

# The Audi Club Golden Gate Chapter Instructor Program

The Audi Club Golden Gate Chapter Instructor Program has been created to ensure consistency and quality of instruction at club events.

This document is intended to provide some expectations and guidance for all instructors, not an all encompassing absolute checklist of must have requirements. Experience from other clubs/organizations and forms of instruction and motor sports may be taken into consideration.

The Club's Instructor Committee will be responsible for making the evaluation of instructor status and communicating that to the instructors. Due to the vastly diverse levels of experience and participation, the committee will make a best subjective effort to place instructors appropriately. We encourage you to discuss any questions related to the instructor program, your experience, etc. with the Instructor committee.

The Club has identified two levels of instructors:

**Instructors:** These are the core of our excellent instructor community and most instructors will be a member of this category

**Senior Instructor:** The Senior Instructor level has been created to identify Club Instructors who have advanced instructing experience, extensive driving / vehicular knowledge and also go above and beyond and make a significant contribution to the operation of the club and its events.

## The Basics (Expected of all instructors):

### Professionalism:

- All instructors are expected to project a positive and supportive attitude towards the club, its events and other club members while in the presence of students. This is not an attempt to squelch free expression, but a reminder that the student experience is heavily influenced by instructor attitude and that “stuff happens” at events and it is in everyone’s best interest to remain as positive as possible and help get through the “stuff.”
- All instructors are expected to be aware of the event schedule and take responsibility for making sure they and their students are early or on-time for scheduled meetings, classroom, and on-track sessions.
- Instructors should know where their students are paddocked and ensure their students know where they are paddocked. If possible, make an effort to be near each other.
- Instructors are expected to make clear plans with all of their students as to where and when they will meet when it is time for students to go on-track. This is especially critical for student sessions that immediately follow instructor sessions. Students should never come to grid/staging saying “I don't know where my instructor is.”
- When behind the wheel, instructors will demonstrate the best safety driving behaviors that we are teaching. On track “incidents” should be few and far between. “Showing off” will not be tolerated.
- Instructors should have a positive pattern of instructor evaluations and student feedback.
- Instructors need to be confident and assertive as needed while providing instruction to keep all event participants as safe as possible.

## **The Basics (Expected of all instructors) Continued:**

### **Communication:**

Communication skills are key to good instruction and smooth club and event operations. Instructors should:

- Use standard club driving terminology consistent with what is taught during classroom sessions and ensure students understand the terminology being used.
- Talk “in front” of the car about upcoming driver actions and track conditions. Don't dwell on past errors.
- Clearly explain and discuss driving skills used on track and exercises and relate them to everyday driving.
- Provide encouragement and positive reinforcement to students whenever possible.
- Ensure students can hear your instruction through the use of “headsets”, open face helmets, etc.
- Communicate to other instructors and club/event staff in a constructive and timely manner related to any student or other issues including but not limited to:
  - Passing practices, or other on-track issues.
  - Your availability to instruct due to student no-show, student solo, vehicle issue, motion sickness, etc.
  - Vehicle/equipment issues or other obligations that might impact your ability to work with your students.
  - Student incompatibility or unwillingness to follow instruction or drive in a safe manner.
- Encourage your students to be early and attend all meetings and classroom session.
- Complete detailed evaluations including next steps for each student and discuss them with students.

### **Knowledge & Skills:**

Instructors are expected to be able to knowledgeably discuss and teach automotive topics as well as demonstrate and instruct driving skills.

- Terminology/environment: All terms used in classroom materials, exercises and track related including but not limited to: Turn-in, Apex, Track Out, Brake markers, Run off, Blend area, Worker stations, flags, etc.
- Vision: Looking where you want to end up
- Braking (ABS, threshold, modulation, smoothness, progressive application, fade)
- Steering/cornering ( Hand position, 3 & 9 O'clock, smoothness, progressive turn-in)
- Throttle (Timing, smoothness)
- The Line and/or how to find it (Wet and Dry)
- Seating position
- Tire pressures
- Lug Torque

### **Experience:**

Instructors are expected to have reasonable level of driving and instructing experience to include most or all of the following:

- Completed and passed a ACNA Instructor Clinic
- Participated as a student at a minimum of 10 Audi Club events
- Participated as a student and soloed at a minimum of 4 different tracks.
- Driven in AWD, RWD, FWD vehicles and aware of the differences in handling and response
- Driven or Instructed with other chapters/clubs and/or organizations (Experience outside of the chapter or ACNA is not required but may be considered by the instructor committee as part of someone's overall experience).
- Had no or very few on-track driving issues including passing infractions, offs, spins. Excessive issues will be cause for immediate revocation of instructor status.
- Maintained your instructor status by having instructed at a minimum of one ACNA event in the past eighteen months.

## **Senior Instructors:**

In addition to the Basics, Senior instructors show an additional level of commitment to club activities and event operation as well as having advanced instruction and driving skills and the ability to clearly communicate those to individual and even groups of students.

### **Leadership:**

Senior instructors are expected to step up to additional responsibilities at events and within the club to assist event staff and help ensure smooth event and club operation. This may take many forms some of which are listed below and participation in each and every one is not expected.

- Event planning / preparation
- Registration
- Tech Inspections
- Exercise setup / tear down
- Exercise coordinator/leader
- Classroom instruction
- Grid/Staging Control
- Run group leadership
- Mentor new instructors / Visiting instructor

### **Knowledge & Skills:**

Senior instructors are expected to be able to knowledgeably discuss and teach advanced driving topics as well as demonstrate and instruct advanced driving skills. (Some of these skills \* are not appropriate for students to learn at our events and are more appropriate to be practiced initially on the street with no traffic in the immediate area.)

- Vehicle Setup
  - Tire Pressures
  - Alignment
  - Weight Distribution
  - Vehicle Dynamics
  - Slip Angles
- Trail Braking
- Throttle Steering
- \* Heel-Toe
- Wet Line
- Course/Line Analysis
- AWD/RWD/FWD differences

### **Experience:**

Senior instructors are expected to have a broad level of driving and instructing experience.

- Instructed at a minimum of 15 Audi Club events.
- Instructed at a minimum of 4 different tracks
- Instructed and driven in AWD, RWD, FWD
- Instructed with other ACNA chapters, clubs and/or organizations (reviewed by instructor committee).
- Instructed at a minimum of two ACNA events in the last eighteen months.