

# NECC POLICIES & PROCEDURES GUIDE

## RULES FOR TRACK AND AUTOCROSS

### (Revised 2011)

The rules set forth in this document apply to all drivers and all vehicles participating in NECC events at sports car tracks and autocross.

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## **Driver Requirements for Track Events**

### **1.1 Specific Rules for Each Event**

At the discretion of the NECC, these rules may be modified for specific events based on track management requirements, special events, needs and circumstances, etc.

### **1.2 Driver Eligibility**

Participating drivers must register, pay all applicable fees, and complete all applicable forms. Participating drivers must be members in good standing with any NECC member club, be associate members of the NECC, or pay the applicable associate member dues at the time of registration.

### **1.3 License Requirements**

All drivers shall possess a valid drivers license. All drivers between 16 and 18 years of age shall have notarized evidence of a parent's or guardian's consent to compete or they must obtain their signature on entry and waiver forms in the presence of an event official. No driver under 16 is allowed.

### **1.4 Groups**

Drivers will be assigned to one of several groups according to experience and the classification of their vehicle. Each group will have blocks of track time for practice laps and a separate block of time for timed runs.

### **1.5 Multiple Entries**

There shall be a limit of two (2) drivers per vehicle. One driver may enter the event in more than one class but may be eligible for an award in only one of those classes. Additional entries by one driver shall be subject to all entry fees, rules and regulations.

### **1.6 Mandatory Drivers Meeting**

All drivers shall attend a mandatory drivers meeting prior to participating in the event. Event officials shall provide adequate notice of the time(s) and place(s) of the meetings and will record attendance.

### **1.7 Helmet Requirement**

All drivers at all times when on the course must wear safety helmets. Helmets must have a 2005 or higher Snell Foundation sticker (either "M" or "SA"), and shall have been manufactured within the past ten (10) years.

### **1.8 Seat Belt Usage Required**

Seatbelts must be worn at all times while on the track

### **1.9 Clothing & Footwear**

Long sleeved clothing (shirt and pants, or one-piece suit that covers between ankles and wrists), made of non-melting cloth (cotton or Nomex), or driving suits treated with fire retardant (such as Proban) are a requirement of drivers while on the track. All drivers

must wear suitable footwear (no sandals, heavy boots, or open-toed shoes). Protective gloves are recommended for all classes and are mandatory in Competition Class.

### **1.10 Passengers Not Permitted**

Passengers are not permitted in competing vehicles at any time while on the course. They will be permitted during track tours only as time permits. When authorized by the event chairman, qualified instructors may ride or operate vehicles on the course during practice sessions. Qualified instructors may give orientation rides for prospective entrants when authorized by the event chairman, Director of Track Operations or the senior NECC official present.

### **1.11 Disqualification**

Any other unsafe driving at or in the vicinity of the event, un-sportsmanlike conduct, or causing event delays (including on-track oil cleanup) will be cause for immediate disqualification.

### **1.12 Alcohol/Drugs**

Driving under the influence, or the consumption and/or use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and/or other dangerous drugs by anyone at the event site is prohibited. Violations shall be grounds for disqualification of the driver and/or removal of the offending party from the area.

### **1.13 Track Area**

All participants will keep their cars parked in the paddock area. The only time a car should be on the pit lane is while entering and exiting a practice group. There will be absolutely no servicing of cars on the pit lane at any time during the day. All work must be performed in the paddock area only.

### **1.14 Practice Runs**

Each driver will be assigned a practice group for the day. The following regulations apply:

- Starting: The line for practice runs forms at a designated area. Cars waiting in a particular practice group shall remain there until called to pit lane.
- Passing: During practice runs no passing will be allowed except in designated area(s) and then only under green flag conditions. It is the responsibility of the overtaking car to ensure a safe pass. Passing other than in the designated area(s) or unsafe passing will result in immediate disqualification.

During practice sessions (only), any registered driver may, for legitimate purposes of vehicle analysis and comparison, drive any registered vehicle. It is required that this be done only with the express permission of the vehicle's registered entrant, and only with the express approval of the Director of Track Operations.

### **1.15 Flags**

Drivers must acknowledge flagger's instructions. Continued failure to comply will result

in immediate disqualification of the driver from the track grounds. The following flags will normally be used to inform drivers. Additional flags or different meanings for flags may be used to meet the requirements of a particular track.

- Green = Track clear, go ahead, passing allowed in designated area(s).
- Black = Stop at pits. There is a problem and/or end of session. Do not continue.
- Blue = You are holding up a faster car, let it pass.
- Waving Yellow = Extreme caution, proceed very slowly, no passing. Be prepared to stop.
- Steady Yellow = Caution, proceed slowly, no passing.
- Waving Red = Stop, now. Stop smoothly and carefully, pulling to the side of the roadway.
- Steady Red = Remain stopped.
- White = One more lap.
- Checkered = Timed laps completed.

#### **1.1.6 Pits**

Drivers on the pit road for any reason must comply with the Pit Marshall's instructions. In the case of being black-flagged, drivers will clear with the Pit Marshall before leaving the pits. Drivers voluntarily pitting must not stop on pit road, it must remain clear.

#### **1.1.7 Timed Runs**

Track conditions permitting, all drivers will get one warm-up lap, a minimum of two timed laps (more if time permits), and one cool-down lap. If at any point, for any reason, one car catches another, the driver of the overtaking car must not interfere with the slower car ahead. The overtaking car must slow and return to the pit road to be re-directed onto the course to complete any timed laps remaining.

In the event of a timing failure or other circumstance requiring a car to take more laps, a white flag (one more lap) will be displayed as the car approaches the start-finish line. A black flag will be displayed when all of a car's timed laps are recorded.

On cool-down laps, drivers must not slow too much. Failure to keep a reasonable speed will interfere with another car's timed run.

Drivers should not interrupt timing personnel to inquire about lap times. Time and personnel permitting, lap times will be posted during the session.

No driver may take timed runs in a vehicle in which they have not run at least one practice session that day. No driver may take timed runs in a vehicle other than the one for which they registered, except where the original vehicle has been withdrawn, the Director of Track Operation has given express approval to the change, and the driver has completed at least one practice session that day in the alternate vehicle.

## **Vehicle Requirements for Track Events**

### **2.1 Specific Rules for Each Event**

Complete Rules are issued for each event, based on the needs and circumstances unique to each event. Complete Rules for any specific event may be requested. What follows are the rules that are common to most events.

### **2.2 Vehicle Eligibility**

Generally, all makes and models of automobiles are eligible to participate in NECC track events subject to the rules set forth in this Section 3 (Vehicle Requirements for Track Events). However, motorcycles, tricycles, trucks, cargo vans and passenger vans are not allowed to participate in NECC track events.

NECC reserves the right to disallow any vehicle which it deems unsuitable in its sole judgment.

### **2.3 Competition Prepared Cars**

Unless otherwise stated, the term “competition prepared cars” refers to any car would be classified in any of the following SCCA Club Racing categories: Grand Touring, Super Touring, Sports Racing, Formula, Formula S. For further information, please visit: <http://www.scca.com/contentpage.aspx?content=71>

### **2.4 Seat Belt Condition**

All cars must have metal-to-metal buckled seat belts in good condition, with no cuts or abrasions, and with all hardware secure and tight. There can be no signs of fraying, wear, excessive dulling, or aging. Old belts must be replaced. A racing type harness is recommended for all classes. All cars must have a minimum of a 3-point harness with 2 inch webbing (stock shoulder belts are acceptable). Additionally, all competition prepared cars must have a minimum of a 4-point harness with 3 inch webbing.

Seat belt designs must be safe and must not cause additional injury to the driver. For example, shoulder and racing harnesses may not be mounted directly to the floor below the driver's seat with no other secure points of contact.

### **2.5 Roll Bars**

Roll bars are recommended for all cars. Any vehicle with an open cockpit including all convertibles (even those in stock classes) must have a braced roll bar installed. The bar must be strong, properly braced, have a diagonal brace and be at least two inches (2") above the top of the driver's helmet. Roll bars are required for all competition prepared cars.

The minimum configuration for all open cockpit cars is a 3 point braced design. For competition cars, the minimum is a 4 point braced design, with a diagonal reinforcement.

### **2.6 Fire Extinguishers**

Fire Extinguisher strongly recommended. If installed, fire extinguisher must be securely

mounted and within easy reach of the driver. Fire extinguishers and fire suppression systems, if present, must be fully charged and functional. All competition prepared cars must have a fire extinguisher or other form of fire suppression.

### **2.7 Other**

All cars must have a functional and complete firewall between the engine and cockpit. Window netting is recommended on the driver's side of all cars. It is required in competition prepared cars.

### **2.8 Technical Inspection**

A completed Technical Inspection Form, including vehicle classification and Improved Stock (IS) points itemization (as appropriate), must be presented to the technical inspector before the inspection can begin. A Technical Inspection Form for your vehicle will be mailed along with the registration confirmation letter, and/or will be available at the completion of registration.

Technical inspection of a vehicle is only for the benefit of the NECC and does not protect the entrant and/or car owner in any way. The NECC shall not incur any liability to any entrant, person, participant, visitor or organization from the act of inspecting a vehicle.

The NECC does not represent any vehicle as safe or free from defect or unsafe condition. Entrants and/or car owners are better informed as to the status and condition of the vehicle.

All vehicles shall successfully pass a full technical inspection covering all of the requirements outlined in this document prior to being permitted on the course. If a vehicle fails to pass, the vehicle may be repaired and re-inspected. If a vehicle cannot pass, 50% of entry fees will be refunded.

Unless otherwise stated, all requirements apply to all vehicles in all classes. Classification is independent of technical inspection. Vehicle modifications permitted by a particular class must still be verified safe by the technical inspector. The Director of Technical Inspection, or his designated representative(s), has final authority in all matters pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of these rules. Appeals may be made to the senior NECC official present at the event whose decision will be final.

The NECC reserves the right to inspect any and all items deemed safety related. The following items will be checked (not an all-inclusive list):

### **2.9 General Condition of Car**

Car must be in good mechanical condition. All vehicles will be required to have functioning brake lights and at least one rear view mirror (if only one is used, it must be interior type).

Surge proof, vented gas caps are required on all cars. To prevent spilling in hard corners (with the potential for spinning), cars with vented gas caps must report to the track with the tank no more than half full.

All loose articles in the interior and trunk, including but not limited to cameras, tools, coolers, floor mats, etc., must be removed. Easily removed accessories such as tape players or CB radios must be removed. Spare tire, if properly mounted, may remain in car. Otherwise, spare tires and jacks must be removed. Battery must be properly secured. The battery must be securely held in place with all caps in place. If placed in the cockpit or trunk, it must be an acid resistant container. No ballast of any kind is allowed.

### **2.10 Brakes and Controls**

The brake pedal of all vehicles must be firm and be able to maintain pressure when held. No visible signs of leakage at master cylinder or wheel cylinders will be allowed. Brakes must operate on all four wheels and must be actuated by a single pedal. The "hard-harder" test is required, and may be performed by the vehicle owner or by technical inspection personnel. Brake lights must work.

Throttle linkage and/or cables shall be in a safely operating condition, and return spring tension must be adequate. Additional throttle return springs are recommended.

### **2.11 Wheels and Tires**

Snap ring hubcaps, wheel covers, and trim rings must be removed. All lug nuts must be in place, and be a proper match to the rim. Tires must be in good condition with no defects and good tread. Non-racing tires must have a minimum of 1/16" tread. All tires must be free from cuts, bulges, visible threads, etc.

### **2.12 Suspension**

Suspension will be checked for ball joint and bearing wear. The vehicle may be jacked up as necessary for this inspection. All lug nuts/studs must be in place.

All vehicles must be free from excessive bounce when rocked. The front and rear suspension shall be free of excessive play in the suspension joints, bushings, linkages, bearings, and steering gear. Except for vehicles in Competition Class and Specialty Class, no part of the chassis (except sway bars) may be lower than the lowest part of the wheel rims.

### **2.13 Fuels and Fuel Additives**

Fuel shall be gasoline or commercially available gasohol. Fuel additives such as "Vortex" or "Moroso" are permitted. Nitrous Oxide is prohibited.

### **2.14 Fluid Leaks**

No excessive fluid leaks will be allowed in any participating vehicle. All participants must take steps to ensure the integrity and reliability of their car's oiling and cooling systems. If the cleanup of a spill caused by a car delays track operation, that car and its

entrants will be disqualified from further participation on that day and lap times will be disallowed. No refunds will be given under such circumstances.