

First Time Competitors - Preparing For Your First Event

Some of the details concerning your first event depends on the promoter, host of the event and the organization you run in. Below is an example of what to expect from an authorized Midwestspl sanctioned event. You do not need to be a member to participate at any of these events. Becoming a member is a bonus. Before the event, please read and become familiar with the hosting organizations rules to help better prepare yourself.

Events come in different shapes and forms. Some events have their own levels or types such as 1X (single point event) or PPE (progressive point event). The different types of events might represent their 'point value'. At most events winners will receive points. These points are accrued towards the participation at the National. Example of finishes and points would be: 1st place = 20 pts, 2nd place = 15pts, 3rd place = 12pts, 4th-8th place = 10pts. To attend finals, you must have 50pts in the class you wish to participate in with 100pts total.

Some events will have a registration time only. This is usually 1-2 hours period before the show. Its a good idea to call the store or event promoter for details on start times and registration times. You might also ask if there are elimination rounds and what time they will start so that your not late getting to the show.

When you sign up to register, please make sure you print your information *clearly*. This information will be typed into a computer or data base. If something is hard to read or misspelled this takes extra time and might cause problems later.

Midwestspl tracks its competitors by their name. It is important to correctly and clearly spell your name and information so that you can be accounted for.

Event fees runs \$25 non-member and \$20 member. You can purchase a yearly membership at the website www.midwestspl.com

Competitors will receive 2 qualifying attempts to achieve a qualifying score. Competitors are encouraged to take both of these attempts back to back in the lanes to help save time later on. Additional qualifying re-runs may be available time permitting, sometimes with an additional low fee.

Midwestspl allows competitors to run any music or cd they wish. We require competitors in the local/ amateur division to play music, while the national/pro competitors may elect to play tones or sine sweeps.

At times we'll offer 2 lanes to qualify in. One lane will be lane 1 and the other lane 2. During two lane qualifying it doesn't matter what lane you qualify in. Please make sure you know which lane is which come time of eliminations. During eliminations you may be asked to choose one lane or another.

Upon entering the lane, the lane judge will verify your vehicle to make sure your in the right class. The lane judge will place the spl sensor in or near your vehicle. The sensor will be place in different locations depending on the format you choose. Once your vehicle has been judged and the promoter or head judge has typed your information into the computer, the computer will be set in 'STANDBY' mode. The lane judge might place a wheel chock under your front tire to keep you from driving off with the sensor. You are allow you to have as many people sit or push on the car as would like. Keep in mind, this doesn't always work. It all comes down to testing.

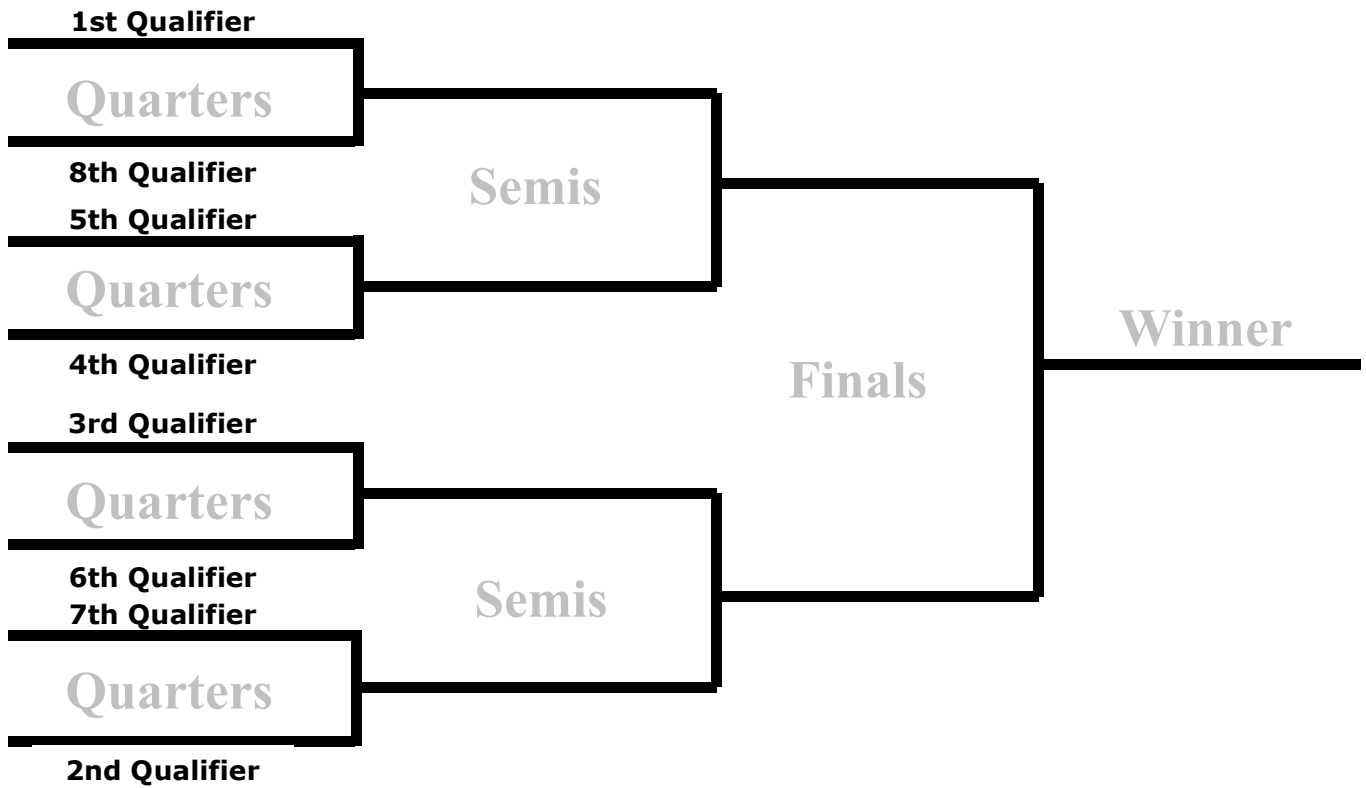


The judge will confirm that your 'ready' by a thumbs up or a horn honk from you. When time begins, you'll have a specified amount of time to achieve your highest SPL (Sound Pressure Level). You will be allowed to open your doors and windows. Your vehicle's RPM's must not exceed 2000.

Depending on the format, you may be allowed to sit inside your vehicle. Those running the Mayhem Division (3 minute music average) competitors are encouraged to not remain in the vehicle for an extended amount of time.

During your run you're allowed to make any changes to the sound system you want. At the end of the allotted amount of time, the measurement system will stop. At this time you can shut down your system. Wait for the sensor and wheel chock to be removed and exit the lanes when safe.

Usually you'll receive 2 qualifying attempts for your entry fee. Midwestspl takes the top 8 competitors from each class and they will run head to head in the elimination rounds. Below is an example of how that works:



In Midwestspl hopefully your qualifying score places you in the top 8. Depending on your placement (1-8) will depend on who you run against. 1st runs against 8th, 2nd runs against 7th, 3rd runs against 6th and 4th runs against 5th.

The order of the above pic from Top to Bottom is 1st, 8th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 2nd.

If you win your round (quarter finals) you'll move onto the next round (semi finals). If you win semi finals, you'll move on to the final round of competition.

Midwestspl offers a "outside the vehicle" measurement called Xtreme, which is a 30 second average SPL contest where competitors are required to play music instead of test tones or sign sweeps. The score is averaged over 30 seconds with the final score being the average for the entire run.

Some helpful hints during the show:

If its hot during the day bring plenty to drink. Some events may allow you to set up your own tent. If it sunny, bring/wear sun screen. You might even want to bring a folding chair. Most shows last 4-6 hours so its best to be well prepared.

If there is a food vendor on site selling food or refreshments, please contribute to them if your hungry or thirsty. These guys are there to make some money. Please support them. This will keep you from driving around town and missing out on the SPL action in the lanes.

Be aware of your surroundings. If the event is near a residential area, keep the noise low. Try not to play your system excessively during the event. Another reason to take it easy on your system is the wear and tear on your system. This could greatly effect your score in the lanes. Heated voice coils are not a good thing.

Also, vehicles will be moving around the parking lot. Be sure not to position yourself in the way of moving vehicles. If you have small children with you be sure to keep an eye on them so as they don't get hurt. Same goes for when you're moving your vehicle in the parking lot. People might be in your way. Please be patient and watch out for obstacles such as vehicles, chairs, competitors or small children.

Make sure you support the retailer hosting the show. Go inside and take a look of their store and the products they sell. If you see something you like, ask questions. You might even think about purchasing that item. The retailer is paying for this event, it would be nice if they knew they were appreciated.

Ask questions. If you see someone with a killer or loud system, ask them about it. Most of the time competitors are friendly and will be glad to show off their system. Some will even go as far as helping you with yours. The best way to get louder is to ask questions.

At the conclusion of the event they will hand out trophies or awards. Please don't' ask for your trophy early. This is rude to the person hosting the show. To make for a bigger and better show, all competitors need to stay for the entire event.

Be sure to thank the retailer for hosting the show. I'm sure a lot of time and effort have went into planning this event to make it the best they can for all involved.

Have fun!!!

