



CERTIFIED PROGRAM

To become an Instructor Training School (ITS) CERTIFIED by the Motorsport Safety Academy, the High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) organization must submit its curriculum for review to Scot Elkins, Chief Operating Officer of the Motorsport Safety Foundation, at scot@motorsport-safety.org. The curriculum must cover, at a minimum, the standards as outlined below.

CERTIFIED Instructor Training School programs will be randomly audited by MSF-appointed personnel for quality and adherence to the standards. Consistent non-adherence to the standards will result in the ITS program losing its certification, and any Instructors having been approved by the school will have their Level 2 certification revoked.

Coordinating the event involves teaching the classroom sessions for the candidates, ensuring there are enough Instructor Mentors to conduct the role-play sessions, and ensuring all Mentors clearly understand the objectives for each role-play session.

Level 2 training occurs at a race track during a 1- to 2-day Instructor Training School that meets the Motorsport Safety Foundation's minimum standards. A CERTIFIED Instructor Training School involves several hours of classroom presentation by a seasoned Instructor, and there must be at least six 20-minute role-play scenarios conducted on-track with an Instructor Candidate (acting as Instructor) and an Instructor Mentor (acting as Student) to provide exposure to real-life situations and training/feedback to candidates.

Candidates are trained and evaluated on the timeliness of their instruction, their ability to provide quick and succinct instruction, their ability to take control of concerning situations, and their ability to adapt to different challenges. At the end of the school, Instructor Candidates are assessed by a different Instructor Mentor in a final role-play scenario to ultimately determine if they are ready to instruct.



Instructor Training School (ITS) Standards

To become a CERTIFIED Instructor Training School, the program must meet or exceed the following standards:

1. ITS programs must use experienced Instructor Mentors to train, observe, and recommend Instructor Candidates. The program must be overseen and managed by the organization's Chief Instructor, or a designated alternative.
2. The ITS program must include classroom training for the Candidates that includes:
 - ◆ Student classroom curriculum, which must include:
 - Vision skills
 - Use of the controls (seat, steering wheel, pedals, mirrors)
 - Shifting techniques
 - Vehicle dynamics (weight transfer, tire traction, under/oversteer)
 - Cornering technique (reference points, the line, corner priorities)
 - ◆ Best practices for the instruction of the student curriculum as outlined above
 - ◆ Instruction methods – teaching, instruction, coaching
 - ◆ Learning styles
 - ◆ Types and uses of feedback
 - ◆ Responsibility and control
3. On track role-play, including:
 - ◆ Mentor driving/candidate instructing, role-playing at minimum of 6 sessions with the following scenarios:
 1. Novice aggressive student
 2. Novice timid student
 3. Novice skilled student
 4. Novice un-skilled student
 5. Intermediate aggressive student
 6. Intermediate timid student
 - ◆ During the role-play exercises, the candidate must demonstrate the following skills:
 - Verbal communication, including:



- Pre-driving “interview,” where the candidate learns the background of the student and his/her vehicle
 - “Commentary driving,” talking the student around the track, initially with full commands, then gradually decreasing the amount of commentary
 - The ability to command the student to pull into pit lane/paddock for deeper communication
 - Using commands, suggestions, and questions
 - Communication focused on what is coming ahead on the track
 - The proper use of both corrective and confirming feedback
 - The ability to quickly and efficiently set priorities for what a student should focus on
- Physical communication, including hand signals for:
 - Applying the brakes
 - Releasing the brakes
 - Applying the throttle
 - Releasing the throttle
 - Turning the steering wheel
 - Where to look
 - Good decision-making, demonstrating the following:
 - When to have the student exit the track for deeper communication
 - When to command the student to slow down
 - When to use verbal communication, and when to use physical communication
 - When to build a student’s confidence, and when to control it
 - The ability to be mentally ahead of the student
- ◆ The ability to explain how corner workers communicate, and the use of all flags and official signals
 - ◆ What to do should a student drive off track
 - ◆ What to do if the driver being instructed crashes
4. Instructor Candidates must demonstrate basic track driving skills, including:
- ◆ The ability to demonstrate the ideal school line, as well as alternate lines



- ◆ The ability to explain why the line being driven is used
- ◆ How to manage weight transfer
- ◆ How to control understeer and oversteer
- ◆ Proper use of the brakes, steering, throttle, and mirrors
- ◆ Proper use of shifting techniques, including heel and toe downshifting
- ◆ Good visual skills

Note: The overall speed and quality of an Instructor Candidate's driving should not be a major factor in his/her approval.

5. Instructor Candidates must demonstrate the following traits:

- ◆ Calmness
- ◆ Supportiveness
- ◆ Empathy
- ◆ Decisiveness
- ◆ Ability to relate with students
- ◆ Enthusiasm for being an Instructor
- ◆ A strong desire to want to help other drivers

6. An Instructor Candidate approval process that consists of the following:

- ◆ Feedback from all Mentors
- ◆ Instructor Mentor recommendation
- ◆ Final check-ride with different Instructor Mentor
- ◆ Chief Instructor final approval

ABOUT THE MOTORSPORT SAFETY FOUNDATION

The Motorsport Safety Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving safety standards in motorsport. It is a community where the motorsport industry can come together and have a single voice, a place to share safety concerns and collaborate on research. The charity, founded in honor of late professional racecar driver Sean Edwards, continuously works to amend those issues that can prevent another driver, crew member, marshal or even fan from serious injury or death.