

## HOW TO WIN A TOURING ASSEMBLY.

Car Clubs have been conducting Touring Assemblies for many years and have agreed on largely unwritten interpretations of the basically unwritten rules. These you will only learn by competing regularly. The following are tips only and are not rules applying to any particular event.

- **Always** read **ALL** the Supplementary Regulations and Instructions very carefully and relate one to the other.
- The first thing to do when instructions are handed out is to check for **'OUT OF BOUNDS'** areas. Mark these out in some way **BEFORE** doing any plotting.
- If several maps are given, check which map(s) take precedence over another and check for different scales.
- Always check when working near the edges of maps – check the overlapping sections – there could be something marked on one map in that area that is not on the other – and this could be a navigation 'trap'.
- **'Shortest route Point to Point' Navigation:** This means you must pass or use the 'VIA' Points in the order listed, by the shortest route **BETWEEN** each VIA point. Points listed without the word **'VIA'** in front of them, need not be visited in any particular order, but must be visited before the next VIA point listed. Do not pass through the END OF SECTION point before passing through all the other listed VIA Points. It is not essential to work out the whole section before you start driving.

E.g.

**VIA** BATHURST  
Cross a Bridge  
Pass a Railway Station on your Left

**VIA** TJ closest to LITHGOW

This means that the correct route is the shortest route between BATHURST and the TJ at LITHGOW **which crosses a bridge and passes a station on your left** - which may not necessarily be the actual shortest route between BATHURST and the TJ at LITHGOW. You may cross the bridge and pass the railway station in any order.

- **'Shortest Route Overall' Navigation:** This means you must pass through the points mentioned **in any order** to reach the end of the section by the shortest route **OVERALL** – you need to work out the **WHOLE** section before you start driving. Sometimes it's a good idea to plot the finish of the section and work out the route back to where you are. **HOWEVER**, be careful of the use of the word **'Then'** in Shortest Route Overall sections. This indicates that you should complete a particular part of the section before proceeding to the next part of the section.
- Use a street directory or other reference map to plot your route and check that the shape of the roads roughly match the ones on the official map - but make sure you use **only** the roads shown on the official map. (Only use if allowed to carry other maps)
- Do not rely on local knowledge as maps used are often old, inaccurate or altered by unscrupulous directors.
- Look carefully at both instructions and map, then make sure they relate to the same feature. Eg. a ROAD is ROAD, not Rd. WOLLONGONG is not the same as Wollongong; a Ck. Is not the same as CREEK etc. If the instruction says use Parramatta Rd. you must find a section on the map that is written that way and use it even though a mapped section of PARRAMATTA ROAD is closer.

- If the instruction says ‘Use Smith Road’ then you don’t have to use ALL of Smith Road. If it says ‘Use Smith Road **in its entirety**’ or ‘Use **all** of Smith Road’ then you have to use it all – as mapped. Watch out that a sneaky director hasn’t altered the road on the official map. \*\* (See Below)
- Portions of roads can only be used in one direction in each section or sometimes the whole event unless otherwise specified in the instructions. You will be advised of this in the Supp. Regs. This means you can do a loop if needed and use a road more than once but it must be used in the same direction (often you will get the same control or ‘P’ Board a couple of times). You can also use different portions of the same road in opposite directions. E.g. you could use Parramatta Road from Granville to Silverwater Road in an easterly direction, turn right towards Lidcombe, use other roads to the city then use Parramatta Road in a westerly direction and turn right at Silverwater Road towards Ermington. You have not used any part of Parramatta Road in opposing directions **and incidentally, you have just used Parramatta Road in its entirety.** \*\*
- If you are told to pass a School or Post Office or other feature, and it’s marked on the map as being there, then it’s there – even if it was demolished 50 years ago – don’t look for it. Passing a specified point can be done either beside it, or across one end of it, in the case of a long landmark e.g. lake, railway station, park or reserve etc. Always use the section of mapped road that passes the feature **as close as is possible.**
- When using ordinance maps, it is a good idea to highlight the grid lines with a highlighter. (Use a different colour to your ‘out of bounds’ marking) It is also good practice to mark the grid lines with their appropriate number.
- Don’t waste time. The law prohibits us from giving target times in Touring Assemblies – but obviously controls can’t stay open forever – particularly in long events. You will usually be given suggested closing times of sections, either in the instructions or at the Drivers’ Briefing.
- **Crossing** a road does not count as **using** it – check instructions.
- Do not go against traffic signs, cross over islands or plot ‘U’ turns. Routes are never planned to do this. Find another way.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help or compare notes with other competitors. Often they are as confused or as lost as you are – and most times you will get some help in fighting the common enemy – ‘The Director!’
- Check the shape of the road you are travelling and the shape of the road on the official map you are using – they must match as near as possible as some maps may not be up to date and you may need to use an ‘old alignment’.
- Always check all your paperwork before you start to see if there are questions to be answered and / or ‘P’ board spaces to be filled in on your road card. Check that questions have been given in correct order (another Director’s trick!). Check for questions that might involve counting items over a specified distance. It is good practice to insert the distance for questions into your instructions. Always answer questions exactly as they are written – in the case of signs etc.
- **REMEMBER** – you are representing motor sport and your club so obey the road rules and the speed limits at all times.....and have fun – it is after all, a game!

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