

A Quick Reference Guide to Arrival at the Course

Class letters & car numbers;

So you've figured out what class your Miata is in and you're ready to get to it. You'll need your class letters & car numbers, but painter's tape on the doors is frowned upon as it's hard to read and occasionally peels off mid-course...so no tape numbers. For your first time out, print out your class letters and numbers on your printer, or with a marker on paper. The whole paper can be securely taped onto the door. Have your letters & numbers ready to go when you arrive. The class letters must be at least 4" tall and your numbers must be at least 8" tall. You'll also need an 8" tall "R", for rookie. Hint; when you do your numbers you won't know exactly what numbers are available for you, so make a couple of numeral 1s along with your desired number. That way you can make a "6" into 16, 61, 116, 161, 611, 911, 19....you get the point, be ready to be adaptable. Once you're established, you can make a set from magnetic sheet material.

Clean out your car;

This will be done in the paddock (paddock = fancy word for parking lot) before you report to the tech inspection. It's easiest to do this at home, when you build a pile of your car stuff in your parking spot in paddock, it will not be touched by anyone.

If it ain't bolted down, out it comes. Before tech inspection you'll need to clean out your car. Remove all items from the cockpit, radar detectors, cell phones, anything that might float around or come loose on the course. Floor mats can jam under the pedals, pull them out unless they're really, really secure. Same with the trunk, clean it out.

Tech Inspection;

There are two things that you MUST do, before being allowed to race. Tech inspection is one of them. The tech inspection takes place in the grid area, you'll see the line of cars with the hood & trunk lids up, this is the tech inspection. Once your car is cleaned out, the numbers are on it and you have your helmet...drive over to tech & get in line. Your car will be inspected for safety and you'll get a sticker on your windshield. If it's the first time for your helmet, that too will get a sticker. Your car will get a sticker for each event but the helmet gets a yearly sticker, you still must present the helmet each time you tech your car.

Registration;

When you arrived, you signed the waiver at the gate & got your wrist-band. Registration is for all racers and registration is the second thing that you MUST do before you can race. Registration is at the white trailer that'll be parked fairly close to the start line for the event in the grassy area. It's pretty obvious, follow everyone else and there's usually a small cluster of vehicles parked around it too. Go there, stand in line, let them know that you're there & pay if you already have not paid on-line. Even if you've registered & paid on-line you MUST visit the trailer so that they know you're actually on-site. You & your car will otherwise not be entered in the scoring computer and you will not race.

Course Walk;

For rookies, there is a special track tour given by senior autocrossers who have some expertise and are willing to share it. You'll meet at the starting line & will be driven around the track, stopping at corners & cone sections to discuss the best line to use and how to follow the course that's laid out by the cones. While not required, **DO THIS**. You'll see the experienced drivers out walking the course, discussing it and sometimes even taking notes.

The course at Dragway 42 is not your normal autocross course, our course is on the access roads around the drag strip. This gives us a nice long road to follow, which makes following where you're supposed to be going much easier. We also get a nice long course, sometimes over a mile in length, so be prepared for a nice walk. Many racers use scooters, bikes, skate-boards, in-line skates even electric scooters to get around. Rich has a fold up scooter that fits in the Miata trunk for transportation around the grounds.

Driver's Meeting:

This is the last thing to be done before the fun begins, once you finish the course walk just amble over to the trailer & sooner or later the meeting will get going. Here you'll be told about the rules (again), pertinent announcements will be made & ASCC officers will blather on about whatever they feel is important. What you really need to know is when your run group is racing, it'll be posted on the side of the trailer as well.

And Now We Wait.....

So you're registered, the car & helmet both have their appropriate tech stickers, you've done the course walk and attended the driver's meeting. You do know when your run group is....right?

Now what? First of all, remember what class you're in, you'll be running with your class so be sure to pay attention to when your class is racing. Normally there are upwards of 130+ cars autocrossing, so we're broken up into 3 or 4 run groups to keep the groups at a manageable size. At the drivers meeting it will be announced when all of the classes will be racing.

If your class is in the first run group, you'll have to get your car to grid ASAP & follow the directions of the grid master. If your class is not running first, use the time to observe how the grid & start works. Find one of us & ask if you're not sure.

When you're not racing, you have some time off, it's suggested that you relax, while you relax it would be to go for a ride with someone else who is racing to see what to expect when you go out on your own. Find one of us & ask...

You can also volunteer to work out on the course, or with an escort, you can get out on the course to observe from outside the car, ask one of us & we'll go out with you. Working the course is an experience that you'll learn a lot from.

Or you can sit up on the hill & watch how the other drivers run the course, wander the paddock & see the other cars, talk to other Miata drivers about their cars & how they're set up, if the drag racers are running you can sit in the stands & watch them.

Whatever you do....pay attention to when you'll be running & don't be late.

Food:

There are food trucks on site or you can bring your own food.

Bring:

Bring all of the normal outdoor-in-a-Miata stuff (sun-screen, hat, generally anything to keep you from becoming a crispy critter from the sun). Walking shoes, (you'll be doing a lot of walking) chair, water, food and if you're allergic to walking scooter or bike.

Tools that you might want:

Whatever tools you'll need to prep your Miata, tire pressure gauge, glass cleaner, rags & hand cleaner. Since you're not changing tires there's not much that you'll NEED, so no need to bring your 6 ft. tall Snap-On tool chest.