

2022 Golden Gate Chapter BMW CCA Autocross Classification System FAQ

First Steps

Participation in a GGC autocross competition event requires some pre-work on your part. For those of you going thru this for the very first time, here's a brief overview of the process:

- 1) Create and validate an account at bmwautocross.com
- 2) Go thru the classification process, which includes selecting a unique driver number and selecting details about your car.
- 3) Visit motorsportreg.com (MSR) to sign up for an event. You'll need your bmwautocross.com username to complete your registration at MSR.

Why We Classify

Everyone competing in the GGC autocross program must choose a unique driver number and classify your car before your first competition event with us. By going through this process, your car will be assigned a number of points which will determine the class you compete in.

You may classify more than one vehicle, but only one vehicle may be active. If you've classified multiple vehicles, please make sure the vehicle you intend to drive in your next event is the highlighted/selected vehicle before registration closes for that event.

Honor System

You represent that the data you provide during this process is true to the best of your knowledge. Should your classification data be challenged by another competitor, your vehicle may be subject to an in-depth inspection and/or documented proof, such as weight or horsepower.

Classification Challenge Process

Should you doubt the classification accuracy of a competitor, you may challenge that classification. Your classification may also be challenged, so be prepared.

The rules are as follows:

- Each competitor may challenge a maximum of two classifications per season.
- The challenger must inform an autocross team member of your desire to challenge another competitor within 30 minutes after the driver's run group completes and before 5pm on the day of the event. If the run group completes after 5pm, the challenge can be made at the next event before the first run group starts. Challenge requests received at any other time will not be considered.
- A challenge meeting will be held with at least two autocross team members, the challenger, and the challenged. All will compare the classification system data against the vehicle in person and a final decision will be made on site.
- If it is determined that the vehicle in question is classed incorrectly (A, AA, AAA, B, C), and the points difference results in a class change, the offending competitor will be re-classed as non-compete for the current event and all preceding events for the season.
- If a Gonzo class competitor is challenged and loses, the offending competitor will be re-classed as non-compete for the current event and all preceding events for the season.
- The three-strikes rule applies to all competitors: Starting with the 2022 season, should you be challenged and lose three times you will not be allowed to compete in the GGC Autocross Series for eternity. You may still attend, but only as a non-compete driver.
- The GGC Autocross Team decisions are final— no appeal will be allowed.

How to Classify

The system is setup for quick and easy classification of BMW and MINI vehicles. If you don't already have an account at bmwautocross.com, visit the site to create one by clicking on the Register link. Be certain to provide your e-mail address, and your first and last name.

If you already have an account, visit bmwautocross.com to get started.

NOTE: Starting with the 2022 season, base points for all vehicles have been reduced by 10 points from past seasons. Newer stock cars were clumping up in the higher classes and we had few in the lowest C class, so we did this to make competition more fair.

Select Driver Number

Each driver must have a unique driver number. Our system is the keeper of these numbers. Choose your number from the drop-down list and proceed to the next step.

Classify

The system has two paths to create your classification data:

Classify Your Own Car...

To classify your own car, click on the button of the same name to get started. Follow the step-by-step that matches your situation below.

Copy Someone Else's Classification...

You're sharing a car, so you'll need to copy the owner's classification data. Important to note, the other person **MUST** have their car classified before you can copy the data to your account, so work with them to make sure this is done before you start.

Click this button, then choose the car owner from the drop-down list and wait while the save is completed. The vehicle will show up in your list of classified cars above when done.

Step By Step – Non BMW or MINI

If you're driving a non BMW or MINI, the process is very simple: Enter the Year, Make and Model of your car in the entry field as indicated, then click the submit button to save. Do not include any commas. Your car will now show up on your account.

Step By Step – BMW or MINI

If you're driving a BMW or MINI, the process is more involved. Follow the steps as outlined here. You will be required to know some technical details of your vehicle, especially if you've made any modifications. For stock vehicles, the steps will mostly include verification of information before saving the data.

Select Year, Make and Model

If you are classifying a BMW or MINI, select the year of your car. Once selected the page will populate another drop-down list where you'll select the model designation for your vehicle. If any sub-models exist, be sure to select the appropriate item.

NOTE: If your vehicle IS NOT available, please STOP and write us at autocross@ggcbmwcca.org to ask for help. We strive to keep our system current, but sometimes we do not have data for some models.

Select Wheel/Tire Package

Depending on the model and trim level of your car, you may have optional factory installed wheels and tires. Choose the appropriate entry from the drop-down list.

Optional Equipment and Modifications

Your vehicle may have additional optional equipment and modifications. This page is where you will make those selections.

Tire selection

Select the type of tires you will run on your car for autocross events. Note that race compound tires (also known as r-comps) are defined as any tire having a tread wear rating of 110 or less. If you don't know this value, visit TireRack.com and look it up.

The system will pre-select the type of tire it thinks your car came with from the factory. If the default value is not correct or you have installed different tires, click on the type of tire you have installed. Don't know what you have?

- All-season tires come standard on most non-M cars without the sports or performance package. They'll clearly say 'M+S' on the sidewall
- Summer tires come standard on most M cars and cars with the sports or performance package
- Examples of cross-tread R comp tires: Michelin Pilot Sport Cup (not Pilot Sport or Pilot Sport PS2), Kumho Victoracer V700/Ecsta V700, Toyo RA-1
- Examples of a grooved R comp tires: Kumho V710, Hoosier A6/R6, Hoosier AxS0x/SxSOx (A3S04, etc) line
- Examples of non-DOT R comp tires: Hoosier R35/R45/R55/R60

Transmission selection

The system will choose a default value based on your previous selections. If the transmission in your car is different, select the type of transmission your car has.

- Manual, SMG, or DCT: These are all manual transmissions. SMG and DCT have paddles in place of the third pedal for shifting gears. Your shift lever does not have "PRND..." indicators.
- Steptronic or CVT: These are automatic transmissions with a sport or manual mode. Changing gears may be done with the gear lever or steering wheel mounted paddles, if equipped. Your shift lever does have "PRND..." indicators.
- Fully automatic (no steptronic): A fully automatic transmission will have the traditional PRND shifter with no mode to manually change gears.

Shocks selection

Also known as dampers, shocks play an integral part in the handling of your car. Note that a stock BMW suspension means your car has BMW shocks and/or BMW springs. If you have a sport/performance pkg, M or JCW car, the system will select your default suspension type for you.

If you've installed non-standard parts, choose the item that describes your shocks. **NOTE:** If you have a mix of equipment, like single-adjustable up front and double-adjustable in the rear, you must take the higher point modification – double-adjustable.

- BMW base shocks: original equipment, base-model shocks
- BMW sport or performance package shocks: your car is equipped with the sport or performance package dampers
- BMW M suspension shocks: you have an M car, or an M car with competition package, or you've installed an M suspension on a non-M car.
- Non-Adjustable or Single-Adjustable shocks: aftermarket dampers with or without adjustments.
- Double-adjustable or Triple-adjustable shocks: your wallet will be significantly lighter if you installed one of these options as they are very expensive, so you should know what you have.

Springs selection

Springs play an integral part in the handling of your car. Note that a stock BMW suspension means your car has BMW shocks and/or BMW springs. If you have a sport/performance package, M or JCW car, the system will select your default suspension type for you.

If you've installed non-standard parts, choose the item that best describes your springs. **NOTE:** If you have a mix of equipment, like adjustable perches up front and non-adjustable perches in the rear, you must take the higher point modification – springs with adjustable perches.

- BMW base springs: original equipment, base-model springs

- BMW sport or performance package shocks: your car is equipped with the sport or performance package springs
- BMW M suspension springs: you have an M car, or an M car with competition package, or you've installed an M suspension on a non-M car.
- Springs without adjustable perches: you have aftermarket springs that are not height adjustable
- Springs with adjustable perches: you have aftermarket springs that are height adjustable
- Springs along with major suspension changes: you have installed aftermarket springs and have made additional geometry changes to your suspension that may include relocation of mounting points, custom control arms, or other extensive modifications.

Differential gearing modifications

If you've installed a different ratio rear differential than the standard for your model of car, or modified your differential with a new ratio gear set, you must choose this item.

Drivetrain modifications

If you've installed a lightweight flywheel, choose this item.

Weight reduction modifications

Saving weight can significantly increase the handling, braking, and acceleration capabilities of your car.

The base points for your selected vehicle is calculated using a weight number we obtained from BMW/MINI published specifications for your selected vehicle which is often based on common equipment levels for a US market car. It is impossible for us to know the exact weight of your specific car, so we have built in some base assumptions here.

If you have removed any factory parts, and/or replaced a factory part, include in your calculation all that apply. Add up the total weight savings for the removed items and select the appropriate range from the list of options.

Examples of what NOT to classify:

- Removed fog lights and replaced with delete panels
- Installed lighter wheels and/or tires
- Fuel (or lack thereof)
- Removed floor mats and/or trunk mats
- Removed spare tire, tool kit, M Mobility kit
- Weight lost from removing the rear seat to install a roll bar does not count. We do not want to penalize for safety gear.

Examples of what TO classify:

- Removed metal from door shells, rear deck, or any other area of your car
- Removed Sunroof/Moonroof and replaced with a lighter panel
- Removed and did not replace exhaust system or body panels
- Removed and did not replace suspension components (like sway bars)
- Removed glass and/or replaced with Lexan or other lightweight materials
- Replaced stock seats with aftermarket seats, and/or removed rear seat
- Removed interior panels, headliner, dash, sound deadening, carpet, etc
- Replaced stock body panels with lightweight versions
- Removed air conditioning components
- Removed air bags

The most accurate method for determining weight savings is to weigh the vehicle BEFORE you make any changes, and then weigh it AFTER your changes are completed. Drivers installing suspensions with adjustable perches will have a corner weighting done during the alignment process, which will tell you the exact weight of your vehicle. To calculate the weight loss, subtract the after weight from the before weight to get this number, then select it here.

Front camber modifications

Increasing negative camber is a significant handling improvement. Note that this option applies to parts ADDED to or REMOVED from the car that increase negative camber (camber plates, shimming the struts, swap strut hats, removing alignment pins from strut hats, etc) and does not include the additional camber gained from alignments or lowering of the car only. If the alignment pins were removed to keep the car within factory spec, the autocross team will be happy to

discuss the situation and review the alignment spec sheets.

- If you've increased front negative camber on your e30 3-series and prior, or your e28 5-series or prior, select this option.
- If you've increased front negative camber on any other vehicle, select this option.

Rear camber modifications

If you've increased rear camber on your e30 3-series and prior, or your e28 5-series or prior, select this option.

Sway bar modifications

If you've changed the front sway bar or you have the BMW active rollbar option, select the front sway bar item. The BMW active rollbar option is treated the same as installing aftermarket sway bars.

If you've changed the rear sway bar and do not have adjustable rear spring perches, select the rear sway bar item. If you have adjustable spring perches, do not select this item.

If you've removed one or both of your sway bars be certain to include their weight in the Weight Reduction Modifications section above.

Front wheel change in width

If you've installed wider front wheels than your car had from the factory, select the item that matches the increased width measurement.

Rear wheel change in width

If you've installed wider rear wheels than your car had from the factory, select the item that matches the increased width measurement.

Limited Slip Differential

The system will select this item automatically if we believe your car had one from the factory. If your car did not come from the factory with a limited slip rear differential (LSD) and you installed one, or we made a mistake, select this option.

Engine modifications

We provide two methods for calculating points for your engine modifications. You may choose your modifications from our list and accept our points values, OR you can enter the rear wheel horsepower of your vehicle as measured on a dynamometer.

Please choose your method carefully as once you choose a calculation method, you will have to create a new classification to choose a different method.

Choose from our list

- Big bore throttle body: select if you've installed one
- Underdrive crank pulley: select if you've installed one
- Removed cats: select if you've removed your catalytic converters
- Manifold: select if you've replaced your intake manifold
- Headers: select if you've installed aftermarket headers
- Exhaust: select if you've replaced your muffler
- Injectors: select if you've replaced your injectors
- Air Intake: select if you've replaced your stock air intake
- Underdrive pulleys: select if you've installed accessory underdrive pulleys
- Distributor: select if your car does not have electronic ignition and you've replaced your distributor
- Valves/Head work: select if you've modified your valves or had head work (like port/polish)
- Software (OBD2 naturally aspirated): select if you've installed different engine management software on your non-turbo/non-super charged engine
- Chip (OBD1 naturally aspirated): same as above for cars with OBD1
- Carbs: select if you've modified or replaced your carburetor(s)
- Fuel injection in place of carbs: select if you've installed fuel injection on a car that was carbureted
- Cams: select if you've replaced your original cams with a different grind

- Supercharger pulley reduction: select if you have a supercharger and installed a smaller pulley
- Piston/bore or stroke or compression increase: select if you've bored, stroked, or otherwise increased compression of your engine.
- Chip/Software (turbo engine): select if you've installed different software or a piggy-back tuner on your turbo car.
- Supercharger (not twinscrew): select if you've installed a non-twinscrew supercharger
- Turbo or twin-screw supercharger: Select if you've installed a turbo or twin-screw supercharger on a car that did not include this feature from the factory

Wheel Horsepower Number

If you've had your car dyno'd and know your wheel horsepower, select this option and enter the supporting data. Note that you will not have points deducted if your dyno results or horsepower claim is lower than the factory claimed rear wheel horsepower for your car.

NOTE: Proof of your dyno number is not required at time of entry, but keep in mind if your car's classification is challenged by another competitor, you will be required to show proof.

No Engine Mods

If you have not made any engine mods, click this button.

Run in Higher or Non-Compete Class

You may decide that you want to compete against drivers in a higher class, select that class from the drop-down list provided. If you choose to run in the Gonzo class, your base points will be increased to 80 which is the minimum number of points for that class. Gonzo times are indexed for all events. For regular season events, 80 points will be used if you run in this higher group. For Top Driver Shootout, class does not matter - your actual points will be used in this calculation.

You may also decide that you do not want to compete for a class trophy during the regular season. If this is your intention, select (N – Non-Compete) from the dropdown list.

Save Classification

Click the "Save this classification to my user profile" button and you will be returned to your home page.

Results

Your car will be placed into one of the following classes based on your selections and assigned points:

<i>Class</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Adjusted?</i>	<i>Adjustment Formula</i>
C	0	39	N	
B	40	49	N	
A	50	59	N	
AA	60	69	N	
AAA	70	79	N	
Gonzo	80	999	Y	$((60/59.901) ^{\text{points}}) * \text{time} * 0.85$
N	0	0	N	
X	0	0	N	