

A Guide to AutoSolo's

What is an Autosolo?

As the name suggests AutoSolo's are a contest of driving skill by a single driver. Competitors run against the clock on short courses that emphasise precision driving and car handling over speed and power.

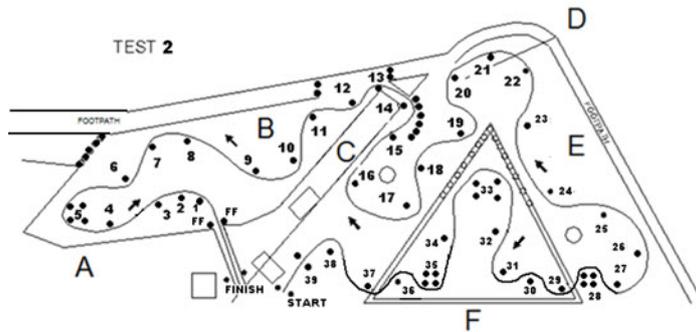
There will usually be 4 different routes laid out during the day. You should get 3 runs of each course with the best 2 times counting. The winner is the driver who has the lowest total score at the end of the day.

The tests will all be on sealed surfaces - either tarmac or concrete - and are usually between 800m and 1000m long giving an average time of 60 - 70 seconds.

Entries are usually around forty but this can depend on the venue which can be an airfield or a car park

How does it work?

You will receive a diagram of the course like the one in the diagram below.



The test routes are marked by numbered cones which you pass in order. We use horizontal bright-yellow cones to point the correct way round.



You will incur penalties if you go the wrong way or hit the markers. The aim is to complete the test course smoothly and quickly. Times are recorded by hand-held stopwatch to 0.1 sec. accuracy.

Before each run starts you will be given time to walk the course to familiarise yourself.

When you arrive at the start line, the marshal will start the clock as you pull away, you must then drive around the course without touching any of the cones. There will be no requirements to reverse but you must follow the correct route.

The clock will stop as you cross the finish line. The marshal will record your time and any penalties on the score card and you can park your car until your next run at the tests.

Competitors are randomly divided into three groups. While Group A have their timed runs, Group B will be preparing to run and Group C will be marshalling. So competitors can put something straight back into the discipline! Then Group B have their runs, C get ready and A marshal, etc etc.

What kind of car can I use?

Any road legal car may be used. Small hatchbacks and sports cars are popular. Classes are sorted by engine size and model type so you will be competing against similar cars.

Can I share a car with another driver?

Yes, two drivers can share the same car.

Do I have to have a driving licence?

No, any drivers aged 16 and over may enter an Autosolo, but drivers under 17 must use a touring car. (4 seats and a fixed roof).

Do I need a competition licence?

Our events are run to MSA rules with 2 permits.

The National B events are qualifying rounds of several Association Championships

We also run a Clubman's permit event, for the benefit of club members who just want to take part without being involved in a championship. Those competitors only need to produce a club membership card whereas the National B event requires a competition licence.

Cars must be taxed, insured and have an MOT and the rules say they must be driven to the event. Competition tyres are NOT allowed.

Can I carry a passenger?

Although the MSA have recently allowed the carrying of a passenger on an AutoSolo we, as a club, have decided NOT to go down that route.

Instead we run a PCA - a Production Car Autotest - where carrying a passenger is compulsory. The PCA uses the same course, timing and scoring as the Solo but is in a separate class so again you are competing against your peers.

On a PCA the ages of competitors can be lower with drivers aged 14 and passengers ages 12 allowed to compete although age, size and experience qualifications apply. Everything will be explained in the event regulations and there is always some from the organising club who can give you advice and guidance.

How do I get started?

Autosolo's are intended as a starting point for club motorsport and are designed to be FUN so why not join your local motor club, go along and enjoy yourself. If your club doesn't run a Solo then they will have details of the the clubs in your area that do and you are bound to find other members who compete in tis very enjoyable sport.

Details of all MSA registered clubs can be found on the MSA web site at **www.msa.org**.