



CAYMAN MOTORING
FEDERATION

MEMBER OF



CMF Autocross Rules and Information

What is Autocross?

Autocross events are low- to medium-speed car control events. Most events are held in large parking lots or airports, but some events are held on racetracks and go-kart tracks. Courses are created using traffic cones and sometimes outlined in chalk to help with visuals. Drivers take the course one at a time with results determined by comparing each driver's time to complete the course. Penalties are given for significant contact with a cone or if a competitor misses part of the course.

Who can participate?

Many types of people autocross. Men, women, young and old are all found at events. Some may not own a race car so they bring out their daily driver and some hard-core members will bring out vehicles set up specifically for autocross. There will be novices wanting first experience and veteran road racers keeping their skills sharp. Family and friends compete together. Whoever it is that comes to events, they all share a love for motorsports and most of all, the desire to have FUN!

Why should you participate?

First and foremost, autocrossing is fun. It is also an inexpensive way to get involved in motor sports and can be an activity for the whole family. It can also make you a better and safer driver. By discovering the limits of your car in a safe, controlled environment, autocrossing will help improve your driving skills on the road as well as on a track.

Do I have to be a member?

Membership is required for all CMF events. With this membership, you gain access to a wide variety of member benefits and discounts with club partners. For those just wanting to test the waters, there are event memberships available.

Will the auto crossing damage my car?

Auto crossing can influence how your car wears standard consumable items such as tires and brake pads; however, it is extremely unlikely that it will threaten the structural integrity of your car. Tires are the most notable consumable, and many competitors choose to have a separate set of wheels for autocross tires for this reason.

What are those cones lying down?

The cones that are lying down are directional cones or "pointers." They act as arrows to tell you which side of the cone to go on. If you happen to go on the wrong side of these pointer cones, the penalty applied is considered a "Did Not Finish" (DNF). Some regions will score this as "Off Course" (OC), and no time is recorded.

How are penalties scored?

Each cone position is marked with a chalk outline known as a "box." If your car causes a cone to fall over or get knocked completely out of its box, it's a 2-second penalty. If a driver runs over or bumps a cone and it stands back up or doesn't fall over, no penalty is applied if some part of the cone is still touching the box.

Do we need a special car to autocross?

Nope. Run whatever you have! We're here to have fun! You can run anything from a Yugo to a Ferrari if it's in good shape mechanically and doesn't have a rollover risk. Generally, SUVs and trucks don't meet these requisites.

How should I prepare my tires for autocross?

Preparing your tires for autocross is not complicated. If they do not have cuts/damage or have any cord showing (or are not about to have cord showing), your tires should be ready for the event. It is suggested that you raise your tire pressures 5-10 psi over factory settings to minimize wear on the edge of the tire.

When I arrive what should I do?

First, if this is your first event, let someone know. We already have everything you need waiting for you. First, you need to park in the appropriate area and then go to registration. You should also do a quick one-over on your car. Be sure to check the fluids, check the battery tie-down, shake the wheels, and remove any loose items. You will need to check in, and have your car inspected at "tech"; both of these should be well marked and easy to find. Finally, make sure you leave enough time to get a few course walks in. There are no practice sessions in autocross, so walking a course is crucial in being ready to do your best lap.

What is "tech"?

"Tech" is the short word for technical inspection. This inspection is conducted by other more experienced auto crossers to check the safety of your car. They check for a working seat belt, good return on throttle, brake pressure, a secure battery, tight lug nuts, play in suspension and bearings, and interior free of loose items including floor mats. Street tires must have measurable tread left and no cords showing. Any car in reasonable condition should pass a tech inspection, no problem!

What should I bring to an autocross?

You need to bring your car in good working mechanical order, a valid driver's license, and a helmet (loaner helmets are available in most regions). You may also want to bring a tire pressure gauge, multiple layers (coat, sweatshirt, sweatpants), gloves, a cooler (water, pop/soda, sports drink, lunch), comfortable shoes, towels, rain gear, sunblock, a hat, and anything else that you would want for a day spent outdoors.

Can I share a car with someone?

Absolutely! A car can have as many as two people running it in a class and it can run in other classes that are running in separate heats. This is a great way to save money, drive well-prepared cars and compare yourself directly with other drivers.

What if I'm under 18?

Competitors under 18 are welcome at CMF autocross events. Drivers with a license or permit may compete in the same configuration as they are legal to drive on the street. For example, many states require permitted drivers to have a parent or guardian in the car; a permitted autocrosser would then be allowed to compete provided their parent or guardian was riding along.

What if it rains?

Autocross is a rain and shining sport; the only thing that shuts an event down is lightning in the area. For rainy days, plan to bring some plastic bins to keep your stuff dry, a towel to dry off hands and feet before driving, and something to protect you from the elements. An umbrella is okay, a poncho is a little better, but the seasoned competitors will all be in full rain suits.

What are the top speeds?

Autocross courses are designed not to exceed normal highway speeds. For most cars, that means staying in 2nd gear, and topping out around 30–35 mph. That doesn't mean they are slow. Well-designed courses will feel plenty fast as you attempt to maintain that speed through a series of elements. Imagine slaloming every barrel in a 35-mph construction zone, and you will start to get the idea.

What should I do if I spun out?

"Both Feet In!" Get your left foot on the clutch and your right foot on the brake to bring the car to a stop (for a manual car). Hard on the brakes for an automatic or other clutch less cars.

Do's and Don'ts

- Take your work assignment seriously. Part of auto crossing is helping with various tasks that keep the event running. Giving your work assignment 100% of your attention will ensure that you are not having a negative effect on someone else's event. Be sure that you arrive on time or early for work, as tardy workers often delay event start times.
- Arrive Early. Give yourself plenty of time to get yourself together, register, teach, and walk the course a few times. It's always better to have a little spare time to chat with friends than scrambling.
- Look for opportunities to help. Few can bring their full garage to an event; as such, often people need to borrow a tool. If you have a tool someone needs to borrow, let them borrow it, or better yet, offer them a hand.
- Respect the Site. Simple misjudgments, such as disrespectful driving, littering, or excessive noise in and around the site can strain relationships and jeopardize site usage.
- Be Honest. If there are timing and scoring mistakes that benefit you, own up to them.
- Allow others to prepare for their runs. Be mindful of when and how you approach fellow drivers.
- Save the driving performance for the course. Unsafe practices or speeding to or from the event site affects club reputation and safety.
- Remember, we are all in it for fun. We came out here to drive, but we keep coming back for the community.

CMF Autocross – Cayman Motor Federation

For more info, visit <https://caymanmotoringfederation.org/>