Traveling To & At the Competition

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General

- Overseas competitions are very worthwhile BUT are:
  - Expensive (cash)
  - Time consuming

- Therefore, we recommend that young teams should enter 1 or 2 Indian competitions first

- Try the Australian competition?
Overseas Competition - Planning

• Plan well ahead
  - Passports & visas
    o Can take significant time
  - Shipping the car
  - Team travel
    o Allow for delays, even for team members
  - Accommodation
  - Moving team within the country
  - Moving the car within the country
Overseas Competitions – Shipping the Car

• Get a good shipper
• Allow plenty of time
• Via sea less expensive than by air, but can take several weeks
• Some shipments are on a “Space Available” basis
• Get ALL arrangements in writing from your shipper
• Know what requirements your shipper has, e.g.
  - Cannot have gasoline in the fuel tank
  - Cannot ship with the fire extinguishers
• Customs papers
  - Will probably need a COMPLETE list including spares and tools
• Establish firmly where and when the car/crate can be dropped off (often are limitations at the competition site)
• Establish when the car/crate must be picked up FROM the competition site for the return trip
Overseas Competitions - Accommodation

- Look at a map of where the competition will be held
  - Silverstone is 75 miles from London
  - Calder Park is 20 miles from Melbourne
  - Michigan International Speedway (MIS) is in the middle of nowhere!
- Camping is popular at European competitions
- Check if camping, cabins, dormitories or linked hotels are available
- Camping equipment rental may be available
- Limits on number of people per room in hotels
- Leave the room in the same state as when arrived
Overseas Competitions - General

• Know something about the customs of the country you are visiting
• Food is usually different to what you are used to
• Don’t expect the organizers of the competition to pick you up or ferry you around!
• Renting a car or truck – check the country’s AND rental agency’s requirements, e.g. age.
• If you are going to drive, consider an International Drivers License
Overseas Competitions
– Moving the Car

• If you cannot have car/crate dropped off at the competition site by your shipper on the required day
  - Normally details are on the competition’s web site
  - Then you will need to arrange transportation, which can mean:
    - A separate shipping agent/company
    - Or moving it yourselves:
      o Medium duty truck
      o Van
      o Closed trailer
      o Open trailer
Moving the Car – cont’d

• Choices
  – Medium duty truck
  – Van
  – Open Trailer
  – Closed Trailer
Medium Duty Trucks
Mid Size Vans
Moving the Car – cont’d

• Medium duty truck (Over 10,000 GVW, 24’ or 26’ box)
  - May need special driver’s license, e.g. chauffeur’s license
  - May have an age requirement to drive, e.g. be over 25 years old

• Van
  - Needs to be big enough
  - Width between wheel arches for the crate
  - May need special driver’s license, e.g. chauffeur’s license
  - May have an age requirement to drive, e.g. be over 25 years old
Moving the Car – cont’d

- Open Trailer
  - Need a tow vehicle too
  - Tongue load critical (10-15% of trailer’s gross weight).
- Closed Trailer
  - Need a tow vehicle too
  - Tongue load super critical (10-15% of trailer’s gross weight)
  - Need driver experienced in towing
Travel Preparations

- Passports & visas
- Immunizations or vaccinations
- Airline tickets
- Cash, traveller’s cheques, credit cards
- Hotel confirmations
- Rental car confirmations
- Customs paperwork
- Medical insurance for all (competitions require it)
- Any prescription medications
- Spare prescription glasses (if cannot function without them)
- Schedule
- Location and address of the competition
For Any Competition – cont’d

- Maps
- Contact information for ALL team members AND the event organizers
- Copies of:
  - FSAE (or Formula Hybrid) Rules
  - Event Supplementary Rules if it is not a USA competition
  - Your SES,
  - Your IAD Report
  - Your Cost Report
  - Correspondence with organizers, e.g. technical questions and answers
- Spare parts (anything that broke in testing, plus…)
- The IA you tested (unless using Standard FSAE IA)
Moving the Team

- Public transportation to and from the competition is unlikely
- Therefore make travel arrangements BEFORE you leave home
- 7 passenger minivan or “people mover”
  - Drivers’ license(s)
  - Age requirements for renting cars or vans
  - In USA 12 passenger van OK with normal license, 15 passenger van may need a “chauffer’s license”
  - Damage liability insurance
Minivan or “People Mover”
Moving the Team

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Before the Competition
- Download & Study

- USA Competitions
  - Competitors’ Handbook

- Other Competitions
  - Similar documents
At the Competition

Things to do:
- Register (all the team members) & sign the waivers
- Pick up the registration packet
- Go to assigned paddock space/pit box
- Unpack & start setting up
- Assign someone responsible to read ALL the contents of the registration packet
- Rebuild the car (it will be in pieces for an overseas competition)
- Post the schedule in a very visible location
- Set up a clock to local time
  - Be aware of the time zone you are in!
- Assign someone as the team’s time keeper and alarm clock
- Use a “white board” or chalk board for important notes
- Get to technical inspection/scrutineering as soon as practical
Schedule Notes

- Look at ALL the information in the packet you get at Registration
- Your assigned times for the Design, Cost & Presentation Events are “Time Certain”, i.e. FIRM
- Your time into Tech Inspection is flexible
- Drivers’ Meetings are MANDATORY – don’t miss them! - They often have a roll call
- The Skid Pad, Acceleration and Autocross Events close at “Time Certain”
- Have a clock set to LOCAL time
- Have an assigned person to “watch the clock”
- Post the team’s schedule in a prominent location
Overall Schedule Summary - Typical

Pre-Day (Tuesday Evening, Michigan only)
- Early registration

Day 1 (Wednesday-FSAE, Monday-FH)
- Registration & Technical Inspection

Day 2 (Thursday-FSAE, Tuesday-FH)
- Tech Inspection, Design Preliminary, Presentation and Cost Events
- Drivers’ Meeting, All Dynamic Events (MANDATORY)
- Design Finalists announced on-line

Day 3 (Friday-FSAE, Wednesday-FH)
- Morning - Acceleration & Skid-Pad Events (no Skid Pad at FH)
- Afternoon - Autocross Event
- Design Finals
- Awards Ceremony # 1 (Michigan only)
- Endurance Run Order announced on-line

Day 4 (Saturday-FSAE, Thursday-FH)
- Endurance & Fuel Economy Event
- Awards Ceremony Finale
At the Competition – cont’d

- Competition is about learning, so:
  - Wander around the paddock/pits and look at other cars, ask questions and take pictures AFTER you have asked and if it is OK to do so
- Have an assigned “quiet spot” or calm location for team members who need to rest or be away from the team
- Know where your team members are at all times (check-out system & cellphones?)
- Team competition, so act like a team
- Keep your paddock/pit space clean, neat and tidy
  - Easier to find things
  - Judges do walk around the paddock, messy area gives poor impression
  - Only one chance to make a first impression
- Always be polite. The volunteers are there on their own time and $$.
At the Competition – cont’d

• Noise test
  - Aim for at least 3 dB below the limits. There is no ambient correction.
• The Brake Test is very severe and a car breaker!
• Get 1 timed run in for each event
  - Acceleration and Skid Pad Events are usually run concurrently
  - Look at the length of lines at each
  - Acceleration goes quicker than Skid Pad
  - Skid Pad in the USA and UK has 2 pads. “Driver A” on one, “Driver B” on the other
Enjoy and
Focus on learning
Questions?