

Autoslalom (Autocross) How Do I Join In?

Autocross or Autoslalom is an extremely inexpensive and safe way to participate in competitive motorsports. As opposed to many other forms of motorsport, its focus is driving and not spectating. In general, most safe, street legal cars can compete with or without any significant modifications. There are various classes based on the car and the level of modifications, so a stock Honda won't have to compete against a fully prepared Porsche.

Most sedans, coupes, and wagons are eligible for entry, provided they're in sound shape, have serviceable brakes, and that the tires are in decent condition. SUVs, CUVs, trucks, and other vehicles with higher centre of gravity are generally disallowed for safety reasons. All clubs do a quick technical inspection at the start of every event. They don't let cars out on course with loose batteries, broken muffler hangers, or bad tires (to name a couple of things that might be checked).

Autoslalom (autocross) events are "Time Trial" style competitions; there is no wheel to wheel racing involved, as cars are sent out one at a time, or at least spaced out so that they will not come into any contact with each other. The course is laid out on a large chunk of asphalt or concrete (or sometimes a mixture of both.) The course is lined with plastic cones. A box is drawn around the base of the cone; this box is to allow the cone to be replaced correctly if it is disturbed, and to allow corner workers to determine if a driver has disturbed it enough to acquire a 2 second penalty. The driver's goal is to complete the course in the fastest time without hitting any of the cones.

What do I need to compete? As well as a car you need the following:

- Pre-registration for the event is almost always required. Look for the local club's social media accounts for event information.
- A driver's license.
- A safety helmet (If you don't have one, clubs usually have loaner helmets).
- Extra air in your tires. Stop at a gas station and fill your tires to approximately 45psi-Front/35psi-Rear for a front-wheel-drive car, or 40psi all around for a rear-wheel-drive car.
- Suitable shoes for driving. They should be closed toe, with a light narrow sole which does not stick out past the side of the shoe.
- Clothes appropriate for the weather forecast, plus a change for when the forecast is wrong.

A typical day starts with driver check-in, course walks, driver meeting and competition runs. Every participant is expected to assist in the running of the event and work assignments are given out based on your experience. Novice drivers can expect to be paired up with an experienced driver, who will ride along during competition runs.

When you are on your rest break it can be very helpful to ask for rides with experienced drivers. By riding with other drivers, you can get a better understanding of how to conduct your own runs. Most drivers are very open to having ride-alongs as long as they are not experiencing any car issues or testing setups. Beginners are most



welcome, and senior drivers will always lend a helping hand, offer driving tips, and offer a ride in their car. Don't be afraid to ask.

The most important thing is to have FUN!!

If you have any questions about where you can Autocross, or what is needed please contact caccwim@gmail.com for more information.