

Motorsport Glossary and Dictionary

AAA

American Automobile Association.

ACF

The Automobile Club de France.

AIACR

The Association Internationale des Automobiles Clubs Reconnus. See FIA.

Amateur

An unpaid driver. Even in 1908, there were drivers who were considered to be professional. When the AAA Contest Board replaced the AAA Racing Committee in 1909, they issued separate licenses for those registering as amateurs, and held separate races.

American States

Some of the races use the standard two letter state abbreviation. The two letter code corresponds to the states as follows:

AL	Alabama	MS	Mississippi
AK	Alaska	MT	Montana
AR	Arkansas	NC	North Carolina
AZ	Arizona	ND	North Dakota
CA	California	NE	Nebraska
CO	Colorado	NH	New Hampshire
CT	Connecticut	NJ	New Jersey
DC	District of Columbia	NM	New Mexico
DE	Delaware	NV	Nevada
FL	Florida	NY	New York
GA	Georgia	OH	Ohio
HI	Hawaii	OK	Oklahoma
IA	Iowa	OR	Oregon
ID	Idaho	PA	Pennsylvania
IL	Illinois	RI	Rhode Island
IN	Indiana	SC	South Carolina
KS	Kansas	SD	South Dakota
KY	Kentucky	TN	Tennessee
LA	Louisiana	TX	Texas
(LI	Long Island)	UT	Utah
MA	Massachusetts	VA	Virginia
MD	Maryland	VT	Vermont
ME	Maine	WA	Washington
MI	Michigan	WI	Wisconsin
MN	Minnesota	WV	West Virginia
MO	Missouri	WY	Wyoming

Note that Long Island is not a state, but the abbreviation has been used.

AMRA

The Atlantic Motor Racing Association. Held races in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the late 1930s (became the PJARC).

ARA

The same acronym was used by the American Racing Association of California (held races in the 1930s and into the 1940s) and the Automobile Racing Association which held races in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland (mid 1930s).

CPRC

The Central Pennsylvania Racing Club. Held races in the 1930s.

CSRA

The Central States Racing Association of Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania – it later became the Consolidated States Racing Association. Held races at least from 1935-1942.

Cubic inches (ci)

An inch is 2.54 centimetres (cm), so 1 cubic inch is 16.39 cubic centimetres (cc). 1000cc is the same as 1 litre. The following table helps give a quick conversion for common values.

Cubic Inches	Cubic Centimetres
61	1000
92	1500
183	3000
200	3277
214	3500
300	4916
400	6555
500	8194

Driving Park

Some of the earlier American races were held at circuits known as driving parks. These originated as tracks for racing horses with harnesses and traps – sometimes known as sulky races, a sulky being a light two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle for one person. Racing these is known as driving.

ESARA

The Eastern States Auto Racing Association of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Held races at least in 1940 and 1941.

Fender

An American term for the mud-guard on a car. Sometimes the same car was entered in both sports-car and racing car classes at the same race meeting, the mud-guards being removed to turn a sports car into a racing car.

FFA, Free-For-All, Free Formula

A class in which anything went. At the beginning of the 20th century, this type of race was a means by which a promoter could lump together whatever was at hand into an event, usually under the broad umbrella of Class D, and make money.

FIA

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile was "founded" in 1904, as the Association Internationale des Automobiles Clubs Reconnus, and represents the various national motoring organisations at the International level. It became the FIA in 1946.

Although more widely known for sanctioning motor sport worldwide, and for running Formula 1, the FIA also represents the normal motorist.

The presidents of the FIA/AIACR since its inception have been:

Baron Étienne de Zuylen (F)	1904-1931
Count Robert de Vogüé (F)	1931-1936
Viscount Jehan de Rohan (F)	1936-1958
Count Hadelin de Liedekerke Beaufort (F)	1958-1963
Prince Filippo Caracciolo di Castagneto (I)	1963-1965
Wilfrid Andrews (GB)	1965-1971
Prince Amaury de Merode (B)	1971-1975
Prince Paul Alfons von Metternich (D)	1975-1986
Jean-Marie Balestre (F)	1986-1993
Max Mosley (GB)	1993-

GSARA

The Garden State Auto Racing Association of New Jersey. It held races at least from 1933-1937.

Hippodrome

The word Hippodrome comes from Greek, being made up from the word *Hippos*, meaning horse, and *dromos*,

meaning race. It was then used in France to refer to any oval horse racing venue.

In 1905, the Hippodrome theatre was built on Sixth Avenue at 43rd street in New York, and generated much publicity, and as a result, any show performed in an oval arena became known as a hippodrome show. Thus when Barney Oldfield and his circus staged his races, they were naturally called hippodromes. As Oldfield frequently staged the results of these races so that he would win, the term hippodrome came to mean any race which was fixed. A race was "hippodromed", which became abbreviated to "hipped".

ICNY

The Innerstate/Independent Circuit of New York. Held events in 1939.

IMCA

International Motor Contest Association. Formed in 1915 as an alternative to the AAA. Many fairgrounds wanted auto racing as part of their annual fair, so a Minneapolis based promoter by the name of J.Alex Sloan gathered a collection of drivers and cars and had the fairgrounds put up money to guarantee that a certain number of cars would be there. Early drivers included Eddie Hearne, Tommy Milton, Fred Horey, Sig Haughdahl and Leon Duray. The IMCA continued into the 1930s with Gus Schrader, Emory Collins and Jimmie Wilburn. After World War II, Pete Folse, Bobby Grim and Jerry Richert were amongst the IMCA drivers. Although IMCA as an association ceased, the name is still used.

IMSA

The International Motor Sports Association was founded in 1969 to sanction sports car racing in North America.

Locomobile

At the turn of the 20th century in America, cars powered by steam were sometimes known as locomobiles rather than automobiles, taking the name from the locomotive or steam train.

Mechanician

The US equivalent of a riding mechanic, who in early races rode in the car alongside the driver to effect any repairs necessary.

NEBCRA

The New England Big Car Association. Held races at least from 1934-1941.

NMRA

The National Motor Racing Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Phaeton

Phaeton comes from Greek mythology. Phaeton was the son of Helios, who drove the Chariot of the Sun so recklessly that Zeus, fearing he would set the earth on fire struck him down with a lightning bolt to prevent him from destroying the Earth with fire. The term was first used to identify a carriage in 1735 when the French applied it during a period when it was fashionable to use classical pseudonyms. The term spread rapidly to England and from there to America. The name applied to both large and small owner driven carriages, which nearly always include some sort of top that would shelter the driver at least and could be drawn by either one or more horses. The term was then also applied to the first non-horse drawn carriages, i.e. cars.

PJARC

The Penn-Jersey Auto Racing Club.

Runabout

What might be now referred to as a sports car, runabouts were a class of car raced in the early 20th century. They were extremely minimalist, often consisting of just a cowl over the engine and a seat by the fuel tank. The term originated from the days of horse-drawn carriages, when a runabout was a very light carriage used for "running about" the local area.

SSA

The Savannah Speedway Association of Georgia.

STRC

The Southern Tier Racing Club of New York. Active at least from 1938-1939.

Tonneau

The rear, covered part of a usually open motor car in which passengers sit.

URA

United Racing Association. A southern Californian organisation which sanctioned midget racing between 1945 and 1964.

USAC

United States Automobile Club.

USRRC

United States Road Racing Championship.

WAA

Western Automobile Association. After the 1910 Santa Monica Road Races, the AAA suspended two of the officials of the Santa Monica organisers (Edward G. Kuster and Roy Hillman) for supposedly ignoring the wishes of the AAA, and suspended the manager/promoter for "failing to provide a suitable race course and competent scorers". This was seen as a blatantly political move by the east coast based AAA, so after a short period of time the WAA was set up to sanction west-coast racing in California, Washington, Oregon and Arizona. After other promoters and organisers voiced similar issues with the AAA Contest Board and threatened to withdraw (and thus not pay their membership fees or race revenues), chairman William Schimpf was dispatched to negotiate a settlement. A settlement was achieved, and the WAA quickly died a death. On returning from California, Schimpf resigned rather than risk the humiliation of being sacked.