

VRG expands Ford Pinto eligibility

VRG members Jim Karamanis and Jerry Boyer recently submitted a proposal to the Board Of Directors to expand the eligibility of Ford Pinto's. The Board voted to accept this proposal, effective immediately. **Ford Pinto's manufactured through 1980 are now eligible for VRG events, with specific rules applying to these cars** (see below).

Previously, to be eligible with VRG, Ford Pinto's had to be configured to SCCA B-Sedan or Trans-am 2.5 Challenge standards as raced in 1971 & 1972, powered by 1600cc Kent or 2000cc OHC Pinto engines. 1973 – 1980 Ford Pintos were previously eligible under VRG continuation rules if configured to the 1971 / 1972 specifications. The approved proposal now allows for the 2.3 OHC engine which was introduced in 1974 and has been raced in various SCCA classes including ITB, GT-3 and GTP (in the Washington DC Region).

Historically, later model Ford Pintos equipped with 2.3 OHC engines ran with large canti-levered slicks and large front air dams. In order to maintain a level playing field with current small sedans, later model **Ford Pintos, regardless of year, will be required to run on treaded tires and will also be required to remove the large front air dams** and install, if desired, small front lip air dams similar to the earlier cars. Tires must be listed on the SVRA Group 3 tire list.

With the requirement of treaded tires and removal of large front air dams, 2.3 OHC engine equipped Ford Pintos performance will be virtually identical to the earlier 2.0 OHC Pinto powered cars, as the 2.3 OHC engine while slightly larger in displacement does not typically offer greater torque or horsepower. Later model Ford Pintos will also be required to follow the same criteria as other VRG vintage race cars in terms of presentation, with paint and body work that is presentable and a minimal number of decals.

The Board thanks Jim and Jerry for their thoughtful, well-researched proposal. We believe this should help to expand the small sedan ranks within VRG, and provide a new opportunity for those on a tight budget to experience VRG vintage racing.