



Niagara Region Porsche Club of America

## INSTRUCTOR VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS

The Mission and Purpose of the Niagara Region PCA Instructor Corps is to provide a safe, structured and controlled teaching and learning environment at HPDE driving events while doing so in a courteous, friendly and professional manner. Our activities are designed so that participants will improve their driving skills, by acquiring a better understanding of vehicle dynamics and driving safety.

The underlying purpose of this document is to ensure that all instructors participating in a Niagara Region HPDE event are of same mind, body and spirit. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best possible value for any of our participants at all of our events. As a Niagara Region PCA Instructor, you are the key element in our pursuit to offer the best HPDE program available as front line ambassadors of our Region and our sport.

Please bear in mind that our participants are paying customers and as such expect high quality professional and positive instruction at our events. We expect all our instructors to adhere to a few simple guidelines to ensure the success of our events and to further ensure that all our participants have a fun, safe and memorable time at our HPDE events.

### ***Think Safety - ALWAYS***

- At Niagara, safety is our first priority. Make it yours.
- Please help your students check their vehicles for loose objects and review basic mechanical components of the car; properly torqued wheels, proper tire pressures, brakes, etc. Never second-guess safety. When in doubt, check with the Tech and Safety Director, or the Chief Driving Instructor (CDI).
- Review flags and flag stations. Make sure your student understands what and where flags might be encountered.
- Review safety and emergency “outs” while on track.
- Review safety and emergency procedures; off track excursions, contact, staying in the car, etc.
- Be part of the solution....not the problem.

### ***Always have a Positive Attitude***

- This is supposed to be fun. Be encouraging even when critiquing your students. Always try and catch your students doing something right. A thumb's up at the right moment on track can do wonders.
- When debriefing, be as constructive as possible vs. being overly critical.
- We encourage you to use a bit of humor when interacting with your students. It will help relax your students and ease potentially sticky situations.
- Remember that having a positive attitude can be contagious!

### ***Being on Time***

- Be on time for all meetings. It is unprofessional to keep your student waiting.
- Understand the schedule and meet your students as early as possible. Don't have your students sitting on the grid wondering if you're going to show up.
- Be there for your students to do a proper debrief, or to answer questions and or concerns during down times. Debriefs are not always convenient, especially when having two back-to-back students. Arrange to make time afterwards if necessary.
- Establish an agreed upon meeting spot and time on where to meet for staging.

### ***Being in Charge***

- You are ultimately responsible for your student. Firmly insist, rather than ask. Make sure your directives are clear, concise and timely.
- Set clear goals for your students before each run. Assign "homework" between sessions. Be careful to NOT mentally overload your students.
- Help your students with passing. Always be aware of traffic. We operate in a 360-degree environment. Teach your students to be fully aware of their environment.
- Remain engaged with your student at all times. Try not to talk too much or too little. Make sure neither you nor your student "checks-out" mentally. Remain focused.
- You are the boss. When experiencing push back from a student, the proper way to resolve these types of issues is parking in the pits; not on a hot track. Unresolved issues should be taken up with the CDI.
- Explore different lines and off-line entries with your students.
- Instill confidence in your students. You are their primary cheerleader.

### ***Being Responsible***

- We are a Team. You are expected to uphold and abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the Niagara Region PCA governing our HPDE events.
- Do not undermine any facet of the event by doing your own thing.
- Be *discreet and respectful* when talking about a fellow instructor or any of our fellow participants. If you feel that a policy or decision is unfair, unwise or unsafe, you need to bring it to the Event Chair/CDI's attention promptly.
- If you have any issues on and or off track, have an adult conversation with the CDI or Event Chair. The CDI/Event Chair is the final arbiter of any issues encountered at any of our events.
- When you register for an event, we expect you to uphold your commitment and show up for the event. The only exceptions are emergencies. A dour weather forecast is not an emergency.
- Ensure that you fully understand our on track exercises and protocols.
- Guard against molding your students to your own expectations.
- ALWAYS having a professional attitude in anything you do at our events.

### ***Having the Right Tools***

- You have to want to instruct for Niagara Region PCA.
- Be a GREAT listener. Learn from your students. Listening is a great way to gain insight relative to your student's attitude (eager, scared, know-it-all, clue-less). Learn about their motivation (having fun, drive better, Club racing). Evaluate their capabilities (previous experience, autocross, and other sports). Learn how prepared your student is (reviewed flags, track map, etc.).
- Make use of your student's responses; what is their mental state (tired, alert, anticipatory); how does he/she learn; enables you to formulate a starting point for instruction.
- Understanding the 5 minute interview; fastest way to get information; asking pointed questions; getting students to talk about themselves; showing genuine interest in the student and their vehicle.
- Four parts of the interview:
  - a) Social – provides for formal introduction; what do you do, how long have you been driving, is your vehicle your daily driver, how are you feeling?
  - b) Technical – previous HPDE experience; modifications, tires, pressures, etc.
  - c) Safety – Flags and their stations, passing zones, emergency protocols.
  - d) Directive – setting the tone, vocabulary, phrases, and hand signals.
- Being a good communicator; clear, concise and timely;
- You are ***required*** to have a good communicator (Chatterbox or equivalent) and have it charged and ready to go at all times.
- Allowing time to give your students a demonstration ride during Instructor run group sessions;
  - a) You are expected to be a role model and exemplify proper track behavior. Instructors should be *demonstrating and modeling* the driving skills and behaviors you want your student to learn.
  - b) Treating the session as an extension of the student's learning experience.
  - c) Think out loud – give student insights to your technique, sightlines and strategy.
  - d) Critique your own driving to demonstrate self awareness.
  - e) *Do Not* drive to impress/scare your student. That is *NOT* the purpose of what demo rides are for. The *demo ride should not* be at the limits of the car.
  - f) Show students proper techniques relative to the ABC's; Accelerating, Braking, Cornering.
- Signing off a student; the student remains your responsibility for the entire event. Signing off a student does not mean you kiss them off. Their training and behavior on track remains your responsibility. Keep tabs on your solo student.
- The evaluation should be shared with your students. Fill out and review your student's evaluation ***with them*** before submitting.

The ultimate success of any HPDE event is largely dependent upon the quality of any participant's experience. As ambassadors of the Niagara Region, we depend on your experience, expertise and know-how in being able to deliver a one of a kind experience for our participants – one student at a time.

The Niagara Region PCA wishes to thank you for your participation in our HPDE programs, and we look forward to seeing you at the track!

*rda 04/27/11*