



## Autocross Tips for the Novice

Autocrossing is an automotive sport that is safe and educational. Courses are designed with safety in mind. Tech inspections help ensure your car is up to the challenge. As the average autocross course is less than a minute long, and at speeds under 45 mph, a bit of common sense is all that's needed to make each run safe and competitive. Wear and tear to your car is negligible, particularly if it's well maintained in the first place. The first time thru the "sea of cones" is usually the most difficult run. But once you've crossed that hurdle, you'll find yourself learning a lot about your car and yourself. And if you're not careful, you may find yourself getting addicted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask any of the Autocross Committee members. We'll be more than happy to try and answer them for you!

Depending on the number of registrants, drivers can expect to get 3 – 5 runs on the course. Generally, two or more heats are run and drivers may get assigned to reset cones when not driving in a heat.

### Preparation Tips

- Minimum Equipment Requirements
  - A car: you can share a car with your friends, but you can't drive more than 1 car.
  - The car must have functioning OEM seat belts. Safety harnesses are allowed.
  - A valid driver's license. Driver must be 18 years of age or older
  - Helmet: Snell 2010 or better. Loaner helmets will be available.
  - Bring drinking water and stay hydrated
  - Tire pressure gauge
- Cars should be well maintained and street cars must have tread on tires
- Take everything out of the car that is not attached to it.
  - Cars will have a mandatory tech inspection and inspectors will be looking for anything that may fly around inside the car. This includes floor mats. Bring a container to put these things into while you drive.
- Inflate your tires to proper pressure
- Plan to arrive on time or even a little early. Late arrivals really mess up the inspections and schedule
- Drivers must wear closed-toe shoes
- Drive safely to and from the event. The police know where we are.

### At The Event

- **You must sign a release prior to participating or viewing an autocross event. Parents or guardians must also sign for minors. The release will be available at the event.**
- All drivers must attend the safety meeting held by event organizers approximately 10 minutes before the first vehicle enters the course.
- All drivers must drive with their windows down.
- Meet some great people and see some awesome cars. Autocrossers are very friendly and helpful
- Expect to get a job assignment that you will be responsible for when it's not your heat on the course.
  - Take your job seriously; others are counting on you.
- Keep a sociable attitude. We're all there to have fun and support a great cause.
- Minimize the amount of space that you take up for your car and other equipment.
  - Respect the space of other cars and participants.
- Don't cross banner lines. They're where they are for a reason—SAFETY.
- Don't yell at officials or course workers; we're all volunteers.
- Instructors will be available and can be very helpful. They are the ONLY people allowed in a passenger seat during a run.
- Just because you hit a cone or two, don't take out several more purposely. Somebody has to set them all back up.
- Don't bother a driver who has a helmet on. They may be focused on their next run and in deep concentration.

Don't get frustrated. Remember, the goals are to have fun, learn something and help the animals at Baywater Animal Rescue. Drive carefully before and after the event.