

PCA MINIMUM DRIVING TOUR STANDARDS

Effective September 2024

The purpose of the *PCA Minimum Driving Tour Standards* is to provide each Region with the foundation on which to build their own Driving Tour program. These Standards were designed to be minimal in nature so any Region can have more stringent rules, but no Region shall have any that are more lenient. Any Region conducting a driving tour must meet all the Minimum Driving Tour Standards. Additional Standards for Off-Road Driving Tours are available on PCA.org. Definitions are included below and are part of these Standards. Additional PCA Driving Tour Committee Recommendations for driving tours are included at the end of these Minimum Driving Tour Standards as Attachment 1. They are intended to further enhance the driving tour experience for all tour leaders and participants.

DEFINITIONS

Driving Tour: A driving tour is an organized event in which participants gather at a start point defined on the PCA event insurance certificate, then drive in a follow-the-leader format, in an assigned group or groups that remain together and include both a lead and a sweeper car(s), along the established tour route to the end point identified on the insurance certificate.

PCA Liability Insurance Coverage for Driving Tours: All participants, including passengers shall sign liability waivers. PCA coverage is only in effect for the route defined by the start point and end point on the insurance certificate and driven by the participants who have signed waivers for that driving tour. Participants who intentionally separate themselves from the group are considered to have left the driving tour and may no longer be covered under PCA insurance.

Note 1: If your Region conducts driving tour events that meet the above definition and does not obtain a Certificate of Insurance and collect signed waivers, then your event, Region, Region's officers, you and PCA may not be covered by PCA insurance, and all may be exposed to potential liability in the event of an incident.

Note 2: If your Region conducts driving tour events that do not meet the above definition, even if you obtain a Certificate of Insurance and collect signed waivers, then your event may not be covered by PCA's insurance.

Tour Route: Each driving tour follows a specified route as planned by the tour leader and documented in written (or electronic) driving directions.

Tour Leader: This person is responsible for the overall planning and execution of the driving tour. This includes planning the tour route and coordinating the tour start point, end point, rest stops and regroup points. Additionally, the tour leader is responsible for ensuring an adequate participant safety briefing is conducted in accordance with these Minimum Driving Tour Standards.

Tour Group: A number of cars, assigned by the Tour Leader, that will drive together behind the tour/group leader and in front of the sweeper car(s) with the goal of remaining as one organized group from the tour starting point until the advertised destination.

Group Size: The number of cars in each individual group. The purpose of limiting group sizes is to avoid impeding other traffic and annoying members of the public, safely control the group(s), reduce the risk of becoming separated, and enable effective communications. Group sizes shall be managed based on the area to be travelled (sparsely populated country/rural routes vs. urban/populated routes with numerous stoplights/signs), visibility between cars within the group, and the driving experience of the group.

Group Leader: For driving tours with multiple groups, the group leaders are responsible for leading their respective groups in compliance with all instructions outlined by the tour leader and all Minimum Driving Tour Standards.

Sweeper: Also called the trailing or following car, the sweeper is the car at the tail end of the tour or group. The sweeper's duties include assisting any participants who may encounter car or health difficulties, advising the tour/group leader if vehicles became separated from the group, and advising the tour/group leader about any unsafe driving practices by a tour participant so the tour/group leader(s) can take appropriate action to curtail such unsafe driving practices.

Insurance Certificate: The official liability insurance certificate issued by PCA showing the insurance coverage, date of the event, and the start and end points for the event.

Waiver Forms: In the event of an incident, the PCA waiver provides an initial level of protection for PCA and all PCA persons from liability in connection with the incident. "Release and Waiver of Liability" forms for both adults and minors are published on the PCA.org website and in the Region Procedures Manual (RPM). Alternatively, PCA has approved the use of electronic waiver forms developed by MotorsportReg.com and ClubRegistration.net in lieu of the paper forms, except for Minor Waivers which must be in paper form.

DRIVING TOUR PLANNING AND CONDUCT

Waivers and Insurance

- A PCA Liability Insurance certificate shall be requested from PCA National on the insurance request form published on PCA.org and in the RPM. A hard copy shall be available when participants check in and carried by the tour leader on the tour.
- PCA National shall be notified within 24 hours if a tour is cancelled.
- PCA National shall be notified prior to the tour date if the start or end location is changed.
- There shall be an established method to ensure ALL participants, including passengers sign the waiver(s) and receive the safety briefing prior to tour start. If other participants join at an intermediate point or start from an alternate location, they shall also sign the waiver form(s) and receive a safety briefing prior to tour participation. If electronic waiver forms are used, there shall still be a method established to ensure all participants have electronically signed the waiver. This includes procedures for minors on the tour.
- At least one parent/guardian shall be present to sign the "Minors as Observers Only Form" for each participant under the age of 18, if applicable. Alternatively, a notarized waiver may be presented at the event.
- Driving tours shall use the waiver forms printed in color (with red type).
- All drivers shall be at least 18 years old.

Tour Planning

- In order to avoid impeding other traffic, safely control the group(s) and reduce the risk of becoming separated, group sizes shall be dependent upon the area to be travelled, visibility of cars on the tour and the driving tour experience of the group.
- Group sizes shall be established with the objective of drivers maintaining visual contact with the vehicle ahead and behind during the driving tour.

Tour Conduct

- Each driving tour shall have an assigned leader per group and a minimum of one sweeper car.
- The cell phone numbers of all tour/group leaders and sweepers shall be provided to all participants.
- Route directions shall be provided to all group leaders and sweepers and to those tour participants whose primary duty is to safely navigate the route.
- Each tour/group leader and sweeper vehicle shall have a safe method of communicating within the group in compliance with local laws.
- It can be helpful for the Lead and Sweep cars to have a passenger who can provide assistance to the driver with route guidance and communications with other cars on the tour. Pre-running the route is strongly advised, and use of an app that provides electronic turn-by-turn directions can also be helpful.
- The tour shall be conducted in compliance with speed limits and all other traffic laws.
- The tour/group leader shall conduct a formal participant/safety briefing for all tour participants prior to driving tour departure, including all items specified in the safety briefing section below.

Post-Event Reporting

- All post event reporting shall be completed using the online forms on **PCA.org**.
- The tour leader shall complete and submit the Post Event Report to PCA within 5 days of the event.
- The tour leader shall assign someone who is not involved in planning or organizing the event to complete and submit the Observers Report to PCA within 10 days of the event.
- The tour leader shall complete and submit an Incident Report to PCA, if needed, within five (5) business days of the event (the next business day if bodily injury is involved).
- Incident reporting: In addition to completing an incident report, the tour leader shall notify the region's Safety Chair if an incident occurs.

A Region's repeated failure to comply with these Minimum Standards after warnings of non-compliance or refusal to adhere to these Standards could prevent the Region from obtaining PCA insurance for future driving tour events.

MINIMUM SAFETY BRIEFING FOR TOURS

The following points shall be communicated during the safety briefing for all participants, including passengers, prior to tour departure. Most points can be read as a script. Additional points to consider are included in “PCA’s Additional Recommendations for Driving Tours” at the end of this document.

- Introductions: Introduce all tour/group leader(s) and sweeper(s) and identify their cars.
- Waivers: Have all tour participants signed the relevant waiver form(s)?
- Emphasis on Safety: Safety is paramount. Driving tours are NOT competitive or high-speed driving events. Each driver is responsible for operating their own vehicle safely, in all road conditions.
- Insurance: It is assumed that each participating driver has a current driver’s license and automobile liability insurance. PCA also provides liability insurance that covers PCA, the Region, the event organizers and each participant while on the tour. If you intentionally separate yourself from the group, you may not be covered by PCA’s insurance.
- Insurance certificate: Inform attendees that the tour is covered under PCA Liability insurance and that the certificate is available for viewing at the time of the safety meeting.
- Laws: Obey speed limits and all other traffic laws, including maintaining lane integrity, plus all local laws regarding the consumption of drugs and alcohol.
- Route Directions: The driving directions contain details about the route, regroup points, rest stops and any safety concerns or areas where the tour may have to slow to maintain safety. (The tour leader shall discuss any specific areas of concern in the driving directions.)
- Safety as a Group: Cars on driving tours are expected to stay together as a group, however safety is more important than the need to stay together. It is not acceptable to take added risks in order to stay with the group.
- Following Distance: Leave a safe distance between cars, generally at least 2-3 seconds behind the car in front, however, do not leave excessive gaps between cars within the group.
- Passing: No passing is allowed of the tour/group leader(s). They set the pace. Pass cyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorized traffic SLOWLY, giving a wide berth.
- Separation from the Group: If you become separated from the group, inform the driving tour/group leader or sweeper and obey all posted speed limits and other traffic laws until you rejoin the group.
- Headlights: Drive with headlights on to increase visibility to other vehicles.
- Emergencies: In an emergency, pull over, stop in a safe location, turn on emergency flashers and advise the tour/group sweeper.
- Sweeper Role: The sweeper plays an important support role and shall advise the tour/group leader of any issues within the group.
- Communications: Provide cell phone numbers of all tour/group leaders and sweepers to all participants or refer to them in the driving directions.
- Drivers shall not take photos and videos while driving during the tour. All photos/videos may only be taken by passengers from a passenger seat.
- Drones: The operation of a drone must be in accordance with the PCA Drone Usage Minimum Standards.

Safety & Fun: Responsibility for maintaining PCA’s excellent history of safe and enjoyable events rests with each participant. Have fun and be safe!

Attachment 1: Additional Recommendations for PCA Driving Tours

These recommendations are provided in addition to the Minimum Driving Tour Standards and are based on past experience to enhance the success of regional tours. Region members charged with planning and executing such tours should read these additional recommendations and consider whether they would improve their tours.

Driving Tour Management

- Every region conducting PCA driving tours should appoint a Driving Tour Chair, who should be identified on the Region's committee list submitted to PCA National.
- Regions that conduct driving tours should establish a tour leader training/mentoring program including, at a minimum, a training outline or webinar to brief new driving tour leaders.
- PCA's webinar "How to Conduct a Successful Driving Tour" provides useful information for new and returning tour leaders that is a good starting point for regional tour leader training.
- Driving tour leaders should read and follow the "PCA Insurance and Risk Management" guidance on PCA.org.

Tour Planning

- Start planning early, especially if hotel and meal reservations are required.
- When planning the route, select a starting point and rest stop(s) that will facilitate the safe parking and controlled departure of all cars on the tour. Plan for a rest stop every 60-90 minutes. Make sure facilities can support the group(s).
- For tours that do not use electronic driving directions, driving tour directions should include each turn direction, leg distances and cumulative mileages after each leg, planned rest stops and notes/caution information along the route.
- Establish regroup points and identify them in the driving directions (e.g., soon after leaving the starting location and thereafter at 4-way intersections/stoplights, etc.).
- In addition to driving tour directions, provide a route map (from Google, MapQuest, etc.).
- In order to avoid impeding other traffic and annoying members of the public, safely control the group(s), reduce the risk of becoming separated and enable radio communications, group sizes should be managed based on the area to be travelled, visibility of cars on the tour and the driving tour experience of the group. Based on experience, group sizes of up to 20 cars work best for country/rural routes; group sizes of up to 15 cars are better for urban routes.
- In the week(s) prior to the event, pre-run as much of the route as possible in order to confirm the suitability of the route, and the accuracy and completeness of the route directions. In addition, search for online road closure information prior to the tour date to minimize surprises such as construction, road closures, poor road conditions, etc.
- The tour leader should consider designating one or more of the participating cars to bring a car jack, an appropriate lug wrench, a tire pump/compressor and a tire repair kit on tours.
- As an alternative, consider contacting one of your sponsors, advertisers or local dealers to ask if they would like to provide a support vehicle, personnel or other support for the event.

Registration & Pre-Event Communications to Participants

- Use a formal registration process to collect key information from each participant prior to the event, including: driver and passenger names; minor names (if any); cell phone number to be used on event day; email address; emergency contact information of someone not at the event. Established registration sites are useful for this purpose (e.g., MotorsportReg, Club Express, ClubRegistration, Eventbrite) and some online registration sites can be used to generate pre-printed waiver forms.
- Inform everyone to arrive at the starting point with sufficient fuel or fully charged EV's to complete the route.
- Tour leaders should notify participants of the total mileage and time that the tour will take.
- Notify all participants in advance that they must check in, sign the waivers, obtain the route instructions and attend a safety briefing at the staging area.
- Provide all participants the opportunity to read the waiver forms (adult and minor) in advance via a link on pca.org, or by including it as a link on the registration site.
- Driving tours with more than one group get started more smoothly if attendees know in advance how the run groups will be organized at the staging area.
- Encourage the use of two-way radios by all participants as an effective method to communicate within the group.
- The tour leader should assign the run group leader(s) and sweeper(s) prior to the date of the event and advise them regarding what is expected of their role prior to the tour date.
- The tour leader should inform the person(s) responsible to complete the Observer's Report regarding the Observer's role and where the form can be accessed (must be logged onto pca.org with their username and password).

Additional Points for the Safety Briefing

- When driving as a group, it is not acceptable to take added risks, such as illegal passing, running through red lights or cutting off another driver in order to stay with the group. Safety is more important than the need to stay together.
- In order to maintain the integrity of the group and enhance safety:
 - Regularly check rear-view mirrors to confirm that the car behind is still following. If not, slow down until the car(s) behind you have caught up and it is safe to continue.
 - Do not allow excessive spacing to develop within the group. If you're lagging behind, try to keep pace with the car in front of you.
 - Beware of the accordion effect. Control your acceleration and deceleration in order to safely keep the group together.
- Be prepared to lead the remainder of the group behind you if you become separated from the rest of the group.