SCCA TRACKNIGHT IN AMERICA Driven by TIRE RACK .com

Advanced & Intermediate Coaching

How to Be the Best Track Night Coach You Can Be

April 2021

What Will We Cover?

- The Goal of Track Night
- Before We Go Hot
- Drivers Meeting
- Grid
- Cars On Course
- Pit Lane Talks - Spins & Black Flags
- When to Debrief
- Challenges
- Wrapping Up
- Pro-Tips

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What Would You Say We Do Here?

- The goal of Track Night is to open the door to motorsports by providing a recreational opportunity for our participants to have a safe and fun time on the track.
- We are here to facilitate an awesome experience.

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Advanced & Intermediate Coaches

- Set and uphold the expectations that our drivers will make good choices on track and take care of themselves and each other
  - Same Team Mentality
- Walk the fine line between cheerleader & disciplinarian
- Support person not just for each driver, but for the entire group

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Before We Go Hot

- Help with setup
- Help with check-in
  - Speeds things up & gives you face time with drivers
- Be available and answer questions
- Keep an eye out for lost souls and interesting characters

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Drivers Meeting

- Good Drivers Meeting
  - Empowers people to have a good experience
  - Sets expectations
- Bad Drivers Meeting
  - “Don’t do X, Y, & Z.”
  - Creates tension, inspires people to “misbehave” and leads to more incidents

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Good Drivers Meetings

- Use humor to build rapport
- Humanize the staff and other drivers
- Only give them the information they need
- Ask the participants for buy-in
- Practice your spiel ahead of time
- Vary your tone and cadence
- Pay attention to your phrasing
- Keep it short
- Have the best person for the job give the meeting

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Drivers Meeting

- Thanks & welcome
- Introduce important people & Region
- Partner shoutouts (esp. featured partners)
- Intro to Track Night and event flow, drivers meeting info page in packet
- This is not a race - Same Team
- Passing Rules
- Spins, 2 offs, 4 offs, SLOCs - Come into pits
- Track specific rules (how to get to grid, etc.)
- Thanks again. Where to go for questions & have a great time!

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On Grid

- Walk the line while your group is on grid and touch base with them.
    - Ex. Table-touching like a restaurant manager
- Use a white-board with “Show Me Your Point-Bys” while they’re on grid before their first session
- Subtly check helmet buckles, stuff loose in the car, windows, seatbelts, wristbands, stickers, etc.

Cars On Course

Goal: Facilitate an excellent on-track experience for the group

- Observe the cars on course and call for blue & black flags when necessary
- When to call Blue
- When to call Black

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Pit Lane Talks - Spins, etc.

Goal: Help the driver understand what caused the spin and how to prevent it in the future, then get them in a good mindset to go back out on track

- How are you doing? vs. What'd you do?
- How long?
- Check the car

Pit Lane Talks - Black Flags

Goal: Help the driver understand why you called for a black flag on them and how to change their negative behavior

- Adapt to each driver
- Start with “How’s it going out there?”
- Give them the tools they need to fix the issue
  - Traffic management pro tips
  - Importance of looking for flags & where/ how to find them
  - Etc.

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When to Debrief

- If there are more challenges than can be handled by black flags during a session, you may need to call a debrief for Advanced or Intermediate drivers.
- Start with what you saw and acknowledge it didn't look fun for anyone. Talk through the ways they can fix these problems. Empower them to make it better as a group.
- Have one-on-ones with any specific problem drivers between sessions.

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Challenges

- The Three Stage Chat
  - Reset Expectations
  - Please Work With Me
  - This Might Not Be Your Night
- Super Slow Drivers
- Language Barriers
- Drivers that need to/want to change groups

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Wrapping Up the Event

- Help the team with tear down.
- Check on any drivers who had car struggles during their track time.
  - If their car broke down, do they have a way to get home figured out?

Pro Tips

- Use a voice amplifier during your meetings
- Use the whiteboard on grid/pit lane any time it could be helpful
    - Encouragement, track conditions, helpful suggestions
- Keep an eye out for drivers who are struggling and get them the support they need
- Encourage anyone who is new to that track to join Novice Pace Laps

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We Are Your Resources

- Get stuck or have a question come up that you aren't sure how to answer?
- Ask the Event Lead whenever possible, but if you need help, call or text one of us:
  - **Kathy** - 860-841-5083
  - **Courtney** - 512-289-0764
  - **Jenny** - 785-608-4490

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Questions?

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Thank you so much!

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