



## **Peachtree Chapter BMW CCA Autocross – Definitions, Terminology, and Frequently-Asked Questions**

**Marker Cones and Pointer Cones:** The traffic cones used to delineate the course are of two types: marker and pointer. Marker cones are positioned vertically, delineate the course routing, and will have a chalk-marked "box" around their base. Pointer cones are positioned on their side, indicate a mandatory direction or position, and might or might not have chalk markings indicating their location.

**Gate:** A pair of marker cones that a participant must pass between. A single gate or the first gate in a series of gates will have a pointer cone or cones outside its marker cones.

**Slalom:** A line of marker cones which the participant must take a sinuous alternating route through. Some slaloms have a designated entry side, in which case the initial marker cone will have a pointer cone opposite the designated entry side; these slaloms are called "mandatory." Other slaloms allow the participant to choose which side to enter the slalom; these slaloms are called "optional," meaning the participant is allowed to choose which side to enter the slalom, not that it is optional to complete.

**Run Group:** A sub-set of participants denoted by a number, designating in what order they will be brought onto the course to participate as a driver. Changing one's run group is not allowed unless by specific permission from the Autocross Chairman or Timing Committee.

**Work Group:** A sub-set of participants denoted by a number, designating in what order they will be brought onto the course to participate as a course worker. Changing one's work group or work station is not allowed unless by specific permission from the Autocross Chairman or Timing Committee. All participants must perform course worker duties unless by specific permission from the Autocross Chairman is granted. Not performing course worker duties when assigned to do so will result in the loss of any points gained from the event and is grounds for banning from participation in future Peachtree Chapter autocross events.

**Minor Waiver:** Legal waivers are required for any participant or spectator under the age of 18. These will be provided to the participant with the MSR event announcement and will be available on-site. Important: the form must be printed in color.

**Paddock:** The location where participants and/or spectators park. This is location for participants' vehicles during tech inspection and during the participants' work group.

**Grid:** The location for participants' vehicles during their run group, while not actively on a run.

**Tech Inspection:** An inspection of your vehicle to ensure it is in safe operating condition and is free from unsafe or distracting contents. If you are using your own helmet, it will also be inspected for condition and rating (see the FAQ below). To prepare your vehicle for the tech inspection: remove the driver's floor mat, remove all loose items from all compartments (consoles, door pockets, glove box, trunk, etc.), open the hood and trunk, place your helmet on the driver's seat, and mark your vehicle as specified. Your vehicle will not be inspected if the number/class is not displayed.

**Penalty:** A penalty value of one second is added to a participant's run time for each marker cone knocked over or displaced from its box. If a cone is displaced, but is still within or touching its box, there is no penalty. No penalty is assessed for hitting or displacing pointer cones, but it's unlikely one could hit a pointer cone without also hitting its associated marker cone(s).



**Did Not Finish (DNF):** A DNF occurs when a participant misses completing a key course feature properly, such as a gate, a slalom, or otherwise goes outside the course routing. A participant can exit the course and return via same route without DNF. A spin is not a DNF by itself, as long as the participant recovers and completes the course. No matter the cause of the DNF, if the vehicle can be safely driven, the participant should complete the course and come through timing lights.

**Re-Run:** A re-run is allowed for a participant when their run is affected by situations that are caused by conditions not of their own making. Re-runs are appropriate for timing errors, red flag calls, or for course errors which could negatively affect their run.

**Hold Start:** A "hold start" call is made when the course is safe, but no further participants should start a run. Hold start calls are appropriate for timing system malfunctions or course re-sets that cannot be made in a safe and timely manner.

**Red Flag:** A "red flag" call is made when the course becomes unsafe for any condition. Any committee member or anyone working the course can call a red flag, at which time all course worker stations will wave their red flag at the participants on the course and all participants on the course must come to a complete stop in a safe manner until the condition is called clear and they are given authorization to proceed. When allowed to proceed, all participants on the course should complete the course at a moderate pace and come through timing lights. Participants on the course who were not the cause of the red flag will be allowed a re-run. Unsafe conditions worthy of a red flag call include: course workers in an unsafe position, spectators on the course, vehicle parts or vehicle fluids on the course routing, immobile vehicles on the course, or a participant driving in an unsafe manner (driving the course as if it were a drift or stunt event, deviating from the course in such a manner as to endanger other participants or course workers, etc.). A DNF and/or a spin are not red flags by themselves, as long as the participant recovers in a timely manner.

**Driver's Meeting:** A gathering where event announcements will be made, event activities, safety, and procedures will be discussed. If a participant has a question or concern about any aspect of the event, this is the appropriate time to bring it up, as others might have the same question or concern. Attendance is mandatory for all participants unless specific exception is allowed in advance by the Autocross Chairman. Attendance is optional for spectators, but is highly suggested so they will understand the procedures and safety aspects of the event.

**Instructor:** A committee member or participant designated by the Autocross Chairman as having sufficient experience to provide in-car guidance to first-time or novice participants. If you have not been told you are an instructor by the Autocross Chairman, you are not one and cannot ride with a first-time participant.

**Properly Experienced Participant:** A participant who is judged by the Autocross Chairman to have mastered autocrossing sufficiently to not require regular instruction and who is not making frequent errors. For a new participant, gaining this label requires successful participation in four recent events at the minimum. If the majority of a participant's runs are going smoothly by the end of their third event, it's likely the participant will be considered properly experienced. However, if the majority of the participant's runs are DNFs or the participant regularly causes red flags, that participant will likely not be considered properly experienced.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: Where are the events held?

A: Unless we state otherwise, all our autocrosses are held at the Atlanta Motor Speedway (AMS), 1500 Tara Place, Hampton, GA 30228.

Q: How will I know when an autocross is scheduled? How can I sign up for the events?

A: The Peachtree Chapter's official method of notifying folks of events and accepting registrations is via MotorSportReg (MSR): <http://peachtreebmwcca.motorsportreg.com/>

Q: Do I have to be a licensed driver to participate?

A: While not required legally, our insurance from BMW CCA national requires it. Your license will be checked at sign-in and must be valid.

Q: How and where do I get the tech inspection done? How will I know it's been completed?

A: Your vehicle will be "teched" in the parking area. To prepare your vehicle for the tech inspection: remove the driver's floor mat, remove all loose items from all compartments (consoles, door pockets, glove box, trunk, etc.), open the hood and trunk, place your helmet on the driver's seat, and mark your vehicle as specified. Your vehicle will not be inspected if the number/class is not displayed. Once teched, a sticker will be placed on the windshield, which will list your run and work groups. If your vehicle has not been teched by the time the driver's meeting has begun, please notify an Autocross Committee member. Do not move your vehicle to the grid or the course in an attempt to get it teched more quickly.

Q: What if happens if I arrive late?

A: If you arrive past the close of tech inspection, you will not be allowed to participate. If the event time has slipped, tech inspection might still be open, but do not count on this.

Q: Are drones allowed at these events?

A: No. Not only is there an airfield adjacent to the facility, our contract with AMS specifically forbids operations of drones during events. If you operate a drone, you risk being asked to leave the facility and/or having your drone confiscated.

Q: What facilities are available for participants and spectators?

A: Asphalt, a few strips of grass, and one port-a-potty – that's it. Neither food, shelter, nor running water are provided or available close by. Bottled water is provided free by the Autocross Committee, but you must bring your own drinks and food otherwise.

Q: Will someone be available to watch my child(ren)?

Q: Can my friend in a different run group watch my child(ren)?

A: The Peachtree Chapter autocross organization does not provide any personnel or facilities for childcare, nor are there any playgrounds, parks, or child-relevant facilities in the immediate vicinity. Additionally, one cannot rely on a fellow competitor in a different run group to watch one's child(ren), as all participants must also perform course worker duties. Children who are too young or immature to be left alone should not attend unless you provide for a caretaker at all times during the event.

Q: May I bring my pet(s)?

A: We strongly suggest you do not bring any pet(s). Please see the answer to the FAQ regarding children.



Q: My car was blocked by some cones, so I moved the cones and drove to where I wanted to be. I was told not to do this and to move my car back to where it was. Why?

A: If we have placed cones to prevent vehicle movement, we have done so for safety or planning reasons. Moving to a location without permission can negatively impact safety or organization of the event.

Q: My car had been teched and I saw some vehicles already in the grid area, so I tried to move my vehicle over there, but was told I was not allowed to do this. Why?

A: We will clearly announce when it is time for participants to move their vehicles to/from the grid. If you see vehicles already in the grid area, it is because they are the Autocross Committee members' vehicles or because specific participants have been asked to move to the grid.

Q: I have to be somewhere before the end of the event. May I leave after I've done my runs?

A: If you have already performed your work assignment, yes – if your departure does not disturb the running of the event. For example, if we have three run groups and you worked and ran in the first two run groups, you may leave after the change-over for the third run group. However, if we have two run groups and you are running in the second group, you may not leave during the second run group unless given specific permission in advance by the Autocross Chairman or Timing Committee.

Q: How will I know which run and work groups I am in?

A: When the tech inspection for your vehicle is completed, a sticker will be placed on the windshield. This sticker will specify your run and work groups.

Q: We would like to run a multi-driver car – is that permitted?

A: Yes, it is permitted as long as it does not impede the event significantly. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Autocross Chairman or Timing Committee, no more than two drivers per car will be allowed per run group. If you are in a multi-driver car, you should be in different run groups. If not, in the future, please let us know before registration closes for an event.

Q: Do I have to abide by the run and work groups I've been given?

A: Since run/work groups are balanced in order to have enough people to work the course safely & efficiently, you will not be allowed to change your run/work group without approval from the Autocross Chairman. If you change without permission, you risk being pulled from your run group. Not performing course worker duties when assigned to do so will result in the loss of any points gained from the event and is grounds for banning from participation in future Peachtree Chapter autocross events.

Q: Are spectators allowed?

A: Yes, as long as they remain in the parking areas or grass/walkways outside of the active run area. Spectators must stay out of the timing tent and grid. Any minors must have a waiver – these will be provided to the participant with the MSR event announcement and will be available on-site. Important: the form must be printed in color.

Q: Is photography allowed?

A: Yes, but with the following considerations. Photography by participants in the grid or use of cameras attached to vehicles is allowed, and photography by passengers is allowed if it does not impede the driver. Photography by spectators is allowed provided they remain in the allowed spectator areas. Photography by course workers is not allowed. Designated on-course photographers will be allowed only by agreement with the Autocross Chairman. Photography by course workers is not allowed.



Q: Will there be any breaks?

A: Yes, there will be short breaks between run groups. During the break, feel free to freshen up and grab a drink & snack, but please do not leave our area.

Q: Can my friends ride with me during the event?

A: Ride-alongs of one passenger at a time is allowed for "properly experienced" participants, but novices may only take instructors. That being said, please minimize the total number of non-participants as passengers in order to minimize disturbance on the grid. Passengers will only be allowed in the grid area while they are proceeding to a vehicle, while they are in that vehicle, or while they are exiting the vehicle and proceeding to the spectator areas.

Q: Who is considered an "experienced" participant?

A: This is a judgment call by the Autocross Chairman, but for a new participant to gain the "properly experienced" moniker, it would require (at minimum) successful participation in four events in a particular season. If the majority of a participant's runs are going smoothly at that point, it's likely the participant would be considered "properly experienced," but if the majority of the participant's runs are DNFs or the participant is regularly causing red flags, that participant would likely not be considered "properly experienced."

Q: Where do I put my stuff?

A: You may leave it in the parking area where you unloaded it for your tech inspection. Do not move it to the grid or the run areas.

Q: What should I do if I hit a cone?

A: Unless a course worker flags you to stop, keep going and the cone will likely be dislodged. If you stop unnecessarily, you will cause a red flag and the cone could melt to your exhaust. If a cone remains stuck in/under your vehicle, wait until you are back in the grid area to remove it unless you are flagged to stop on the course.

Q: What kind of helmet do I need for autocross?

Q: Will helmets be available for those who do not own one?

A: BMW CCA national policy states: "Helmets used in Autocross events or Driving Schools must be rated to Snell, SFI, or FIA standards." The current Snell standard is 2015, and Snell 2015 and Snell 2010 helmets are allowed. Snell 2005 helmets will be allowed a grace period through the end of 2016. Either SA or M rated helmets are allowed for autocross. Helmets can be rented at the Autocross timing tent for \$10 per event; we will hold your driver's license until the helmet is returned.