

Revised: 2012, Vaccaro
Revised: 2008, Ursprung
Revised: 2007, Hansen

Drivers Education Advancement

“Sign-off” refers to the time when students are deemed ready to drive without an instructor, in their current run group; “Advancing” refers to moving up to the next level run group. In general, sign-offs may be initiated by a student who requests a review of his or her skills by an instructor at the track. Alternatively, an instructor may recommend sign-off, after a discussion with the student. An instructor has the latitude to allow his or her student to drive solo simply by informing Control of the sign-off. A signed-off student (Yellow) may drive solo for the remaining runs for that day. Students signed-off for a day or a session do not advance, or cease to require an instructor. One-day sign-offs are typical when the instructor and student agree it will be beneficial for the student to run alone for a session(s), yet still require additional instruction at future events. Whereas “sign-off” means ready to drive without an instructor, Advancement means ready to drive in the next higher run group. This is a much more significant step than sign-off and therefore requires two separate instructor check out rides -- one in the current group and one in the higher group -- plus approval of the Chief Instructor.

Changes in run groups are for the student’s first event following the two check out rides and Chief Instructor approval. A student may request advancement consideration during the event registration process by contacting the Registrar, or by asking the Chief Instructor at an event. The student will be expected to present a record of CVR and other track experience, and follow the process for securing the necessary check out rides.

Advancement from Green to Yellow Run Group

Drivers new to the program can expect to spend a minimum of 5 instructed days in the Green Run group with, or under, observation by an instructor. To be considered for advancement to the Yellow Run Group, the student must demonstrate that they:

- Know the line and drive it with consistency
- Provide smooth inputs for car control (steering, braking, and shifting)
- Drive at an appropriate speed for the run group
- Can identify minor mistakes and self-correct
- Develop an awareness of flag stations and flag meanings
- Show good anticipation of all “on track” situations
- Look “through the corners” and well down track
- Keep a safe distance from other cars
- Handle all aspects of passing, or being passed in a safe, courteous manner
- Display full knowledge of CVR safety procedures, flags, and driving terminology
- Exhibit a positive and safe attitude, which complies with CVR’s DE philosophy

Advancement from Yellow to White Run Group

Drivers in Yellow are expected to polish their driving skills, increase their confidence and judgment, and learn more advanced techniques as a pre-requisite to being promoted to White. Under normal circumstances, a Yellow student should expect to spend 5 “instructed” days in Yellow, and an additional 10 “solo” days in Yellow before consideration for advancement to White. During the time spent in solo Yellow, the student is expected to seek out a minimum of 5 sessions of instruction. Promotion to White also requires 2 separate check out rides -- one in Yellow and one in White. To be considered for advancement to the White Run Group, the driver must demonstrate that they:

- Drive the line consistently, using the full track
- Brake and accelerate very smoothly
- Have mastered “heel and toe”
- Are no longer dependent on “turn in,” “apex,” or “track out” cones
- Demonstrate competent car control and recovery skills when needed
- Automatically use proper hand signals and sound judgment during all passing situations, as well as courtesy to other drivers
- Calmly deal with speed differentials within their run group

- Have a driving record and attitude consistent with CVR's DE Philosophy Advancement from White to Black Run Group

Advancement from White to Black Run Group

Drivers in the Black Run Group are expected to be expert in all the driving skills taught by CVR. The experienced Black driver should be indistinguishable from the average driver in the Red Instructor Run Group. In fact, some Black Run Group drivers are CVR Instructors who choose to remain in Black to help CVR manage work assignments and balance our run group car counts. White drivers seeking advancement to Black need to recognize that while they have probably acquired the skills necessary to perform in an acceptable manner, there is another driving dimension on to master, and that is judgment, which can only be obtained through "seat time". Therefore under normal circumstances, students in the White group should plan to drive in White for 12 days, including a minimum of 4 student requested instructed sessions plus 2 check out sessions – one each in White and Black. To be considered for advancement to the Black Run Group, drivers must demonstrate that they:

- Drive the line flawlessly and effortlessly
- Can alter their line when and where necessary
- Can demonstrate the "rain line" and understand the concepts of that line
- Provide very smooth inputs at all speeds
- Demonstrate expert vision skills by looking well ahead, continuously scanning down-track for points of emerging information
- Understand and can carry considerable momentum through corners
- Have mastered trail braking, throttle steer, and heel-and-toe
- Can handle closeness of other cars without losing focus
- Drive at a pace appropriate for the run group and are approaching the limits of their cars
- Always drive in a non-aggressive manner and are respectful and courteous to other drivers

Criteria for CVR Instructors

The Chief Instructor and CVR Track Committee continuously observe and identify Black Run Group drivers with the potential to become DE instructors based upon their personality on and off the track, their ability to communicate, and their driving skills.

Candidates are observed and assessed by multiple means prior to being invited to become instructor candidates. The minimum driving experience requirements are 40 track days over 3-5 years, with at least 10 track days in Black.

Examples of the characteristics and abilities we are looking for in potential instructors include:

Personality and Character traits

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Treatment of all drivers as peers and with respect
- Willingness to commit to a reasonable number of DE events each season
- A recognition that people learn in different ways
- A mature attitude within the "competitive" track environment

Instructor Driving Skills

- Demonstrates continuous and total awareness of driving environment
- Drives the line effortlessly and consistently with perfect turn-in, apex and track-out points lap, after lap
- Demonstrates ability to communicate while driving at Black Run Group speed
- Knows the limitations of their car, consistently drives within that limit
- Anticipates and recognizes potential problems with other drivers and cars
- Reacts instantly to abnormal/undesirable car movements

Instructor candidates attend four classroom sessions augmented by up to three track days of in-car role playing where they instruct seasoned CVR instructors. After successfully demonstrating his or her ability to instruct, each candidate is elevated to Provisional Instructor status, and begins instructing students while being mentored by an experienced CVR Instructor. Mentors meet frequently with the instructor candidates during events to provide support and coaching as necessary. After completing six track days instructing students, the instructor candidate is

then typically ready to take the National DE Instructor Certification written exam and on-track evaluation. Upon passing the exam and on-track evaluation, the provisional instructor is elevated to full CVR Instructor status.

See you at the track!