Entrants and participants after signing the Event waiver.



- 6.6. **Refueling:** No smoking within 20 feet of refueling activities. Vehicles shall have their engines turned off while refueling. A fully charged fire extinguisher nearby is required.
- 6.7. **Fire Safety:** A fully charged fire extinguisher at each exercise course start point is required.
- 6.8. **Drones:** Refer to the current PCA Drone Minimum Standards in effect at the time of the Event. The Event Chair must adhere to any Facility drone policy that is more stringent than the PCA Drone Minimum Standards.

7. Entrant / Driver

- 7.1. **Entrants:** A registered Entrant is defined as a person who will be participating in substantially all appropriate aspects of the event (Driver meeting, Exercise Course working, etc.). This does not mean, however, a registered Entrant must attend the event full time or participate in exercises that are not scheduled for such Entrant. Registering people for the sole purpose of fun rides is not permitted.
- 7.2. **Driver's License:** All Entrants must have a valid Driver's License. All Drivers must attest to the validity of their License either during the on-line registration process or during on-site registration.
- 7.3. **Entrant Age:** The minimum age for driving in the Car Control Skills Events Entrant is 16 years, with valid Driver's License.
- 7.4. **Helmets:** Helmets are not required for Car Control Skills Events. A Region may decide to require helmets for the Event. This requirement shall be decided before the event day and cannot be changed during the Event. If an Event requires helmets, the standards regarding helmets defined in the [PCA Autocross Minimum Standards](#) apply, including that all occupants in the vehicle must wear helmets.
- 7.5. **Footwear and Clothing:** Footwear must be enclosed (not open toe), non-slip with a soft sole. Heavy-duty deep lugged soles, such as those found on hiking shoes or work boots, are not acceptable.
- 7.6. **Eye Protection:** If the car does not have a windshield, the Entrant driver and Driving Instructor must wear eye protection specifically meant to protect eyes from flying objects (shatterproof eye protection).
- 7.7. **Car Occupancy:** When a vehicle is on the hot Exercise Course, all the following apply. Only registered Entrants who have signed the Waiver(s) are allowed in vehicles.



No more than two people may be in the car at one time, except for cases covered under Driving Instructor Candidates in Section 7.8 below. If two people are in a car, one must be a designated Driving Instructor. The Driver must have sole control of the car – no blindfolded driving or any physical control input by a Driving Instructor. Drivers and Driving Instructors must be belted in the car. If helmets are required for the event, all Entrants must wear helmets with chin straps fastened while on Exercise Course.

- 7.8. Driving Instructor Candidates:** A registered Entrant may be designated as a Driving Instructor Candidate by Event Chair. Driving Instructor Candidates are being trained, evaluated and trialed toward the goal of being designated as a Driving Instructor by the Event Chair for future events. Only a Driving Instructor Candidate may be a third, non-driving, occupant in a vehicle (either observing instruction or being observed giving instruction).
- 7.9. Alcohol and Controlled Substances:** No alcohol or controlled substances may be consumed by any person at the site of the Event during the hours of Event operation. This is not intended to prevent Entrants or participants from taking medication prescribed by a physician as long as it does not have an unreasonable effect on the Entrant's ability to control a vehicle at speed.

8. Vehicle

- 8.1. Eligible Vehicles:** All Porsche vehicles and other manufacturer automobiles are eligible. Karts and motorcycles are not allowed to participate; karts must not be operated within the boundary of the Event as per PCA National Policy.
- 8.2. Vehicle Safety Inspection:** It is the sole responsibility of each Entrant to present a vehicle that is safe to operate in all Exercises at the Event and is in sound mechanical condition. Safety inspection by PCA Region volunteers does not relieve Entrants of their responsibility for the safety of the vehicle they entered.

All vehicles must be inspected by designated Safety Inspectors on the day of the Event before being allowed on Exercise Course. This inspection shall confirm: helmet (if required) meets the rating requirements, restraint system is operational, all loose objects are removed, cameras are properly attached, the brake pedal is firm, the throttle operates properly, seats are properly attached and functional, wheels are properly secured, there are no significant fluid leaks, tire and wheel integrity is checked, the 12v battery is secure (if accessible), and the fuel cap is present and secure, and any other items deemed necessary by Safety Inspection. A vehicle that has passed vehicle Safety Inspection must be identified with a label or some other marking, so it is easily identifiable as having passed the Safety Inspection.



- 8.3. **Re-inspection:** If a car leaves the course surface or hits an obstruction, it must be re-inspected per Section 8.2 above, Vehicle Safety Inspection.
- 8.4. **Testing:** Car engines are not permitted to be running while any part of the car is off the ground (on a jack or jack stands).
- 8.5. **Roll Bars:** Roll bars are required in Modified cars (as defined in the PCA Parade Competition Rules) that do not have open-car factory rollover protection. For non-Porsche vehicles, acceptance of the car will be at the discretion of the Event Chair and the Safety Chair.
- 8.6. **Seat Belts and Harnesses:** All vehicles must have either factory seat belts and/or multi-point harnesses (within the printed expiration date term) and be in use by all occupants. All belts must be in good condition and not overly worn, frayed, or stiff.

A head and neck restraint device (including helmet) is required for all cars using harness systems. Cars are not permitted on Exercise Courses if the occupants do not have head and neck restraint devices while using harnesses.

The Entrant should be aware that the addition of a seat and harness system results in the occupant being fastened upright in the vehicle and several changes to the automobile may need to be made to create a safe occupant restraint system. Therefore, in order to have a COMPLETE SYSTEM, a properly padded roll bar or roll cage is recommended. All elements must be installed per the manufacturer's instructions.

- 8.7. **Hybrid / Electric Vehicles:** Regions shall verify if the Event Facility permits Hybrid / Electric Vehicles on course. Regions may decide if they shall allow all car marques, just Porsche-brand or no Hybrid / Electric Vehicles to participate in Event.

9. Course Design and Event Layout

- 9.1. **Safety:** Safety of all Entrants and participants is the most important consideration in the design of the Exercise Courses. During the design process a "what if" exercise is required to assess and address potential accident scenarios.
- 9.2. **Exercise Course:** Soft, movable items will be used to define the Exercise Course. No fixed objects shall be used to define the Exercise Course. Special care shall be taken to ensure the Exercise Course is designed with safety in mind such that if a vehicle leaves the course, there is enough safe runoff area and Entrants, participants or property are not at risk.
- 9.3. **Obstructions:** The Exercise Course shall not normally pass closer than 25 feet from obstructions (solid objects, light poles, curbs, fences, ditches, etc.) and extreme care must



be taken if the Exercise Course is closer than this. On sections of the Exercise Course where speeds are higher, additional margin from fixed obstructions is required. Particular attention shall be placed in the area past the end of Exercises, which shall be kept clear of parked cars and people at all times. The use of a “stop-box” at the end of an Exercise course does not remove this requirement.

- 9.4. Start/Finish/Grid:** Extreme care shall be taken in the location of the start, finish, grid areas. The grid areas must be placed well clear of the Exercise Course in a safe area. The end of each Exercise Course area shall be clearly and carefully defined to safely restrict speeds.
- 9.5. Surface:** The Exercise Courses shall be on a paved or concrete surface and will be well clear of dangerous holes, loose gravel, gratings, oily spots, or hazardous features other than incidental asphalt sloughing due to weather and wear.
- 9.6. Speeds:** The Exercise Courses must be designed such that maximum speeds shall be in the mid-60 mph /100 kph for stock, later-model normal production cars with around 300 hp on street tires (993, 996, 997, 981, etc. not GT3, Turbo, etc.). The fastest portions of the course, such as for threshold braking exercises, shall be the most remote from participants and obstructions.
- 9.7. Multiple Cars:** Extreme care and special design consideration shall be taken with Exercise Courses where multiple cars are on the course simultaneously to ensure cars cannot cross paths, even in the event both Driver Entrants leave the intended driving path.

10. Course Workers

- 10.1. Staffing:** Each Exercise Course must have a starter (stages cars, conducts final safety check - helmets, belts, closed doors and hoods, checks course is ready, launches car). Optionally there may be course reset stations staffed by one or more workers to cover the course.

Station Location: Course reset stations must be placed at a safe distance from any vehicle’s path on Exercise Course. Special care shall be taken to ensure potential off course driving does not endanger course workers.

- 10.2. Training:** A Worker’s Meeting (may be part of the Driver Meeting) must be conducted to ensure all workers are safe and that they understand their roles and responsibilities.

A discussion regarding the proper use of safety equipment (fire extinguishers, flags and radios), worker safety, course worker expectations, and all that workers are expected to do in the event of an emergency shall be covered. Course workers shall be given clear



instructions to ensure their safety (e.g., safety first - get off the course well before a car arrives, even if the course is not reset).

10.3. Equipment: Each Exercise Course must have an unfurled flag which shall be used to stop cars on course when required, as well as other effective communication methods (radio, voice, hand signals, flags, air horn). Each Exercise Course must have one up-to-date and fully charged fire extinguisher.

10.4. Worker Attention: While cars are running an Exercise Course at speed, all Course Workers must be standing. The Course Starter, with the flag, keeps an eye on the safety situation and lets other workers reset cones. All Course Workers must not be using any other devices (cameras, video cameras, cell phones, etc.) which may distract their attention away from moving vehicles.

For additional information regarding these rules, please contact carcontrol@national.pca.org.