

# Harness Rules 2008

Todd Conforti, Safety Coordinator

PCA Chicago Region will adopt the following rules pertaining to harness belts, race seats and rollover protection for participants in all Chicago Region drivers education events (DE) effective January 1, 2008.

**Green group [C] and novices** may run with stock seats and belts

**Yellow group [B2]** may run with stock seats and belts. *This is a change from previous years where a harness was required for this group at Road America.*

**White group [B1]** requires a 5 or 6-point harness with proper race seat\*, rollover protection highly recommended.

**Black group [A]** requires a 5 or 6-point harness with proper race seat\* and must be equipped at a minimum with a roll bar\*\*.

\* The race seat is required to have proper routing holes for the harness as supplied by the seat manufacturer for the shoulder and anti-submarine straps. Single piece race seats recommended. Race seats that have reclining articulation are approved for DE only.

\*\*A bolt in or welded in roll bar is recommended. Roll bars that mount using existing seat belt mounting points are approved for DE only.

The above safety rule change was developed in response to PCA National's harness recommendations approved in 2007 as follows:

**Harness Systems:** If the participant chooses to install a 5 or 6 point driving harness (four point systems are not safe and therefore not allowed) several changes to the automobile must be made to create a safe occupant restraint system. Harnesses must include an antisubmarine strap and be mounted in an approved manner consistent the manufacturer's instructions. The Harness system must be used in conjunction with a seat which has the supplied routing holes for the shoulder and anti-submarine belts. All pieces of the restraint system must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

This means that a seat is required to have the proper routing holes for the harness as supplied by the seat manufacturer for the shoulder and anti-submarine straps. The shoulder straps should be mounted at 90 degrees to the axis of your spine or at most 40 degrees down from horizontal. Because the addition of the harness system means that the occupants are fastened upright in the vehicle, a properly padded roll bar or roll

cage is strongly encouraged to complete the SYSTEM. The use of one without the other may result in an unsafe environment and is not a COMPLETE SYSTEM. Due to UV degradation and wear, the harness webbing must be replaced every five years.

The changes we have adopted allow the driver to make the choice whether to install a harness or not. If participating in DE as a novice, green or yellow group driver at any of our Chicago events, stock lap belts are acceptable. If your proficiency allows, and you wish to progress to the faster White or Black group a harness and race seat is required. If you do install a harness also note that the webbing must be replaced every five years due to UV degradation.

Rollover protection is highly recommended for White group and required for the Black group.

National's DE safety standards also require equal restraints for student and instructor.

**Equal Restraints:** Both student and instructor shall have the same restraint system. All vehicles must be equipped with a properly installed lap and shoulder restraint system.

If you wish to have an instructor ride with you, or instruct a student in your car, both shall have the same restraint system. If you have installed a harness and race seat in the driver's position but the stock seat and lap belt remain in the passenger side, the driver would have to use the stock lap belt (instead of the harness) and run in the Green or Yellow group when instructing or being instructed.

Our intent is to provide this information in a timely fashion to allow those wishing to upgrade their cars ample time to do so during the off-season. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the safety committee.

Safety Committee; Todd Conforti, John Ruther, Toby Duckett, and Peter Faehnrich.

National's DE standards is found at [http://www.pca.org/drivers\\_ed/standards.html](http://www.pca.org/drivers_ed/standards.html)