

CRE

CLUB RACING EXPERIENCE

Event Planning Guide

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Club Racing Experience – What is it?

In its most simplistic terms, the Club Racing Experience (CRE) is a way for SCCA regions to grow their programs and fill available track time by reaching out to new audiences.

The CRE participant vehicles need to meet minimal safety requirements. Unlike the SCCA PDX Program which allows street legal cars to be used, the CRE Program targets drivers with some level of race car. Some safety gear is needed, but Head and Neck restraints are not required and no SCCA license is needed (only a full or weekend membership).

The CRE should not be considered just a quick and easy way to make money. To be successful, a CRE requires time, commitment and a welcoming attitude by all who interact with these participants. It needs to showcase the best SCCA has to offer new participants. Be prepared to start with a few interested drivers and it will grow. The result is enthusiastic, engaged, and knowledgeable new event participants – otherwise known as “sticky” participants who will keep coming back for more.

FOR REFERENCE:

The following was approved by the BOD and first published in the January 2013 Fastrack, with a **revision** in the December 2014 Fastrack:

SCCA Racing Experience guidelines.

It is the intent of this category of event to be a low risk “racing experience” event that provides an instructional environment to experience and learn about wheel to wheel racing in an easy to access format. These events shall be run as a separate run group with an SCCA Club Racing or SCCA Time Trial event, or as a standalone event. Events may be sanctioned by SCCA Regions or Chapters on race tracks approved for SCCA Club Racing or SCCA Time Trials.

Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. Members must possess and are responsible for recording participation in a SCCA Racing Experience Participation Log. Logs may be issued by SCCA licensed Stewards or Registrars. Participants must certify they have no know medical conditions that would cause them or others undue risk.

- 1) Vehicles are intended to be production based vehicles with a performance level equal or less than normal in Club Racing classes **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3**. Spec Racer Fords may also be included. Vehicles that demonstrate performance higher than those levels may be excluded by the Chief Steward of the event.*

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TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

This list is intended to offer enough options to get you started.

- 2) Drivers that compete in other sanctioning body events, but have not tried SCCA
- 3) Vintage drivers
- 4) Non-SCCA licensed drivers that want to compete one or two times a year in a more controlled environment
- 5) Current Solo, PDX and Club Trials drivers looking for the next step
- 6) Novice drivers trying to gain more track time
- 7) Opportunity for current drivers to reward support and crew members
- 8) Experienced drivers trying a new car or considering a purchase (should gain permission from the Chief Steward of the event)

PROMOTION

A CRE Event can be publicized with traditional event publicity on SCCA and Region websites and in *SportsCar* magazine or through mailings (hard copy and electronic) to targeted groups. Many organizations have a contact person who will allow a flyer to be distributed to their members if it involves an opportunity for their organization to get more exposure and track time.

Learn from what works each year and leverage that in PR efforts subsequent years.

EVENT TASKS

Pre-Event

- 1) EVENT SCHEDULE - Identify event/s with time for one or two additional run groups
 - a. Three 20 minute sessions plus a 20 minute race session for up to 2 hours total are recommended and is a good target
 - b. Open and closed wheel cars must be in separate run groups, vintage cars can be grouped with open and closed wheel sessions
- 2) SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS
 - a. Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. Members will be provided with a SCCA Racing Experience Participation Log to record their participation in the event. Participants must certify they have no known medical conditions that would cause them or others undue risk.
 - b. Vehicles are intended to be production based vehicles with a performance level equal or less than normal in Club Racing classes **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3**. Spec Racer Fords may also be included. Vehicles that may be of a performance higher than those listed above will need to be approved by the Chief Steward before the event. Vehicles need not have a SCCA Log Book.
 - c. All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.3.except:
 1. 9.3.19 G, All driver restraint systems shall have been certified under one of the following: SFI specification 16.1, 16.5, or FIA specification 8853/98 or 8854/98 and be in good shape with no signs of wear or fading,
 2. And 9.3.20.C the use of a head and neck restraint system that has been certified in accordance with SFI 38.1, FIA 8858-2002 or 88598-2010 is strongly recommended.
 3. All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.4. "Roll cages for GT and Production based cars" or Appendix I, "2007 Cage Rules".
 - d. All driver restraint systems shall have been certified under one of the following:
 1. SFI specification 16.1, 16.5, or FIA specification 8853/98 or 8854/98 and be in good shape with no signs of wear or fading, and
 2. 9.3.20.C the use of a head and neck restraint system that has been

certified in accordance with SFI 38.1, FIA 8858-2002 or 88598-2010 is strongly recommended.

- e. All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.4. "Roll cages for GT and Production based cars" or Appendix I, "2007 Cage Rules".
- f. The Chief Steward may waive deviations of compliance requirements for a car for an event.
- g. On track behavior will be in the spirit of GCR section 6. Any participant found to be overaggressive or dangerous may be black flagged and counseled by the Chief Instructor or his designee or excluded from the event. At a minimum any participant being found at fault in an accident will be put on probation for a recommended 13 months. Any participant being found at fault in an accident while on probation will be excluded for further participation in these events for 13 months.
- h. GCR section 8 (penalties) do not apply to CRE sessions

3) SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

- a. Select officials that can exhibit a strong "customer service" attitude with all participants; flexible and friendly.
- b. Officials required for an event are the Chief Steward, Safety Steward and Chief Instructor. Recommend you dedicate these individuals to the CRE portion of the event.
- c. The Chief Steward and Safety Steward must have a current license as a Steward in either SCCA Club Racing or Time Trials. The Chief Instructor must have a Current Club Racing or Time Trial Competition License or equivalent experience.

4) SANCTION

- a. CRE component of the event needs to be individually sanctioned, but will be included in overall event sanction fee

5) REGISTRATION

- a. Registration for the event can be included with regular event registration, however a reduced entry fee is recommended for CRE participants
- b. Provisions should be made to have participation log books available when participants register (can use Time Trial Participation log if needed)

6) INSTRUCTION PLANNING

- a. Hand pick the Chief Instructor and instructors who are good at the role and are willing to serve as mentors beyond the event if needed
- b. Determine classroom instruction to prepare the participants for what they will experience and what will be expected of them
- c. Determine experience level of participants to structure appropriate groupings
 - 1. No experience (encourage PDX participation before CRE if possible)
 - 2. Some experience
 - 3. Very experienced (with approval of the CRE Chief Steward)

- d. Plan out the instruction portion of the event to give the participants some exposure to all operational aspects of an event including:

1. Registration
2. Tech/Impound
3. Flagging & Communications
4. Emergency Services
5. Sound (if required)

And the following on-track experiences (can be staged with on-track instructors):

1. Grid
2. Entering track
3. Passing
4. Full course yellow
5. Local yellows
6. Black flag situation
7. Race starts

Proper planning will ensure the best possible experience for all

At-Event

- 1) Have registration and tech ready to welcome the participants since they will not have gone through those processes with SCCA
- 2) Conduct meeting between participants and instructors
 - a. Briefing – perform introductions, answer questions, share information
 - b. Familiarization
 1. Conduct instructional portion of the experience
 2. Conduct on-track sessions
- 3) Include participants in any event end-of-day festivities
- 4) Have final discussion with event participants, thanking them for participating and inviting them to continue racing with SCCA
 - a. Be prepared and know when and where the next events are being held
 - b. Don't let them leave without closing out their weekend

Post-Event

- 1) Obtain feedback from participants in a manner that helps the region assess the project in a manner that makes it easy for the participants to give their comments. Tools for feedback can include:
 - i. Survey/Evaluation Form
 - ii. Phone calls

2) "THANK YOU" to drivers and instructors

SAMPLE INVITATION

Want to experience what it is like to be Wheel to Wheel racing in a controlled environment with **NO RACING LICENSE REQUIRED**?!?! Is this even possible? Yes it is!!!

The _____ Region, SCCA would like to invite you to our inaugural Last Chance: **Club Racing Experience** event on _____ at _____.
SCCA Racing Experience:

This event will be a low risk “racing experience” event that provides an instructional environment to experience and learn about wheel to wheel racing in an easy to access format. The event will happen during the _____ Region’s _____ weekend.

Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. Members will be provided with a SCCA Racing Experience Participation Log to record their participation in the event. Participants must certify they have no known medical conditions that would cause them or others undue risk.

*Vehicles are intended to be production based vehicles with a performance level equal or less than normal in Club Racing classes **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3**. Spec Racer Fords may also be included. Vehicles that may be of a performance higher than those listed above will need to be approved by the Chief Steward before the event (Please contact _____ if your vehicle is of a higher level of performance). Vehicles need not have a SCCA Log Book.*

All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.3.except:

9.3.19 G, All driver restraint systems shall have been certified under one of the following: SFI specification 16.1, 16.5, or FIA specification 8853/98 or 8854/98 and

be in good shape with no signs of wear of fading,

And 9.3.20.C the use of a head and neck restraint system that has been certified in accordance with SFI 38.1, FIA 8858-2002 or 88598-2010 is strongly recommended.

All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.4. "Roll cages for GT and Production based cars" or Appendix I, "2007 Cage Rules".

The Chief Steward may waive deviations of compliance requirements for a car for an event.

On track behavior will be in the spirit of GCR section 6. Any participant found to be overaggressive or dangerous may be black flagged and counseled by the Chief Instructor or his designee or excluded from the event. At a minimum any participant being found at fault in an accident will be put on probation for a recommended 13 months. Any participant being found at fault in an accident while on probation will be excluded for further participation in these events for 13 months.

SAMPLE EVENT SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

This event will be a low risk “racing experience” event that provides an instructional environment to experience and learn about wheel- to-wheel racing in an easy to access format. The event will happen during the _____ Region’s _____ weekend.

Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. Members will be provided with a SCCA Racing Experience Participation Log to record their participation in the event. Participants must certify they have no known medical conditions that would cause them or others undue risk.

Vehicles are intended to be production based vehicles with a performance level equal or less than normal in Club Racing classes **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3**. Spec Racer Fords may also be included. Vehicles that may be of a performance higher than those listed above will need to be approved by the Chief Steward before the event (Please contact _____ if your vehicle is of a higher level of performance). Vehicles need not have a SCCA Log Book.

All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.3.except: 9.3.19 G. All driver restraint systems shall have been certified under one of the following: SFI specification 16.1, 16.5, or FIA specification 8853/98 or 8854/98 and be in good shape with no signs of wear or fading, and 9.3.20.C the use of a head and neck restraint system that has been certified in accordance with SFI 38.1, FIA 8858-2002 or 88598-2010 is strongly recommended.All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.4. “Roll cages for GT and Production based cars” or Appendix I, “2007 Cage Rules”.

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On track behavior will be in the spirit of GCR section 6. Any participant found to be overaggressive or dangerous may be black flagged and counseled by the Chief Instructor or his designee or excluded from the event. At a minimum any participant being found at fault in an accident will be put on probation for a recommended 13 months. Any participant being found at fault in an accident while on probation will be excluded for further participation in these events for 13 months.

SAMPLE PARTICIPANT FORM

By signing this Appendix, the driver hereby agrees and affirms the following:

This event will include on-track sessions under the new racing experience pilot program, CRX (Club Racing Experience), and will be run under the guidelines published by the SCCA Board of Directors in the January 2013 Fastrack. The intent of the program is to provide a Club Racing Experience to novice drivers in a safe and monitored environment. Drivers wanting to enter this program will be expected to read and sign this Appendix. When the signed Appendix is presented to the Chief Steward, a Driver Log Book will be issued for the driver and maintained by the Chief Steward. The Driver Log Book will be used to record driver on-track performance and will be presented to the driver at the end of the event. The Chairman, Stewards of the Meet, will collect the signed copies of Appendix A and include them with the Observers' report.

The Chief Steward for the Club Racing Experience sessions in cooperation with the Region's representative, may modify the Schedule of Events, race group configurations and/or details related to this race group only. This program will be exempt from the usual Protest Process in place at SCCA Road Racing events.

Drivers in this program will be expected to follow the rules as specified in Chapter 6 of the General Competition Rules (Racing Rules and Procedures) while participating in the event. These rules will be covered by the Chief Steward and the Chief Instructor. Technical inspection will be limited to just those items specifically addressed here.

Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. Participants by signature of this Appendix certify they have no known medical conditions that would cause them or others undue risk.

Vehicles are intended to be production-based vehicles with a performance level equal to, or less than, Club Racing classes **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3**. Spec Racer Fords may also be included. Any vehicle that demonstrates a performance level higher than **Improved Touring R, E Production, GT-3 or Touring 3** may be excluded by the Chief Steward of the event.

Driver Conduct:

As a driver participating in the Club Racing Experience, your conduct is expected to be of the highest standard for the protection of everyone involved. Drivers will be observed and judged for safe driving by the Chief Steward, Chief Instructor, Race Chairman, course officials and peers.

- Any driver driving in a careless, unsafe or erratic manner will receive a Black Flag and must immediately report to the Hot Pit Area for a conference with the Chief Steward (or Chief Instructor). Unsafe driving includes, but is not limited to: off course excursions (including 2 or 4 wheels off course), spins, and unsafe passing.
 - If a second Black Flag is shown, the driver will report to the Hot Pit for another conference with the Chief Steward and then return to the paddock for the remainder of the scheduled track session.
 - A third Black Flag shown to the driver will cause the driver to return to the Paddock Area and be excused from the remainder of the weekend.
- Any car contact with another car or other object:
 - The responsible driver will be excused for the remainder of the event weekend and may be subject to further review or additional penalties.
 - When the two drivers cannot agree on who is the responsible party, both drivers may be excused for the remainder of the weekend.
- Passing:
 - In a passing situation, the overtaking driver has the responsibility for making a safe pass, but this does not relieve the overtaken driver from any responsibility.
 - Both drivers must be alert (i.e. constantly checking your forward field of vision and your mirrors) and observant of what is occurring around them at all times.
 - Always provide racing room in passing conditions.
 - Whenever possible, slower drivers should point faster drivers around them.
- The Chief Steward has the final word.

Safety, Technical Inspection:

All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.3. EXCEPT 9.3.19.G and 9.3.20.C:

9.3.19 G, All driver restraint systems shall have been certified under one of the following: SFI specification 16.1, 16.5, or FIA specification 8853/98 or 8854/98 and be in good shape with no signs of wear or fading,

And 9.3.20.C the use of a head and neck restraint system that has been certified in accordance with SFI 38.1, FIA 8858-2002 or 88598-2010 is strongly recommended.

All vehicles must meet the safety and equipment requirements of GCR 9.4. "Roll cages for GT and Production based cars" or Appendix I, "2007 Cage Rules".

The Chief Steward may waive deviations of compliance requirements for a car for an event.

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of Appendix A and request to be included in the Club Racing Experience.

Driver (signature): _____

Driver (printed): _____

Member Number: _____

Date: _____