



## Black Porsche Club of Atlanta Group Drive Training Booklet

*A Guide for New Members, New Drivers, and Anyone Rolling With the Family*

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### Welcome to the Family

When you join the Black Porsche Club of Atlanta, you're joining more than a group of drivers — you're joining a community built on pride, excellence, and respect. Our group drives are one of the most powerful ways we bond, show our presence, and enjoy the machines we love.

But driving together is a responsibility.  
It requires awareness, discipline, and teamwork.

This booklet is your foundation.  
Read it. Learn it. Carry it with you.  
Because when we move as one, we move with purpose.

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### 1. What Group Driving Really Means

Driving solo is simple — you only worry about yourself.  
Driving with the club is different. You're responsible for:

- The car in front of you
- The car behind you
- The flow of the group
- The public around us
- The reputation we carry

Just because the car ahead made it through a light doesn't mean you should.  
Just because traffic opens up doesn't mean you should sprint ahead.

**Your job is to drive safely, predictably, and with the group in mind.**

We will regroup.  
We will wait.  
We will not leave you.

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## 2. The Structure of a Club Drive

Every organized drive has three key roles:

- **Leader** — sets the pace, knows the route
- **Shepherd** — stabilizes the middle of the group
- **Sweeper** — protects the back and ensures no one is left behind

Everyone else fills the formation between these roles.

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### 2.1 The Leader

The Leader is the first car in the group. Their responsibilities:

- Maintain a safe, consistent pace
- Communicates hazards, stops, and changes
- Watch for signals from the Shepherd and Sweeper
- Keep the group's safety above all else

The Leader is the guide — not the fastest driver.

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### 2.2 The Shepherd

The Shepherd rides in the middle of the group and is one of the most important roles in the formation.

The Shepherd:

- **Keeps the middle of the group on pace**  
Prevents gaps, accordion effects, and unpredictable speed changes.
- **Assists with lane changes**  
Works with the Sweeper to create openings and hold space.
- **Discourages unwanted traffic from cutting into the formation**  
Without aggression — just presence and positioning.
- **Relays communication**  
If the Leader or Sweeper misses a call, the Shepherd bridges the gap.

- **Stabilizes the group in turns, merges, and heavy traffic**  
Keeps the formation clean and predictable.

The Shepherd is the heartbeat of the group.

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## 2.3 The Sweeper

The Sweeper is the last car in the group. Their responsibilities:

- Ensure no one is left behind
- Notify the Leader if a member gets stuck or slowed
- Know the route in case they need to guide stragglers
- Help create space for lane changes
- Protect the back of the formation

The Sweeper is the anchor — the one who makes sure the family stays together.

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## 3. The Drivers' Safety Meeting

Before every drive, we hold a drivers' meeting. **This is not optional.**

We cover:

- The route
- Distance to the next stop
- Known hazards
- Leader, Shepherd, and Sweeper assignments
- Zello Comms and Key Contact Numbers
- Sign-in sheet for Waivers, names and phone numbers
- If there are multiple groups, each group holds its own meeting.

This meeting is where clarity and safety begin.

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## 4. Starting the Drive

When lining up:

- Faster drivers toward the front

- More relaxed drivers toward the back
- Shepherd in the middle
- Sweeper at the end

We try to leave together, but if we get separated, **do not speed or take risks.**

We will regroup safely.

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## 5. On the Road

### 5.1 Awareness

Watch the car in front of you and behind you.

If someone signals a stop or issue, help relay the message.

### 5.2 Red Lights

Do **not** run a light to stay with the group.

We will pull over at a safe spot and wait.

### 5.3 Breadcrumbs

If the group gets stretched out and the front half makes a turn:

- The last car of that front section pulls over before or after the turn
- They wait until the trailing cars catch up
- Then they pull out and lead until the group is whole again

If you get separated at a light or stop sign, **go straight unless you see a breadcrumb.**

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## 6. Snaking

When the group pulls over on the shoulder:

- Leader pulls far enough forward for everyone to fit
- Leader radios the Sweeper when ready to leave
- Sweeper pulls out at a 45° angle to block traffic
- Shepherd maintains spacing as the group rolls out

- Entire group pulls out together

This keeps us tight, clean, and safe.

The same method applies to lane changes.

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## 7. Passing Traffic

Pass quickly, cleanly, and safely.

Do not linger beside another vehicle.

Do not pass unless you have room to re-enter the lane behind the group.

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## 8. Leader–Sweeper Visibility

On long straightaways, the Leader and Sweeper may shift slightly toward the center line.

Everyone else shifts slightly right so the Leader can visually confirm the Sweeper.

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## 9. Spacing

Keep consistent spacing.

Avoid the slinky effect — speeding up, slowing down, speeding up again.

Find a rhythm and hold it.

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## 10. Recognizing Road Signs and Mile Markers

This is one of the most overlooked skills in group driving — and one of the most important.

If a member gets separated, the fastest way to locate them is by:

- Road signs
- Exit numbers
- Mile markers
- Landmarks
- Directional signs (N/S/E/W)

When someone calls out their location, “I’m somewhere on 400” is not helpful. But “I’m at mile marker 8.2, just past Exit 7” lets the Leader, Shepherd, and Sweeper pinpoint them instantly.

### **Why this matters:**

- Helps us recover separated members quickly
- Prevents panic or confusion
- Allows the group to plan safe regrouping points
- Improves communication between roles
- Keeps the drive flowing smoothly

Every driver should practice reading signs and mile markers as part of their normal awareness.

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## **11. Personal Preparation**

Before every drive:

- Make sure your car is ready (tires, brakes, battery, fluids)
- Get sleep
- Eat breakfast
- Fill your tank – Charge Battery
- Save the Leader’s number
- Keep your member directory handy
- Turn headlights on

If you need to stop and have no signal:

- Hold up a fist
- Flash your lights
- Or signal early and turn into a safe spot

If you get separated, go to the next planned stop and call/text the Leader if possible.

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## **12. Leaving the Group**

If you need to peel off early:

- Tell the Leader, Shepherd, or Sweeper
- Make sure someone acknowledges your message

We don't want to wait or search for someone who has already gone home.

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### **13. The Culture We Represent**

We drive together because we love the cars —  
but we stay together because we love the community.

Every group drive is a reflection of:

- Discipline
- Respect
- Pride
- Unity
- Black excellence

When we move as one, people notice.

When we move safely, people respect us.

When we move with intention, we set the standard.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information in this training booklet is provided to support safer, more organized, and more enjoyable group drives with the Black Porsche Club of Atlanta. It is not a substitute for each driver's personal responsibility, judgment, or adherence to state and local traffic laws. Every member is expected to operate their vehicle in a safe, lawful, and respectful manner at all times, regardless of group dynamics, road conditions, or instructions given during a drive.

Participation in any club drive is voluntary. By joining a drive, each driver acknowledges that they are solely responsible for the operation and control of their vehicle, including decisions related to speed, spacing, lane changes, and hazard avoidance. The club, its organizers, leaders, shepherds, sweepers, and members are not liable for any accidents, citations, vehicle damage, injuries, or other incidents that may occur before, during, or after a drive.

All guidance in this booklet—including formation structure, communication practices, regrouping procedures, and role descriptions—is intended to promote safety and coordination, but cannot account for every situation on the road. Conditions may change rapidly, and each driver must use their own awareness and judgment to respond appropriately.

By participating in Black Porsche Club of Atlanta activities, you agree to uphold the standards of conduct, safety, and respect expected of all members, and you accept full responsibility for your actions behind the wheel.