

## An Introduction to an Autosolo

This Autosolo discipline originated in the USA and came to this country around 2008.

In the UK this filled a niche between what we call an Autotest and a Sprint (these disciplines have their own definitions). The Autosolo really grew fast as a motorsport event with large entries.

As the name suggests AutoSolo's are a contest of driving skill by a single driver although recently the Motorsport UK has changed the rules to allow passengers. Individual event organisers have the option to allow this on their events.

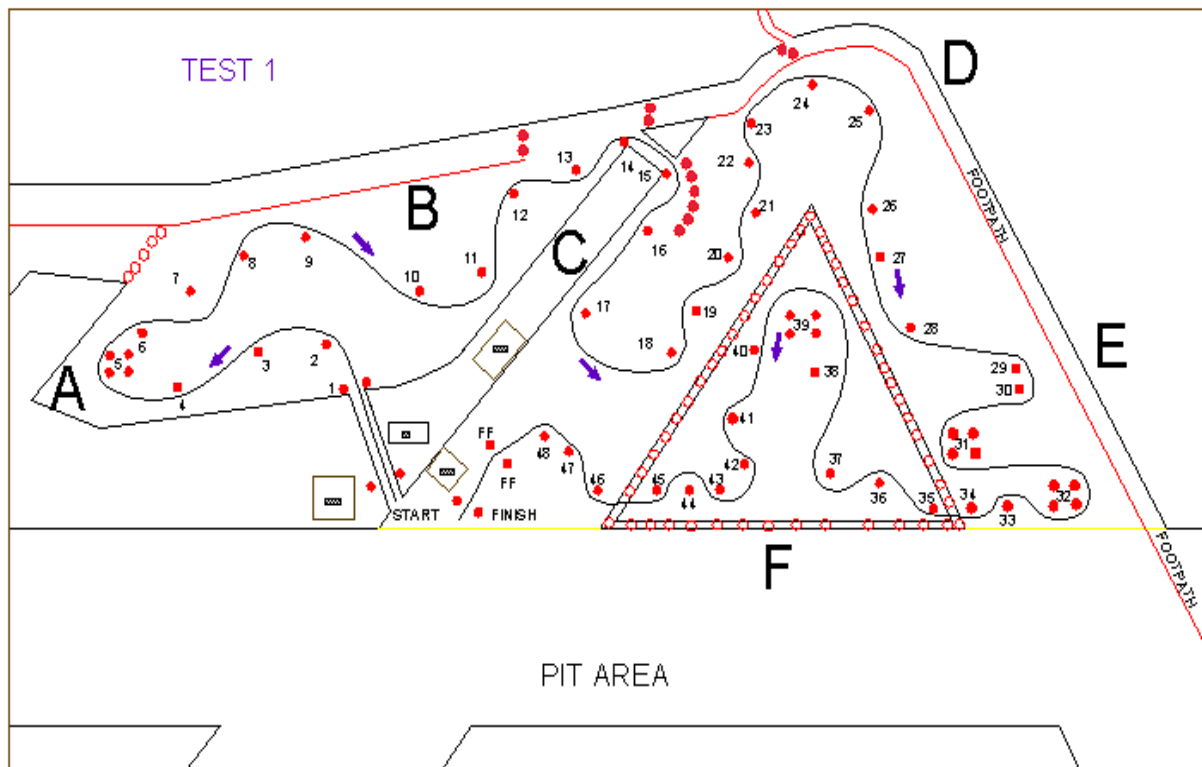
The British motorsport governing body formulated rules for this type of event. It used the existing 'in place' Autotest rules with embellishments on top, which has worked well and some of these are as follows.

- The course has to be contained within a 200 by 200 metre square which has a 10 metre border for safety reasons.
- The course has to be designed with no more than 50 metres between a manoeuvre, cones or changes of direction.
- The course has minimum requirement as well. Turns of over 90 degrees require a minimum radius of 5 metres (done by a block of 3 or more cones). A zigzag or slalom has to be 20 metres
- Competitors have to drive their competing car to the venue
- During the event the competitor have to do stints of marshalling.

All the rules for Autotests and further specific rules for Autosolo can be found in the Motorsport year book Section M, pages 210 to 215. These can be accessed via the Motorsport UK's Web Site at:

**<https://www.motorsportuk.org/assets/bb2019completemed-res.pdf>**

Below is a diagram of a typical Finmere aerodrome test lay out



The tests which are designed to be non-damaging to vehicles have been restricted to the best surfaces available. The course is ½ mile in length and the best time for this course was 70 seconds.

As shown in the following photograph, each of the red dots on the diagram are cones which are 750mm high with a numbered board on top. Each large cone has a smaller yellow cone laid down pointing at the cone to identify the side of the cone to pass on and show the route of the course.

You don't have to remember the course, the numbers help less than the yellow cones however, you do have to be able to count backwards as on some events the course is reversed for some of the tests.



**Oxford Motor Club** events have four test layouts, drivers attempt each one three times with the fastest two runs used to calculate the progressive score.

The club employs a vehicle class system, You essentially compete with people who have similar cars. We do have a fastest time of the day, deemed to be the winner overall. More a motorsport tradition than relevant in a peer structure.

The event entry is divided into three groups, driving, preparing and marshalling.

The six large letters shown on the diagram are the marshaling posts which are assigned to drivers.

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.

Unlike an Autotest these events are 'all forward' so there will be no requirements to reverse but you must follow the correct route ( marshalled by your fellow competitors).

The clock will stop as you cross the Flying finish line, you must stop on or before the stop line. The marshal will record your time and any penalties on the score card and rejoin the queue for your next run at the test. When you finish your 3 runs at a test you park up and visit the deployment marshal to do your marshalling at the post given to you.

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.

## FAQ's

### 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 14 and over may enter an Autosolo, but drivers under 16 must use a touring car. (Four seats and a fixed roof).

### Do I need a competition licence?

Recent changes to the regulations mean that **no** competition licences are needed to enter an Autotest.

### Are there any specific rules for the cars used?

All vehicles must be taxed, insured and have an MOT and they must be driven to the event. Cars are categorised into classes determined by engine size or type for example under 1400cc or production sports cars so you are competing against your peers.

### What tyres can I use?

Generally normal road tyres can be used but be aware that some surfaces can be very abrasive. More experienced competitors will bring a change of tyres ensure the drive home is legal.

Competition tyres are **NOT** allowed and an up to date list of prohibited tyres can be found on the Motorsport at <https://www.motorsportuk.org/assets/bb2019completemed-res.pdf>.

### Can I carry a passenger?

On **Oxford Motor Club** events we allow passengers however and, although Motorsport UK have recently changed the rules, some event organisers have decided to keep their events driver only.

**Oxford Motor Club** also 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 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 aged 12 allowed to compete although age, size and experience qualifications apply. Everything will be explained in the event regulations and there is always someone 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 clubs in your area that do and you are bound to find other members who compete in this very enjoyable sport. Details of all MSA registered clubs can be found on the Motorsport UK web site at [www.motorsportuk.org](http://www.motorsportuk.org).