



## Guidelines for Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to instruct at the Hurricane Region PCA Drivers Education at Carolina Motorsports Park. These guidelines provide a brief overview of recommended instructing practices.

### Introductions

Ask your students about their driving experience – overall and with the specific cars to be driven at this school. Ask about previous track or autocross experience. Discuss their goals for the weekend. If they have no goals, help them set goals for each session. Describe what you will concentrate on. Briefly tell your students about your previous experience.

Look at their cars. Ask about upgrades. Be mindful of safety issues which may have been overlooked. Don't assume the cars are okay because they have been through Pre-event and Grid technical inspections. Verify what tire pressures are appropriate for the track. Advise the students how to monitor their tire wear – cording, chunking, etc. - after each run session. Remind them to keep an eye on their temperature and fuel gauges during the weekend.

Review the terminology that you will use: turn-in, apex, track-out, early, late. Limit the words that you use to describe control inputs. Explain that “open it up” means returning the steering to a neutral position, not stomping on the throttle. Be aware of words that sound alike when muffled by helmets: *Go/No, Gas/Fast, Great/Brake*. PLEASE USE AN INTERCOM! Although not a requirement, most instructors believe that an intercom is an essential tool for clear communication on track. Review any hand signals that you are likely to use. Plan where and when you will meet for each on-track session. We suggest that you arrange to meet your student in the paddock area to reduce congestion in the staging grid. Drivers who are sharing cars may complete their driver changes in the Staging Area or in Pit Lane at the designated area. If your student is sharing a car, confirm with your student before the session begins where the driver change will be performed.

### Track Orientation

Instructors may not drive their students' cars because of the liability involved for both the instructor and the club. As a low stress introduction (for both of you!) to the track, your students will ride in your car or tow vehicle for a few slow laps (<55 mph) without helmets. Demonstrate and describe a safe line around the track. Pointing out flag stations and various landmarks will be useful, but do not overwhelm your students. Novices will absorb few of the details, while more experienced students will benefit by the subtle landmarks or pavement changes which you note.

### In the Student's Car for the first session

Examine the student's driving position and explain to your student the proper seating position. Demonstrate proper hand positions on the wheel (and NOT resting on the gearshift). Adjust the right-hand mirror for your use and confirm with the student that the left-hand and rear view mirrors are adjusted for maximum visibility. Check that helmets are secure. Ask them to demonstrate proper passing and pit signals.

Before the car leaves the pits, review emergency procedures. Quiz them on the meanings of the various flags they will see during the weekend. Stress that if they spin, both feet in! Point out that they must never jerk the car back onto the track if they drop a wheel off pavement. Stress driving off the track (straight!) and coming to a safe stop, in the event of a problem. Also, remind them to wait for a signal from Pit Out or Corner Worker before entering or re-entering the track. If a mechanical problem occurs, ease off the track & STAY IN THE CAR unless the car is on fire.

After you are settled in the car, explain how to safely enter the track – keep fully left on the approach to Turn 3 while accelerating briskly. Demonstrate how to check the mirrors and remind the students that the cars already on the track have the right-of-way. Keep your students safe and set a good example when you are driving your car!

Reminder: Always discuss with the student the goals for the session. Keep the goals simple, and listen to what your student wants to concentrate on. Offer your student a ride, but mind your manners: no “thrill” rides or bad behavior!

### If It Is Not Working Out...

Do not hesitate to discuss any student problems with the Chief Instructor. If you and your student don't have the right *chemistry*, discuss a reassignment with the Chief Instructor. Often this simple change will improve the weekend for everyone. Do not suffer in silence. We want you and your student to enjoy the event! ☺