



# General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

## WHAT IS A TIME-SPEED-DISTANCE (“TSD”) RALLY?

A TSD rally is not a race; rather it is a contest in which a team consisting of a driver and a navigator combine driving, observational, mathematical, and communication skills (as well as patience) in the negotiation of a prescribed road course at prescribed speeds. The main objective is to stay on course following a set of route instructions that each team receives before the start of the rally. The route instructions define what route to follow and what average speeds to maintain. Rally scores are determined by timing the arrival of each rally car at points along the rally route and comparing the times against the official rally time. These timing points are called Checkpoints.

Rally teams may encounter traps along the route. Traps are used by the Rally Masters to entice rally teams to deviate from the true rally route or to proceed at a speed that varies from the official average speed. Planned traps will usually loop back onto the rally route or off course notifications will bring you back to the rally route.

At the conclusion of the rally, participants gather at a designated endpoint.

## RICHTA APP

The Richta app will be used for PCA RSR Region rallies. The Richta App performs a very basic function of noting the time at which competitors pass specific checkpoints defined by the Rally Master, and reporting how well the competitor achieved the “perfect time” for that leg of the Rally. The App does not measure, calculate, or report your speed, and does not impact in any way how you drive the Rally; it simply keeps score along the way. All competitors will need to have one Apple or Android smartphone in the vehicle running the Richta app during the rally in order to keep track of their progress. This smartphone should not be used for any other applications during the rally; it is recommended (but not required) to have a second phone available in the vehicle for making or receiving calls from the Rally Master in case of any issues during the event.

We will provide separate guidance on installing and registering the App prior to the event, and will assist and ensure the app is running properly before you start the rally. Don’t be intimidated by the App—once installed it’s very simple and you really don’t need to even think about it once it’s running.

## SAFETY

Competitors should operate their vehicle in a safe manner, following applicable traffic laws at all times.

The rally will provide average speeds to maintain over a specific portion of the course. This does not mean that the driver should operate the vehicle at this speed at all times! If there is a sharp corner, a foreign object or pothole on the road, an animal, poor road conditions, bicyclists, etc., SLOW DOWN! The average speed is typically set somewhat below the speed limit to give competitors some ability to account for minor slowdowns, and competitors are always free to take time allowances (TA) to account for larger slowdowns without any penalty.

Obey all posted speed limits. If the specified average speed is higher than the posted limit (due to an error by the Rally Master, or a temporary posted limit), follow the posted limit and take a time



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allowance. At the completion of the rally, you can discuss the issue with the Rally Master and the leg can be rescored or eliminated from scoring entirely if needed.

### PRE-EVENT AND DAY-OF STARTING PROCEDURE

Prior to the event, rally teams register (one registration per car). The Rally Masters will send or otherwise make available to all registrants the following documents:

- These General Instructions (common to all events)
- Supplemental General Instructions (specific for the event)
- Additional materials (Richta app instructions, Rally School info or recordings, etc.)

On the day of the rally, each rally team will check in at the starting location for the following:

- Sign the PCA waivers (if not done already). For any minors, ensure that both parents are available to sign—if this is not possible contact the registrar or Rally Masters in advance.
- Receive the Special Instructions, which include any last-minute information, as well as the information required to log into the event in the Richta App.
- Receive an assigned car number which determines the order in which you will start the rally and how you will be tracked in the Richta App.

Once teams are checked in, there will be a general meeting for all participants to review safety procedures and any specific event details. Each team will be assigned an official start time based on their assigned car number; Route Instructions (“RI”) will be available to each rally team no less than 10 minutes prior to the rally team’s official start time. Rally Masters will provide details on starting location and procedure.

### ODOMETER CHECK LEG

All RSR rallies will begin with an untimed leg, for which official rally mileage will be provided. The purpose of this leg is to permit rallyists to compare their vehicle odometer with the official rally mileage so they can determine whether they would like to account for any differences during the timed rally.

New rallyists may freely ignore odometer corrections—they are not likely to have a significant impact on your results! Just treat the odometer leg as a bit of easy untimed practice in route following and communications before the timed rally starts.



# General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

## COURSE DIRECTIONS

There are multiple possible sources of instructions for any given Rally. If there is any conflict between the instructions, competitors should give priority in the following order (1=highest, 6=lowest):

1. Posted or other standard traffic rules. Valid instructions will never direct competitors to operate the vehicle in violation of legal limits or in an unsafe manner.
2. SI = Special Instructions, singular or plural
3. SGI = Supplemental General Instructions, singular or plural
4. GI = General Instructions, singular or plural
5. RI = Route Instructions, singular or plural
6. MRR = Main Road Rules, singular or plural

**SI (Special Instructions):** SI may be contained in supplements distributed at the start of the rally, or may be provided during the rally via the Richta app or text messaging or other communication directly from the Rally Master. The intent of Special Instructions is to communicate late changes to the event, correct errors, adapt for unanticipated road conditions, etc.; there is no intent to trick the competitors. Special Instructions become active immediately and remain active until they are completely executed or cancelled by another SI.

Please read Special Instructions carefully—they are provided to help you! If you do not understand the SI's, please contact the Rally Master or other contacts provided to ensure they are followed as they could be important for safety, to prevent you getting lost, etc.

**SGI (Supplemental General Instructions aka Supplementals):** The Supplementals provide additions, clarifications or changes to the General Instructions for a specific event. SGI's will be distributed electronically prior to the event; participants should read them even if they have done Rally Sport events previously.

**GI (General Instructions):** What you are reading now. These are general rules for all Rally Sport Region rallies; the GI's remain in effect for all RSR rally events until superseded.

**RI (Route Instructions):** The specific directional and speed information required to follow a specific rally route and timing. RI's are distributed immediately prior to the start of the event, at a fixed time interval prior to each competitor's official start time. This is to ensure each team has the same opportunity to review the RI's before they start the rally.

- Each RI is to be completely executed at the earliest possible opportunity. Each RI must be completed in its entirety before the next RI can be executed.
- A single RI will cover no more than four miles. If you have driven more than four miles since the last valid route instruction, this is an indication you either off-course or have missed one or more RI's. This rule does not apply in transit zones.



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

- A RI may require more than one action (for instance, may include both a directional instruction and a speed change). Completely execute each action required by the RI in the sequence given before considering the next RI.
- All RI's are self-contained and complete. For instance, an RI stating to drive 0.5 miles means 0.5 miles since the completion of the previous RI, not 0.5 miles since the beginning of the rally, the last checkpoint, etc.
- A RI that describes a road, intersection, sign, or other landmark that does not contain a directional instruction is meant to be observation only and is considered complete by merely observing the road, intersection, sign or other landmark.
- Information in parentheses (like this) in a RI is intended to be helpful, but not essential for the completion of that RI. This information is never intended to mislead or trick the rallyists.
- Unless otherwise specifically noted, standard US units are used for all instructions:
  - Speeds are provided in miles per hour
  - Distances are listed in miles
  - Times listed are in seconds. Fractions of a second are not used.

### MRR (Main Road Rules):

The basic rules to follow when there isn't a specific route instruction (for instance, we don't tell you to go straight past every road—we just give a MRR that says go straight as possible). The rally route follows the Main Road Rules unless a Route Instruction taking you in a different direction can be executed. MRR will be listed in the SGI for each event.

### REDUNDANCY

In theory, we should not give you a route instruction that you should be following anyway—that would be redundant. However, there may be some times where we do that, either intentionally because we want to be really sure you understand, or unintentionally because we just missed it. **For our rallies, follow these redundant instructions as written. There is no attempt to use redundant instructions to trick the rallyists.**

### ROADS

**The rally route consists solely of public, paved, through roads except when specifically instructed otherwise.**

- Roads marked No Outlet, Not Through, Dead End, etc. do not exist for the purpose of the rally and should be ignored.
- Treat any unpaved road, private road, alley, driveway, or entrance to business as non-existent unless specifically told to use it.



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

### SIGNS

Signs are an important part of any rally. Many of the RI's will refer to signs that you see along the route.

- **All references to signs are in quotes (“Green Rd”, “Low Bridge”, etc.).**
- Reference may be to a portion of the sign (for instance, a RI referencing “Low Bridge” would apply to a sign which said in full “Low Bridge Ahead”), but only complete words are used (“Green” would refer to a sign which said ‘Green Landscaping’, but would not apply to a sign that said ‘Greenhouse Ahead’). References are contiguous (“Low Bridge” would not apply to a sign that said ‘Low Hanging Bridge’).
- **Spelling must be exact.** (“Green Rd” would not apply to a sign which said ‘Green Road’ or ‘Gruen Rd’).
- Punctuation, capitalization, and spacing, are irrelevant. “Green” would apply to sign which read ‘green’, ‘Green’, ‘GREEN’, ‘Green!’, etc.
- Artwork is irrelevant unless specific images are provided (if a left arrow sign is being used, the RI will have a representative image of a left arrow sign. If the RI refers to “Left Arrow”, it would refer to a sign with the text ‘Left Arrow’, not to a sign with a picture of a left arrow.).
- Signs may be in front of you, to the right of you or to the left of you. You will never have to turn around to read a sign.
- If there are multiple signs on the same post, the RI will refer to only one of the signs. Note that only one RI can be executed on any single sign post.
- Signs painted on the road surface, attached to vehicles or on mailboxes are not used.
- Temporary signs (including realtor signs, temporary road construction signs, garage sale or similar signs, etc.) are not used.
- RI's referencing signs should be executed at the location of the sign unless other reference (after, before, etc.) is given in the RI.



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

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### LANDMARKS

Landmarks are points, objects, or features (including roads) other than signs.

- **Landmarks are referenced in all caps (GREEN, BRIDGE, etc.).**
- Landmarks used on a rally are always identified by a sign. BRIDGE would only apply to a specific bridge if it has a visible sign labeling it as such. This means you don't have to try to determine whether an overpass is a BRIDGE, whether a synagogue is a CHURCH, etc.; if there is a visible permanent sign saying it's a church, then it's a CHURCH, otherwise it isn't.
- Partial names may be used to identify landmarks. For instance, the Mackinac Bridge (assuming it has a sign saying "Mackinac Bridge") could be identified as MACKINAC, BRIDGE, or MACKINAC BRIDGE.
- RI's referencing landmarks should be executed based on the location of the physical object, not the sign.
  - At GREEN RD CAST 30 would mean you should change speed when you pass Green Rd (the road itself, not a sign before it)
  - For references to large buildings or locations (CHURCH, CEMETARY), location should be obvious main entrance; we will not use an unclear location to trick you.



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

### COURSE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions may be included in the Main Road Rules, Route Instructions, or Special Instructions. These cover basic rules for how to navigate an intersection. If these rules are included in the MRR, they apply in the priority given for the entire route unless specifically overridden in a Route Instruction or Special Instruction. If included in RI, the rule only applies until the next RI is completed unless otherwise noted (for instance, could state “Follow the Lined Road until RI#17”). Note that following these rules may result in you changing the named road on which you are traveling; if the rally master did not wish for this to occur a different RI (“Continue on PARK”, “Left at Y”, etc.) would be given. Additional course following terms are included in the Glossary.

- **FOLLOW THE LINED ROAD.** When this rule is active, you should proceed through the intersection following the road as defined by the painted centerline. Note that it is common in “y” intersections for the centerline to be interrupted in the middle of the intersection; follow the direction as indicated as if the centerline were unbroken.
- **STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE.** When this rule is active, you should proceed through the intersection in the straightest direction possible.
- **LEFT (or RIGHT) AT T OR Y.** For T or Y shaped intersections, where you are approaching on the main stem and only options are left or right, neither of the two above rules would apply. Therefore we may provide a default rule (either left or right) which would apply when you approach a T or Y- junction. As stated, this rule only applies when you are on the “stem” of the T or Y; if you are on either of the other legs this is not considered a T or Y junction and other following rules would apply.
- **PAUSE XX AT STOP** (where XX is time in seconds). It is common for Rally Masters to include pause intervals at stop signs. This gives the competitor a nominal amount of time to account for slowing down at the stop sign, verifying clear to proceed, and accelerating back up to CAST. This instruction may be included in the MRR or in the RI. If the MRR includes this instruction, it applies to all STOPS on the route. If there is an RI which also includes a PAUSE AT STOP instruction, it replaces the MRR for that specific RI (don’t add the two pauses together).



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

Updated May 2025; In effect until changed.

### CHECKPOINTS

Checkpoints are used for scoring portions (legs) of the rally, defining both the start and end of a timed leg. For Rally Sport Region events, checkpoints are not physically marked on the route; checkpoints will be identified on the Richta app as you drive past. Checkpoint locations may or may not be identified in the RIs. Do not stop when you reach a checkpoint unless a RI instructs you to do so; continue to follow RIs as written.

When you cross a checkpoint, the Richta app will display your time into the checkpoint and notify you of how many seconds you are off the Official Rally Time (“ORT”), if any. At this point your time for that leg is complete; it is too late to try to fix it! All PCA Rallies score each leg independently—once you cross a checkpoint, that leg is final, and your time for the next leg starts over as zero.

### TRANSIT ZONE

A Transit Zone (“TZ”) is an unscored portion of the rally which is clearly communicated in the RIs. In these areas, guidance instructions are given to ensure rallyists get to where they need to go, but speeds are free. A Transit Zone may be indicated to get through a short section of road where maintaining ideal speeds would be impossible (for instance where there are crowded intersections, stop lights, etc.), or a longer section where competitors may stop for fuel, restroom, etc. There will be a maximum time designated for each Transit Zone which is necessary to ensure the Rally proceeds on schedule. The RI’s may indicate that competitors need to leave the Transit Zone at a specific time, or may simply give a “no later than” instruction in which case it is acceptable to leave early. There may be more than one Transit Zone in a rally.

### OFF-COURSE

If you are off course, you may or may not be notified by the Richta app. If you enter an off-course checkpoint, you may be assessed penalty points; this will be noted in the SGI for the specific event.

If you go off-course and become lost, go back to the last instruction where you know you were on course and try again. Do not follow another Porsche as they may also be off course or may be working on a different part of the RI or they may not be participating in the rally. If you cannot figure out how to get back on course, contact the Rally Masters for directions.





## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

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### TIME ALLOWANCES

The purpose of the time delay allowance is to recognize that things occur on rallies where the competitors will fall behind the target time, and it is unsafe to try to “make it up” by speeding or dangerous driving on public roads. Rallyists can and should use a time delay allowance any time they fall behind schedule. Reasons for a time delay allowance request may include:

- To account for pauses at stop signs, traffic control devices.
- Police, except for traffic violations.
- Blockage of the rally course by trains, accidents, cattle, etc.
- Stopping to aid another motorist, to give aid at an accident or to give information to local authorities.
- Deviations from the prescribed route or prescribed CAST.
- If you find yourself holding up other drivers- pull safely off the road, let the drivers pass, and take a time allowance to account for your delay.
- If another driver is holding you up. Instead of riding someone’s bumper hoping they will go 1 MPH faster, simply pull safely off the road, or pause longer at a STOP (if no one is behind), to build a gap, and take a time allowance to account for the delay.
- Any other problem encountered that puts the rally car off schedule.

Because you don’t typically know where the checkpoints will be, and because the timing for the leg is final when you cross the checkpoint, it is crucial to take the time delay as soon as you incur it. Once you cross a checkpoint, that leg is over and you see your score; at that point it’s too late and you’re on to the next leg.

Instructions on how to use the app to take time delays are discussed in the Richta app supplemental instructions.

### SCORING

Scoring is done instantly by the Richta app as you pass a checkpoint. Your time into the checkpoint will display, followed by your variance from the ORT. You will be assessed a penalty point for each second you are too early or too late into the checkpoint. At this point, your leg times are final, but your scores are provisional; it is possible that the Rally Master may find issues with the ideal times, or may need to assess penalties, which would adjust scoring.

If a team believes there is an error in scoring, they must notify the Rally Masters as soon as possible upon their return at the end of the rally. Once all participants have returned, RM’s will make every effort to finalize results and announce winners quickly; once that has occurred results will be considered final.

Scoring is always assessed as 1 point per second early or late at a checkpoint. Maximum timing errors per checkpoint, penalties for off-course, etc. will be specified in the SGI’s.



## General Instructions for PCA Rally Sport Region Rally

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### PROTESTS

Rally Sport Region events are intended to be fun and enjoyable for all. As such, no formal protests will be considered in Rally Sport Region events. Rally Masters will consider any concerns raised between the completion of the rally and when final results are announced. Any decisions by the RM's are final.

### RALLY MASTER CONTACT

In case of an emergency, a major error in the RI's, or if you are hopelessly lost, you may call the Rally Masters. RM's for the rally and their contact information will be provided in the Special Instructions.

If for any reason a team chooses to discontinue the rally, a call must be made to the Rally Masters providing this information. This courtesy call alerts the Rally Master(s) not to wait at the end point for a team that has left the event.