

The **PCA broomstick test** (often called the "broom handle test") is a safety requirement for open-cockpit vehicles in **High-Performance Driver Education (HPDE)** events, ensuring adequate headroom above the driver's helmet in the event of a rollover.

Rule Definition

- With the driver and passenger correctly seated and belted, a straight line is drawn from the **top of the windshield** to the **top of the main roll bar hoop**.
- The top of the occupant's **helmet must be at least 2 inches (50 mm) below** this imaginary line.
- This ensures that if the windshield collapses during a roll, there is sufficient clearance to prevent head injury from the roll bar structure.

Implementation and Modifications

- **Roll Bar Height:** If a vehicle fails the test with a stock or short roll bar, **hoop extenders** (such as those from Brey Krause) are commonly used to raise the bar.
- **Seat Height:** Drivers can also pass the test by lowering their seating position using **aftermarket racing seats** or adjusting seat sliders to reduce the distance between the helmet and the roll bar.
- **Vehicle Specifics:** Some vehicles, like the **Porsche Boxster** and **Honda S2000**, are often listed on club "acceptable car" lists where the test may be waived or handled differently, but many PCA regions still enforce the 2-inch clearance rule strictly for convertibles without a hardtop.
- **Padding:** Any part of the roll bar that could contact the driver's helmet or body must be **padded** to prevent injury during contact.