

Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway – Making Sound...The Facts!

Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway offers a fantastic blend of flowing, challenging curves and of course, the famous 'Corkscrew'. For many, it's their favorite track ever!

In 2017, PCA Diablo has two DE events at Laguna Seca with 90db sound limits.

In summary – if you have a GT3, GT3RS, GT4, Carrera or Cayman GTS, or have PSE (Sports Exhaust), you can do one or more of these:

- *Purchase and install deflector exhaust tips (if possible)*
- *Disable vacuum pump connected to your exhaust system (if possible)*
- *Do not enable sport mode. Do not push the sport button if you have PSE.*
- *Upshift at least one gear after track out position at turn 5*
- *USE LESS THAN HALF THROTTLE between 5 and 6 so PSE does not re-open at 4,000 rpm.*

How it works:

SCRAMP, which operates the track, is subject to sound limit regulations (from County of Monterey Parks Department). There are unlimited days, used up by major events, and a very small number of 100db days which are prohibitively expensive. Track Renters are offered 90db or 92db limits decided by lottery.

If renters exceed sound limits, they risk being 'uninvited' from the track!

Even Hooked On Driving, who plan 15+ days have the same limit. Simply, for track day drivers who want to run Laguna Seca, you have to find a way to 'make sound'.

Last November, the Club had 26 violations against the 90db limit. All were 94+db, highest over 100db. So, having a 92db day won't help.

Action on the part of drivers is required, thus this doc...

The sound station is on track right, between turn 5 and 6. Mobile sound readings are sometimes measured. If you exceed the limit, you get black flagged and forfeit that session. 3 times and you are disqualified for the day.

You can ask the Starter for a sound check. You then do 2/3 laps and return to the Hot Pit for results. If over the limit, you will not incur penalty towards disqualification, but you lose track time doing the check. You can request 2 sound checks in a day.

From experience we know several Porsche models, (GT3, GT3RS, GT4, Cayman GTS, Carrera GTS etc.), are usually over 90db at mid to high revs in sport mode. Even if equipped with 'PSE' (Porsche Sport Exhaust) they will exceed the limit with PSE turned off, when driven aggressively. Cars with an aftermarket exhaust system and some Porsche Turbos can be over if they're modified, which raises induction roar (sounds like jet plane), even if the exhaust is not noisy.

What to do?

If your car is loud, quiet it before going to the track, rather than struggle on the day!

1. ***Get to know the 'Sport Button' functions*** - NOT pressing the Sport button may be necessary. You may need to keep below 4,000rpm to avoid automatic re-opening of valves. If you have the PSE option, search for ways to keep your exhaust quiet, whether driving your car aggressively or not. One example is here:
 - a. <http://www.planet-9.com/u-s-west-region/136153-pca-ggr-laguna-seca-june-11-12-a.html#post1259313>

2. **Research options for your car on the web and with your dealership.** Several high-quality aftermarket manufacturers offer 'Laguna Pipes' or accessories that are simple to fit.
3. Some cars can be quietened by wiring around solenoids or disabling vacuum lines by a simple plug.
4. If you have aftermarket exhausts, headers or custom configuration, consider reverting to stock.
5. Change up to a higher gear earlier and control yourself ☺. But, it's hard to consistently judge when the noise breaks the sound limit.
6. There are GPS linked controllers to shut exhaust baffles at certain points. Only problem is, if sound check is mobile it won't help – you will probably need to throttle back too.

What you can't do is ignore the issue. You can't change the sound limits. Our drivers want to continue running this magnificent track – we don't want to get our Club 'uninvited' for future events if drivers consistently break the sound limit.

If concerned about losing power, bear in mind most sports exhausts add more noise than power – and lap differences in shutting down may just be a second or so.

Although Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway is most stringent, other racetracks are now beginning to set and measure sound limits. (By the way, It's 103db at Thunderhill Raceway).

After research, feel free to contact the Diablo team listed on our DE homepage at <http://www.diablo-de.org> and we can connect you with people who have first-hand experience of your car model to share.