



Course following or Gimmick Rally Basics

Two sets of instructions are given to the participants. The first is a set of **General Instructions** that give definitions and set up the conventions used in the rally. The second is a set of **Route Instructions** that are given to rallyists shortly before their starting time. **General Instructions (GI's)** define the types of roads to be used (for example, dead end roads usually are not used and "do not exist"), define what a sign is, how to read parts of signs, what to do at an intersection that does not have an executable route instruction, what to do if you have a flat tire or other uncontrollable delay, how to complete the rally score sheet and where and when to hand it in, and so on. **GI's** are usually available well in advance of the rally date, so you can become familiar with them beforehand. **Route Instructions (RI's)** consist of a series of sequential numbered or lettered instructions to turn right, turn left, go straight, at specific places, intersections, landmarks, course markers, etc.. Not all **RI's** are executable and some may be cancelled by a supplemental instruction (a 3rd type of instruction!). For example, an **RI** might tell you to turn right at the first opportunity after a given landmark, but the first road to the right might be a dead-end road which doesn't exist so you could not turn into it.

While there are no specified speeds in a Course Following rally, there is a time limit by which a car has to arrive at the finish (i.e., you can't take all week to complete the rally course). Cars exceeding this time limit may be penalized.

Scoring for Course Following rallies is done by having the participants write down observations/landmarks/course markers/answers to questions on a score sheet that is handed in at the finish. The things each team writes on its score sheet will depend on the route it took. Depending on how well each car followed the rally instructions (and stayed on course) what gets written down on the score sheet may be correct or incorrect, earning plus or minus points. Winners will have the most correct answers (plus points) indicating they stayed on the Rallymaster's "correct" course. A good course following rally is "transparent" to the participants - that is, whether you are actually on the "correct" route or not, all the instructions make sense and no one gets lost!

In course following rallies the emphasis is on fun and driving great roads. Often times sections of the rally route will be "free zones" where there are no instructions other than to drive and enjoy the road you are on!