

Porsche Club of America Chicago Region Driver's Education

A Novice Day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway
2026 Edition

Information for Novice Drivers attending their First HPDE event at
Blackhawk Farms Raceway



Sponsored By

PORSCHE  EXCHANGE
A Division of Semersky Enterprises, Inc.

THE PORSCHE EXCHANGE
2300 Skokie Valley Rd. Highland Park, IL 847-266-7000
www.4porsche.com

Getting Ready

Your day actually starts a week or two before the event. You need to get your vehicle prepared for the day. Get a copy of the latest (2026) Chicago Region Tech Sheet along with the 2026 Blackhawk Handbook. These should be attached to your confirmation email or can be downloaded from our website at: <https://pca-chicago.org/drivers-ed>

We recommend that you have your car inspected by an auto mechanic at a Porsche dealership or an approved shop. After they inspected it and affixed their stamp or signature, use the tech sheet and go over the car yourself. Remember it's you out there on the track, not the mechanic!

There will be a mandatory virtual meeting for all novices a couple days before the event and you will be receiving a link in separate email. At this meeting we will go over everything about the day including track registration, rules and regulations, driving techniques, and have a Q & A session.

Next, prepare yourself for the day; get plenty of rest the night before. Easy to say / hard to do.

What to Bring

Pack extra clothes, as weather is unpredictable especially in early spring from sunny warm to cold or rain. Make sure you pack an approved helmet, long sleeved shirt and pants, closed toe driving shoes.

If you don't own your own helmet, rental helmets may be available from Blackhawk Farms Raceway. Go to <http://www.blackhawkfarms.com/pit-stop/rentals/> for information or contact Gail Shumowski at (815) 389-2000.

Bring a large garbage bag or something to hold the loose objects you'll need to remove from your car.

Breakfast & Lunch is available at the concession stand. Lunch for registered drivers is included and is complements of The Porsche Exchange.

Getting There

Plan to get to the track early to give yourself extra time to get through registration and tech.

Registration typically opens at 6:45 AM and Tech opens 15 minutes later. Located in South Beloit near the Illinois and Wisconsin border Blackhawk Farms Raceway (BHF) and is about an hour and a half drive from downtown Chicago. Blackhawk Farms' address is 15538 Prairie Road, South Beloit, IL 61080.

Registration

Registration will occur at the SCCA Building; the 1st building on right when you enter BHF. Registration typically opens at 6:45 AM.



All drivers must present a valid driver license at registration. Traffic violation slips in lieu of driver's license is not acceptable. You will not be able to participate in the event without a valid license.

When you enter the facility, all drivers, crew, family members and guests must sign in with both PCA and Blackhawk Farms Raceway. This happens at the registration building on the right just outside the main gate. Check the schedule for registration times. Line up on the right side of the entrance road keeping the lane open. Everyone entering the track will need to sign both the PCA and BHF general waivers. Drivers need to show a valid driver's license and should have signed the Standard PCA waiver online. All other will need to sign the waivers on site. Everyone will receive the appropriate wristband designating access.

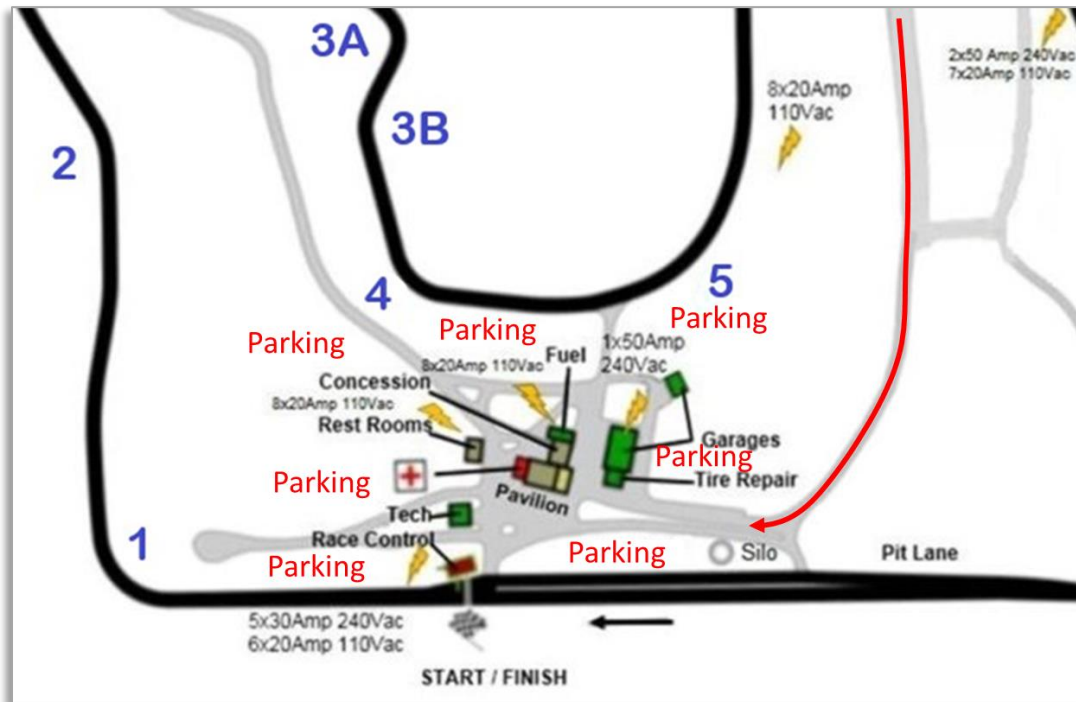
Only drivers and instructors, with appropriately colored wristbands, will be allowed on-track during this event. Grid personnel will check wristbands. If there are two occupants in a vehicle, one must be a registered PCA Instructor with appropriate wristband.

Exchanging wristbands is strictly prohibited and violators will be asked to leave the event.

Absolutely NO courtesy rides or "joy rides" are allowed.

Entering the Paddock

After registration drive to guard shack at the gate, then into the track. You will come to a stop sign. This is at turn 6 of the racetrack. Stop and look for any traffic on the racetrack. If the track is hot, a corner worker will stop you and tell you when to continue. If it is still early and the track not operating yet, using caution cross the track.



After crossing the track continue forward and enter the paddock area. **DO NOT** place your car into tech line at this time. Drive into the paddock and find a place to park your car. Do not park where you may be blocking any access roads or fire lanes.

Tech Inspection

Once parked, prepare your car for tech inspection. Clean everything loose out of the car including driver's floor mat. Look under your seats for loose objects like golf balls that may roll out and block your pedals. Also remove any electronics not bolted down, cell phones, radar detectors, iPass, etc. Use your garbage bag to keep things dry and in place and apply your car numbers.

Take your car, helmet and completed and signed tech sheet to the Tech Line. You will probably see two lines of cars by the tech building. If you have a pre-approved tech sheet look for a tech lane dedicated for pre-teched cars (if available for that event).



One or more inspectors will look over your car and your tech sheet. Your helmet will be inspected to make sure it complies with the latest requirements. Your battery, tires, belts, hoses and brake lights will be checked. Car number checked to registration list. If all checks out, a tech sticker will be applied to your windshield. You will not be allowed on the track without a Tech/Run sticker. This inspection is not an “Approval” but simply an assistance to review major items for your safety as; you and you alone are responsible for the safety of your car.

You may request a **Drivers Logbook** at Tech. Make sure your Tech Inspector signs your new logbook. You can fill out the rest of the logbook later in the day. You will also want your driving instructor to sign the logbook at the conclusion of the event.

Finally, return to your parking space and relax for a few minutes. Review the run schedule and if you have time also review the **2023 Blackhawk Handbook** that you previously downloaded.

Drivers Meeting

Listen for the call to the driver's meeting and get to it on time. At the meeting you will hear all the rules and regulations and will receive your instructor assignments. Meet your instructor. If you checked the box in Club Registration for Text Messages – you will get a message relative to any major change to the schedule.



The Rest of the Day

Your day will consist of on-track and classroom sessions. Your on-track session will start with you or your instructor driving your car several laps around the track at reduced speeds showing you the proper "line" around and pointing out "track observations" and the corner stations.

Your classroom sessions(s) are required and are held in the rear of the pavilion or as announced at the Drivers Meeting. Please insure you arrive at the Class promptly at your scheduled time.

Have a safe and fun time!