



Gold Coast Region PCA Driver's Education Safe Driving Tips

SAFETY – COURTESY – SPEED

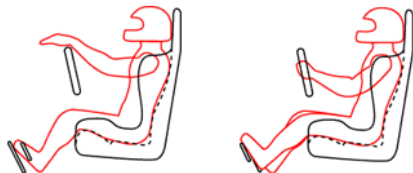
Introduction

- Safety is first priority
- Injuries or car damage are NOT WANTED
- This is a DE – Not racing
- No trophies, no pressure to win
- Focus on learning
- Enjoy your car at speed on a real track
- NOTE: It's OK to be a little nervous. Be assured that you will not be asked, nor expected, to drive any faster than you feel comfortable. We want you to have fun and come back again. Remember, the excellent driver uses his superior skills and superior talents to avoid situations that require them.
- NOTE: You are not expected and do not have to drive at speeds that you feel are unsafe. The goal is safe, high-speed fun but this does not mean that you have to go any faster than you want to.
- Do not exceed 80 m.p.h.
- Listen to your instructor.

Driving Position

- **Hand Position** - 9:00 and 3:00

- **Seat Position**



- **Rear View Mirror** should be centered to see directly behind the car.
- **Side View Mirrors** should cover all the remaining areas behind the car.

Flags

- Know all flags – Absolutely
- Flags are communication to you
- Know what they mean
- Know what to do
- Look at every corner station every lap
- Corner workers – Wave at session end and thank them at lunchtime



Pits and Paddock

- Be Slow in paddock, 8 MPH
- Watch for inattentive people
- Exit the track via the hot pits
- Hot Pits – keep center clear for traffic
- Staging out to track on right or left offline and enter cautiously
- Do driver changes, etc. in the pit boxes
- Track exit signal – arm out, up, closed fist



Passing

- Passing Zones – The straights
- Watch your mirrors
- What is a faster car?
 - One that caught up to you
- Point by the faster car
 - Drivers arm out the window – BE ASSERTIVE
- Stay on line and back off the throttle a little
- Do not pass without a point by
- Never pass outside of the passing zones

Emergencies

- If you lose brake pressure or notice any problems with the car, immediately slow down, tell your instructor and go to the pits.
- If you have a BIG problem (smoking, etc.) get off line and head back to the pits. If you cannot make it back to the pits get off line and off track near a corner worker - DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR UNLESS IT IS ON FIRE!
- If you stop wait for the corner worker signal
- Spins – Any spin – Both feet in
- One spin is learning, two means you're not
- Off Track
- Drive off straight, look before continuing
- If you stop – Wait for corner signal
- Proceed to pits for checkout / discussion

Tires, Wheels & Brakes

- Tire pressure should be in the 30-40psi range and should be checked frequently.
- Tighten lug nuts before the first run of the day. A torque wrench is critical.

Techniques of High Speed Driving

There are several cardinal rules which should be learned and never compromised if you wish to stay in control on the track:

- Keep your eyes up and look ahead.
- Braking, shifting and hard acceleration should only be done when the wheels are in a straight line.
- Never lift your right foot unless your wheels are in a straight line.
- Check your mirrors.

