

Tips for Rally Novices



If you have not already done so, review the Cascade Geargrinders [Novice Guide](#) and Cascade's [Road Rally Rules \(RRR\)](#).

Keep the Road Rally Rules handy as you review these tips. Read the referenced rules as you encounter them.

Rally Start

During check-in on Thursday before the rally, you will receive car numbers that you can print and place on your inside rear windows so rally cars can recognize each other. Complete the check-in steps by Thursday night.

On Friday before the rally, you will receive the Rallymaster Notes and the Route Instructions. Print them and bring them to the start. It may also be helpful to have printed copies of the current [Road Rally Rules \(RRR\)](#) and [Richta App Instructions](#).

Cascade rallies start in one of two locations. The start location is identified in the Rallymaster Notes.

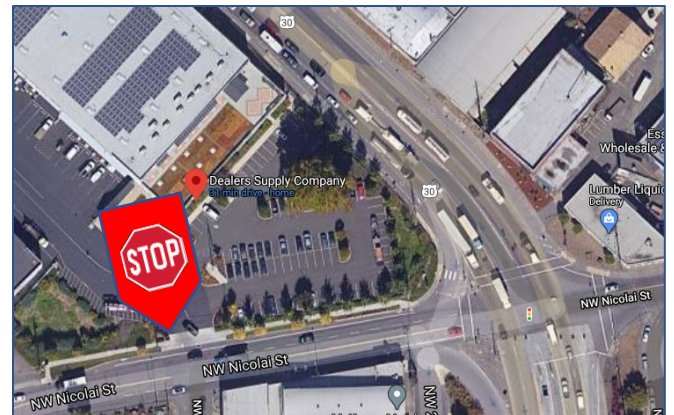
Milwaukie Lowe's parking lot,
[13631 SE Johnson Rd, Milwaukie, OR 97222](#)

The start location is the stop sign at the northeast exit from the parking lot.



Dealers Supply parking lot,
[2345 NW Nicolai St, Portland, OR 97210](#)

The start location is the stop sign exiting the parking lot.



The first car begins the rally at 10:01 am, Saturday. Cars start at one-minute increments. Your out time is 10 am plus your car number. If you are car 5, your out time is 10:05. Plan to arrive at the start a few minutes before your out time.

When you get to the start, turn on your Richta app and make sure it is running. You can wait in the parking lot with other rally cars getting ready to start the rally. Do not block the parking lot entrance/exit.

You may leave the start location before your out time. Leave the start no later than your out time.

The stop sign at the parking lot exit is where you start the rally by zeroing your trip meter and executing the first numbered route instruction, NRI 1, to exit the parking lot. Then continue executing the NRIs in numerical order.

You're On the Rally Now

The route instructions document has four column headings:

CZT - Car Zero Time. At the indicated time, plus your car number, execute the route instruction on that line. Use the time display on the Competitor Richta app to time yourself.

OM - Official Mileage. At the indicated mileage, execute the route instruction on that line.

NRI - Numbered Route Instruction. Execute the NRIs in numerical order.

Route Instruction. Execute the described action(s).

But how are the route instructions interpreted?

Interpreting Route Instructions

First, some syntax. Whether words are all caps or lowercase and whether they are in quotation marks determines their meaning.

Words in route instructions appearing in **lower case** mean the common dictionary definition (RRR 6).

Words in **all caps in quotation marks** refer to a sign (RRR 5). When quoted, a sign will be exact with respect to spelling, punctuation, detail, and shape of symbols as close as graphically reasonable.

Example: R at "STOP" means you go right at a sign that has the word stop on it. (Could be a legal stop sign or a school bus stop ahead sign.)

Words in **all caps not in quotation marks** are either: a term defined in the Road Rally Rules (RRR 6) or a landmark (RRR 4.4).

Check the rules for **defined terms**. Some you are likely to see in route instructions: CAST (RRR 6.5), OPP (RRR 6.17), PAUSE (RRR 6.19), SIGNAL (RRR 6.23), STOP (RRR 6.25), SOL (RRR 6.24). Example: R at STOP means you go right at an intersection controlled by a stop sign at which the contestant is legally required to stop. Important: S means straight. S never means south.

Some defined terms can be warning flags that something tricky may be happening. Pay attention when a route instruction contains these terms: ITIS (RRR 6.12), OR (RRR 6.18), TURN (RRR 6.29),

Words in all caps not in quotation marks that are not defined terms are **landmarks** (RRR 4.4). A road is a physical object that is often identified by a sign, so a road can be a landmark. Example: R on SMITH RD means you go right on Smith Rd, a physical object identified by a sign at the intersection.

Words in parentheses in a route instruction may provide helpful information (RRR 4.9). Example: S at "STOP". (Use caution crossing this 5-lane highway.)

Rally Concepts

Beyond the syntax of route instructions, familiarity with the following road rally terms and concepts will be helpful.

A **rally road** (RRR 2.2) is a paved public through road... Do not consider the following as valid rally roads: roads marked "no outlet", "dead end", "road closed", "no thru traffic", etc.

An **intersection** (RRR 2.3) is any joining of rally roads from which the contestant could legally proceed in more than one direction without U-Turning. A roundabout is a special kind of intersection.

A **main road** (RRR 3) exists at every intersection. MRDs (main road determinants) are applied to identify the single road leaving the intersection other than the one upon which the intersection was approached.

A **deviation** (RRR 4.5) is a change in course off the main road. L, LEFT, R, RIGHT, S, STRAIGHT, and TURN are deviations. Route instructions may contain more than one deviation.

Route instructions accompanied by **Official Mileage** (OM) (RRR 4.6) must be executed at that mileage, provided that the reference is correct and an appropriate action point exists. Deviations referenced by an OM may be executed to follow the main road.

Route instructions that are not accompanied by Official Mileage must be executed at the indicated reference (RRR 4.2 and RRR 4.3).

A **note** (RRR 4.1) is an unnumbered route instruction that is active from its introduction until cancelled. A note may be executed once, more than once, or never. Action must be taken as directed each time the appropriate action point is encountered. Notes supersede and may overlap NRIs but do not cancel NRIs. Just keep doing the NRIs but also the note each time its action point occurs.

Checkpoints (RRR 1.3)

As you drive the rally route, you'll encounter unmanned GPS checkpoints where the time that you pass the timing location will be recorded by the Richta Checkpoints app. The checkpoint marks the end of a timed section of the event – a leg.

Moments after you pass the checkpoint, your app will sound a tone or voice alert and display your arrival time, your leg score, and whether you were early or late.

Do not get distracted by the app or your leg scores. Stay focused on the next NRI.

Your arrival time at the checkpoint is your start time for the next leg, so do not slow down or stop – continue rallying on time.

Checkpoints are indicated in the route instructions between numbered route instructions. For example,

- 23. CAST 38 at "SPEED LIMIT 40".
CP4
- 24. CAST 42 at "SPEED LIMIT 45".

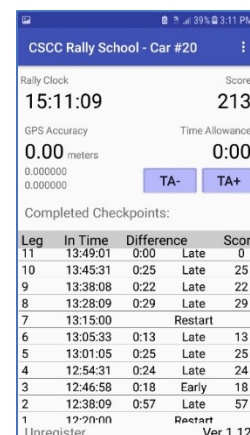
You know Checkpoint 4 occurs between NRI 23 and NRI 24, but you don't know precisely where.

Scoring (RRR 1.7)

Each leg is scored independently. Being exactly on time is a leg score of zero. If you are late on a leg, you can't make it up in the next leg. Each second you are late or early at each checkpoint is worth one penalty point. Maximum leg score is 60. Total of all legs is your total score. Lowest score wins.

Examples

<u>CZT</u>	<u>OM</u>	<u>NRI</u>	<u>Route Instruction</u>
10:00:00	/0.00	1.	R at "STOP" to exit Lowe's parking lot. Begin 40-minute odometer calibration TRANSIT.



Example Android app

Pull up to the stop sign exiting Lowe's parking lot. Zero your trip meter here. At 10:00 am plus your car number (for Car #5 that would be 10:05), go right to exit the parking lot.

Since you are on a TRANSIT (RRR 6.29), no speed is specified so you should drive safe legal speeds. Extra time is provided so you can complete the TRANSIT in the allowed 40 minutes. There is no need to exceed legal speed limits.

0.05 2. "DEER CREEK".

At OM 0.05 see a sign that reads Deer Creek. Just see it, mark that instruction as complete, and start looking for the next NRI. Pay attention to OM when provided, especially noting instructions that come up quickly.

0.14 3. L at SIGNAL, then get in center lane.

At OM 0.14, go left at the signal and then move into the center lane. Mark this instruction as complete. Start looking for the next NRI.

0.77 6. R at SIGNAL ONTO NORTH INTERSTATE 205.

At OM 0.77, go right at the signal which puts you on North Interstate 205. Since the route instruction placed you ONTO (RRR 3.1), stay on North Interstate 205 until a route instruction directs you to exit it. Be careful to stay in through lanes and to move out of exit-only lanes.

24.71 16. Right first OPP to exit roundabout into park.

24.740 17. End odometer calibration at "STEAMBOAT LANDING" SOL. Comes up very quick. Proceed into parking area to wait any extra time. Next NRI is at exit leaving park.

At OM 24.71, NRI 16 directs you to go right at the first opportunity to exit the roundabout.

At OM 24.74 (immediately after NRI 16), NRI 17 ends the odometer calibration at a sign on your left (SOL) reading Steamboat Landing. Since this is the end of the odometer calibration, you stop briefly next to the sign and write down our trip meter reading next to the OM for NRI 16. Then pull into the park and find a spot to wait until your restart time for NRI 18 nears. Use this extra time to compare your trip meter to OM. It is helpful to know whether your trip meter reads long or short so you can more accurately predict where route instructions with OM will occur.

10:40:00 /0.00 18. End TRANSIT at "YIELD". Enter roundabout. CAST 24.

NRI 18 has a restart time. Your Richta app will display your restart time (CZT time plus your car number). As your restart time nears, pull up to the referenced sign (yield) and zero your trip meter (/0.00). Then at your restart time, enter the roundabout. NRI 18 ends the TRANSIT and begins the scored portion of the rally by directing you to CAST (change average speed to) 24. From this point until a different CAST is directed, your goal is to average 24 miles per hour. Your actual speed will vary as you slow down for traffic or corners or have to stop at stop signs, so you will sometimes need to go faster to maintain the directed average speed. You should not have to exceed legal speed limits.

0.16 20. S at SIGNAL (B St) ONTO WASHOUGAL RIVER RD.
PAUSE 30 seconds.

At OM 0.16, NRI 20 directs you to go straight at a signal on Washougal River Road. Information in parentheses may be helpful but is not mandatory. In this case, there's probably a sign for B Street at the signal intersection. This instruction includes a pause of 30 seconds.

If you happen to hit this signal on green, you may not need the pause to get through the intersection, so you should cross the intersection and find a spot to pull over to use up the pause time. If you hit this signal on red, it may take you longer than 30 seconds to get through the intersection. You can pull over and take a time allowance to give yourself back the time you lost.

If there are two or more signals in a row, you might wait until you've been through them all and determine how much time you are ahead or behind. You might be able to make up some time.

A stop watch is a very useful tool for managing pauses.

22. CAST 33 at "SPEED LIMIT 35".

Notice that NRI 22 does not include an OM. OM is very helpful for finding route instructions (and for letting you know you may have missed a route instruction and could be off course). However, when a route instruction does not include an OM, you need to watch carefully for the reference in the NRI. You should start looking for the reference as soon as you complete the preceding NRI. In this case you are looking for a sign reading speed limit 35 at which you will change your average speed to 33 mph.

Tips for Success

Stay focused on the next NRI. If the next NRI includes OM, pay attention to your trip meter. If you exceed the mileage of the OM of the next NRI, you may have missed a route instruction and may need to backtrack to the last point where you knew you were on course. If the next NRI does not include OM, start looking for the reference in the NRI as soon as you complete the preceding NRI. Don't lose focus.

Do your best to maintain average speeds as directed. Use a stop watch to keep track of pause time. Watch the clock and restart on time at CZTs. However, it will do you no good to be on time if you're in the wrong place. As a Novice, your highest priority is staying on course. After you've run a few rallies and can reliably stay on course, then you can work on getting better at staying on time.

Most importantly, have fun. TSD road rally is game that takes you places. Enjoy!