

First Time Competitors - Preparing For Your First Event

Some of the details concerning your first event depends on the promoter, host of the event and the organization you run in. Below is an example of what to expect from an authorized sanctioned event. You do not need to be a member to participate at any of these events. Becoming a member is a bonus. Before the event, please read and become familiar with the hosting organizations rules to help better prepare yourself. Example: Midwestspl Events Rules / dB Drag Racing Rules / Usaci Rules

Events come in different forms and are ran by different organizations. These include Midwestspl Events, dB Drag Racing, Usaci, Meca and NSPL. These events have their own levels or types such as 1X, 2X, 3X, Regional and National. The different types of events might represent their ' point value'. At most events winners will receive points. These points are accrued towards the participation of each organizations World Finals usually held once a year. Example of finishes and points would be: 2X event = 2 times the points. If first place equals 8 points then first place would equal 16 points. 3X event would equal 24 points for first and so on. Each organization may require a different amount of points to attend their Finals and in most cases their points are not transferable.

Some events will have a registration time only. This is usually 1-2 hours period before the show. Its a good idea to call the store or event promoter for details on start times and registration times. You might also ask if there are elimination rounds and what time they will start so that your not late getting to the show.

When you sign up to register, please make sure you print your information *clearly*. This information will be typed into a computer or data base. If something is hard to read or misspelled this takes extra time and might cause problems later.



Some organizations track its competitors by their name, others track them by email address or home address. It is important to correctly and clearly spell your name and information so that you can be accounted for. At some events the information from that event will be uploaded to your own personal web page.

Event fees usually runs \$10-\$35 for single point event. As the event value increase, so do the entry fees. Sometimes the price is divided up between member and non-member. The price is usually set up by the promoter or the retail store. Usually higher fees or event value means a bigger show or bigger trophies.

Most of the time, re-runs are an option. In most cases, there is a additional fee to re-run to get 'mic time' if time permits. Some organizations allow you 2 runs with one paid entry fee. These can either be taken back to back or at a later time during the show. Some events with elimination rounds only give you one qualifying run for your entry fee. Once again, re-runs are always an option. You must inquire with the promoter of the event for details.

In Midwestspl Events your allowed to run any music or cd you wish. This can be music, test tones or sine sweeps. At Usaci events, you must run a Usaci CD. If you don't own one, the head judge will provided you with one. Some events have test CD's for sale. Remember, 9 out of 10 times, your louder playing test tones and sweeps as opposed to just regular music.

Some organizations may runs 2 lanes to qualify in. Other organizations may choose to run just 1. One lane will be lane 1 and the other lane 2. During two lane qualifying it doesn't matter what lane you qualify in. Please make sure you know which lane is which come time of eliminations. During eliminations you may be asked to choose one lane or another.

Upon entering the lane, the lane judge will verify your vehicle to make sure your in the right class. The lane judge will place the microphone or sensor in your vehicle. Each organization has their own mic

placement. In Midwestspl the microphone is placed in the 'legal' position on the windshield usually 12" from the A-pillar and 4" off the dash. Other organizations might place the microphone or sensor in a globe which prevents the microphone or sensor from being placed within a certain distance from an object. At some events, the lane judge might actually sit in your car and hold the microphone or sensor. Once your vehicle has been judged and the promoter or head judge has typed your information into the computer, the computer will be set in 'STANDBY' mode. The lane judge might place a wheel chock under your front tire to keep you from driving off with the mic/sensor. Some organizations allow you to have as many people sit or push on the car as would like. Keep in mind, this doesn't always work. It all comes down to testing. Check with the rules or promoter for the event.

The judge will confirm that your 'ready' by a thumbs up or a horn honk from you. When time begins, you'll have 30 seconds to achieve your highest SPL (Sound Pressure Level). Certain competition formats allow you to open your doors and windows. In dB Drag Racing, your doors, windows and all openings must remain shut. Depending on your class and the organization your competing in, your vehicle may be required to NOT be running. If your allowed to run your vehicle, then your vehicle's RPM's must not exceed the recommend amount of that organization. In Midwestspl Events its 2000 RPM's and in Usaci its 1200 RPM's.

Certain organizations either allow or not allow you to sit in your vehicle during testing. In dB Drag Racing if your SPL scores over 140 dB, you'll be asked to operate your vehicle from the outside on your next run and your score will be recorded as 140 dB (no matter what you scored in that run). During the elimination rounds if your SPL goes over 140 dB with you in the car, you might be disqualified. In other formats like Midwestspl Events or Usaci, your allowed to sit or not sit in certain classes regardless of the SPL.

During the 30 seconds, your allowed to make any changes to the sound system you want. At the end of 30 seconds the time and measurement system will stop. At this time you can shut down your system. Wait for the mic and wheel chock to be removed and exit the lanes when safe. Depending on the organization or the promoter you might be given a score sheet to keep with you.

In dB Drag Racing you get 1 qualifying run for your entry fee. In Midwestspl Events or Usaci you get 2 or more runs. You may be asked to take your runs back to back in order to speed up the competition. Some organizations may require you to run through later on such as dB Drag Racing. Midwestspl Events takes the top 4 competitors from each class and they will run head to head in the elimination rounds. Below is an example of how that works:

In Midwestspl hopefully your qualifying score places you in the top 4. Depending on your placement (1-4) will depend on who you run against. 1st runs against 4th, 2nd runs against 3rd.

The order of the above pic from Top to Bottom is 1st , 4th, 3rd, 2nd.

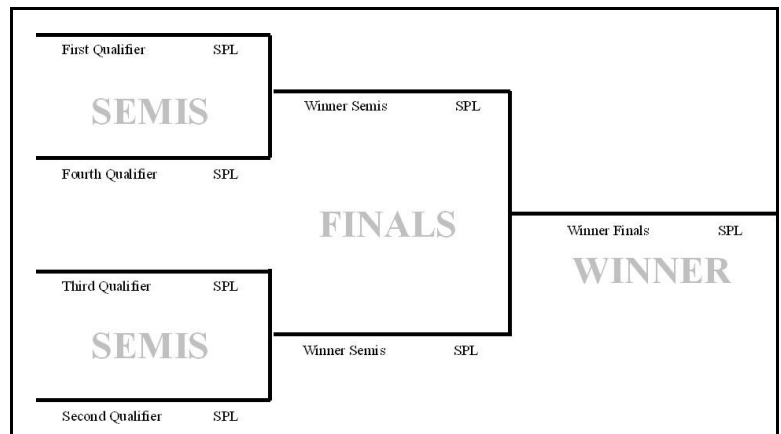
In the elimination rounds, the person with the higher incoming score gets lanes choice.

Hopefully you've remembered what lane is

which. You always want to be this person. At past events there might have been a difference of a couple tenths in the mics. This could mean win or loose depending on how close both scores were. Try to pick the mic you think is the best.

If you win your round (semi finals) you'll move onto the next round (finals).

In other formats such as Usaci the winners are chosen by who is the loudest in their class. When you find yourself not in the lead, you may want to inquire about re-runs to try to improve your score.



Some organizations offer different styles and formats of competition. Midwestspl offers a "outside the vehicle" measurement called Xtreme, dB Drag Racing offers Bass Race both which is a 30 second average SPL contest where competitors are required to play music instead of test tones or sign sweeps. The score is averaged over 30 seconds with the final score being the average for the entire run. Please see the event promoter or store for details concerning these extra styles of competition.

Some helpful hints during the show:

If its hot during the day bring plenty to drink. Some events may allow you to set up your own tent. If it sunny, bring/wear sun screen. You might even want to bring a folding chair. Most shows last 4-6 hours so its best to be well prepared.

If there is a food vendor on site selling food or refreshments, please contribute to them if your hungry or thirsty. These guys are there to make some money. Please support them. This will keep you from driving around town and missing out on the SPL action in the lanes.

Be aware of your surroundings. If the event is near a residential area, keep the noise low. Try not to burp your system for no reason during the event. Another reason to not play your system is the wear and tear on your system. This could greatly effect your score in the lanes. Heated voice coils are not a good thing.

Also, vehicles will be moving around the parking lot. Be sure not to position yourself in the way of moving vehicles. If you have small children with you be sure to keep an eye on them so as they don't get hurt. Same goes for when you're moving your vehicle in the parking lot. People might be in your way. Please be patient and watch out for obstacles such as vehicles, chairs, competitors or small children.

Make sure you support the retailer hosting the show. Go inside and take a look of their store and the products they sell. If you see something you like, ask questions. You might even think about purchasing that item. The retailer is paying for this event, it would be nice if they knew they were appreciated.

Ask questions. If you see someone with a killer or loud system, ask them about it. Most of the time competitors are friendly and will be glad to show off their system. Some will even go as far as helping you with yours. The best way to get louder is to ask questions.

At the conclusion of the event they will hand out trophies or awards. Please don't ask for your trophy early. This is rude to the person hosting the show. To make for a bigger and better show, all competitors need to stay for the entire event.

Be sure to thank the retailer for hosting the show. I'm sure a lot of time and effort have went into planning this event to make it the best they can for all involved.

Have fun!!!

