



SQL Regulation (SOUND QUALITY in LOUD) 2026

Sound Quality score x 2 then plus additional distance score

Part of the SQL Competition consists of:

1. SQL Amateur Sealed Box (sealed box)
2. SQL Street 1
3. SQL Street 2
4. SQL Street 3
5. SQL Pro 1
6. SQL Pro 2
7. SQL Expert
8. SQL Unlimited
9. SQL Free Style

USACI India — Official SQL Vehicle Class Definitions

1. Purpose

These rules define the vehicle classes for the USACI India Sound Quality Loud (SQL) division. The goal is fair competition by grouping cars with comparable cabin architecture and acoustic volume. All competitors must enter the correct vehicle class at registration.

2. Official Classes (three total)

USACI India will hold SQL competition across the following three vehicle classes:

Class A — Hatchback Class

Definition: Vehicles with a hatch-style rear (liftgate) and a single continuous cabin space (no separate sealed trunk). Typically, compact city cars and subcompact hatchbacks.

Primary focus: Comparable cabin volumes and hatch-style acoustic behaviour.

Class B — Sedan Class

Definition: Vehicles with a separate sealed trunk (boot) physically separated from the passenger cabin (i.e., a conventional 3-box sedan layout). Includes compact, mid-size and executive sedans.

Primary focus: Vehicles with sealed trunk architecture (consistent acoustic constraints across sedans).

Class C — Open-Cabin / SUV & MUV Class

Definition: Vehicles with large cabin volumes, open rear cargo/passenger area or hatch-style rear used as listening volume. This category includes crossovers, compact SUVs (sub-4m), mid-size and full-size SUVs, multi-utility vehicles (MUV), and similar platform architectures. (Pickups with open cabins may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.)

Primary focus: Large internal airspace and open/hatch-style cabin characteristics.

3. Eligibility & General Notes

1. Vehicle architecture (hatch vs sealed trunk vs open-cabin) is decisive — not marketing labels.
 2. If a model has multiple body styles (e.g., sedan + estate/hatch variants), class is determined by the actual vehicle entered, not the model family.
 3. Competitors must state vehicle model and body style during registration; organisers reserve the right to re-classify any vehicle before competition.
 4. Any dispute over class assignment will be resolved by the Director (Final authority).
 5. USACI India may expand or refine classes in future events as participation grows.
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4. Tie-Breaker / Reclassification Rules

If a vehicle's body style is ambiguous:

- Inspect body layout and trunk/cabin sealing.
- If the rear cargo area is directly connected to the cabin and contributes acoustic volume, it is considered Open-Cabin (Class C).
- If trunk is sealed and separate, it's Sedan (Class B).
- Director's ruling is final.

5. Example Models (Reference only — illustrative)

The lists below are representative examples of commonly sold Indian models that fall into each class. These are provided to help participants quickly identify class placement. If a vehicle is not listed or a recent model varies in body style, use the eligibility rules above and/or contact race administration for confirmation.

Class A — Hatchback Examples (20)

Maruti Alto
Maruti Wagon R
Maruti Swift
Maruti Baleno
Hyundai i20
Hyundai Grand i10 Nios
Tata Tiago
Tata Altroz
Toyota Glanza
Maruti Celerio
Maruti S-Presso
Maruti Ignis
Renault Kwid
Nissan Micra
Honda Jazz
Ford Figo (older models)
Volkswagen Polo
Fiat Punto (older)
Hyundai Santro
Maruti Fronx (crossover/hatchback borderline — class on body style)

(Note: newer “compact crossover” models that have hatchback architecture may be judged into Hatchback or Open-Cabin depending on rear cabin connectivity — organisers will confirm at registration.)

Class B — Sedan Examples (20)

Maruti Dzire
Honda City
Hyundai Verna
Maruti Ciaz
Hyundai Aura
Honda Amaze
Volkswagen Vento
Skoda Rapid (older)
Skoda Slavia
Volkswagen Virtus
Toyota Yaris (older)
Tata Tigor
Maruti SX4 (older)
Renault Logan (older)
Toyota Etios (older)

Volkswagen Vento / Polo Sedan variants (model-year dependent)

Class C — Open-Cabin / SUV & MUV Examples (20)

Maruti Ertiga
Toyota Innova (Crysta / Innova Hycross)
Mahindra Scorpio
Mahindra Bolero
Hyundai Creta
Kia Seltos
Tata Harrier
Tata Nexon
Maruti Vitara Brezza / Brezza / Fronx crossover variants
Mahindra Thar
Toyota Fortuner
MG Hector
Mahindra XUV500 / XUV700
Hyundai Venue
Kia Sonet
Renault Duster (SUV)
Ford EcoSport (older)
Maruti S-Cross (older crossover)
Isuzu D-Max / pickup (case-by-case — contact organisers)

(This category intentionally pools crossovers, sub-4m SUVs, mid/full SUVs, MUVs and large-volume vehicles to keep classes simple and competitive.)

6. Administration & Updates

USACI India reserves the right to update class definitions and example model lists. Any official change will be posted on the event website and communicated to registered competitors at least 30 days before the event.

7. How to use this section (for competitors)

- If you are unsure which class your vehicle belongs to, include the exact make / model / variant / body-style in the registration form.
- If your vehicle is re-classified by organisers, you will be notified and given the option to accept or withdraw before the technical checks.
- Director's decision is final for all class assignments.

SQL AMATEUR SEALED BOX

- a. Use of mid-bass and tweeter speakers: unlimited number, **maximum speaker diameter 8"**

- b. Using subwoofers up to **12" x 2 or 10" x 4 with a "sealed box" system.**

- c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

- d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

- e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts.**

- f. Initial listening distance is **4 meters.**

- g. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

- h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters.**

SQL STREET 1

a. Use of mid-bass and tweeter speakers: **Speaker diameter 6" not more than 2 pairs or 8" 1 pair.**

b. Using a subwoofer up to **12" x 1 or 10" x 2 with "vented box " system.**

(Note: Normal port, aero port, and slot port designs can be used.)

c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts.**

f. Initial listening distance is **5 meters.**

g. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters.**

SQL STREET 2

a. Using mid-bass speakers:

- Speaker diameter **6"**, not more than **3 pairs** or

- Speaker diameter **6" 1 pair and 8" 1 pair** or

- Speaker diameter **8" 2 pairs** or **Speaker diameter 10" 1 pair.**

b. Using a **subwoofer with a maximum of 15" x 1, or 12" not more than 2, or 10" not more than 4 with "vented box " system.**

(Note: Normal port, aero port, and slot port designs can be used.)

c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts.**

f. Initial listening distance is **5 meters.**

9. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters.**

SQL STREET 3

a. Using mid-range speakers:

- Speaker diameter **6"**, not more than **4 pairs** or

- Speaker diameter **6" 2 pairs, 8" 1 pair** or

- Speaker diameter **6" 1 pair, 8" 2 pairs** or

-Speaker diameter **8" 1 pair, 10" 1 pair** or

-Speaker diameter **10" 2 pairs** or Speaker diameter **12" 1 pair**.

b. Using **subwoofers up to 15" not more than 2, or 12" not more than 3, or 10" not more than 4 with " vented box " system.**

(Note: Normal port, aero port, and slot port designs can be used.)

c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts**.

f. Initial listening distance is **5 meters**.

g. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters**.

SQL PRO 1 SUBWOOFER

a. Use of mid-bass and tweeter speakers: unlimited number, **maximum speaker diameter 8"**

b. Using a **subwoofer up to 12" x 1 or 10" x 2 with "vented box" system.**

(Note: Normal port, aero port, and slot port designs can be used.)

c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts.**

f. Initial listening distance is **5 meters.**

g. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters.**

SQL PRO 2 SUBWOOFER

a. Use of mid-bass and tweeter speakers: unlimited number, **maximum speaker diameter 8"**

b. Using a **subwoofer up to 12" x 2 or 10" x 4 with " vented box " system.**

(Note: Normal port, aero port, and slot port designs can be used.)

c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.

d. Movable loudspeaker boxes, both manual and automatic (motorized) types, are not permitted in the luggage compartment of vehicles.

e. Maximum voltage not exceeding **16 volts.**

f. Initial listening distance is **5 meters.**

5. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will receive a bonus of **0.25 points** in addition to the total score.

h. The maximum listening distance is **20 meters.**

SQL EXPERT

a. Use of **mid-bass speakers: No limit on the number and diameter of mid-bass speakers.**

b. **Unlimited number of subwoofers with " vented box " system.**

c. **Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.**

d. **Maximum voltage not exceeding 18 volts.**

e. **Initial listening distance is 6 meters.**

f. **Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn an additional 0.25 bonus points to the total score.**

g. **The maximum listening distance is 20 meters.**

SQL UNLIMITED

- a. Use of mid-bass speakers: No limit on the number and diameter of mid-bass speakers.**

- b. Unlimited number of subwoofers with "vented box " system.**

- c. Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.**

- d. Maximum voltage not exceeding 18 volts.**

- e. Initial listening distance is 8 meters.**

- f. Every 1-meter increase in listening distance from the starting position will earn an additional 0.25 bonus points to the total score.**

- g. The maximum listening distance is 20 meters.**

SQL FREE STYLE

- a. Use of **mid-bass speakers: No limit on the number and diameter of mid-bass speakers.**

- b. **Unlimited number of subwoofers with "vented box " system.**

- c. **Unlimited power output and unlimited number of Monoblock Power Amplifiers.**

- d. **Maximum voltage not exceeding 18 volts.**

- e. **Fix listening distance at 8 meters, no bonus points for increasing the distance.**

- f. **The overall sound quality score, in addition to the chosen song (free), the bonus (Show) score comes from the dance performance, props and crowd (audience), totaling 30 points, broken down as follows:**
 - **Bonus: 15 points from dancing** (performance, costume, tightness, entertainment value, impression)

 - **Bonus value: 10 points for equipment** (car lights, performance support lights, performance support tools)

 - **Bonus: 5 points for audience entertainment** (able to attract and impress the audience)

Part 2 General Rules

- 1. All participants must uphold the principles of sportsmanship and honesty.**
- 2. All registered participants are deemed to have acknowledged and are ready to comply with all regulations.**
- 3. The total score for official announcement is the sum of the sound quality assessments in all assessment categories.**
- 4. Contestants must bring their cars into the race track and race lane according to the time specified by the committee.**
- 5. Contestants must strictly pay attention to the competition schedule to prevent mistakes in entering their competition category.**
- 6. Contestants are advised not to leave any valuables on the vehicle, loss in any form is outside the responsibility of the committee.**
- 7. The judging order will be based on the competition car number assigned at the time of application and registration.**
- 8. The contestant must drive the racing car himself from the parking position to the judging lane.**

9. Contestants must attend the technical meeting. If they do not attend, it will be considered that they agree to all the regulations set by the committee.

10. All audio equipment (products) installed in a competition car must be registered so that it is inspected at least before the competition takes place.

11. The vehicle must be able to be driven normally or can actually be used on main roads.

12. Contestants will be informed of the waiting area until the assessments are completed.

13. Judges will judge using USACI's Official USB Drive only in the mandatory music category.

14. When the contestant receives the evaluation results, he/she must sign the form from the judges' evaluation results to confirm. If there are any corrections to the score sheet, please sign it as well.

15. A protest will be made immediately if the contestant feels that any part of the decision does not agree with the contestant's opinion. A protest will not be made if the contestant has signed in agreement with the evaluation result.

16. The results of the evaluation must be available after the competition and awards ceremony have concluded.

17. If damage occurs to a contestant's sound system and permission has been granted by the Head Judge, they will be allowed to repair it for a period of up to 5 minutes. If, after repairs, the problem reappears, the evaluation will continue based on the actual condition, with the judge recording the actual condition as well.

18. In order to run the system for competition, external charging cannot be used.

19. Judges working on the day of the judges are prohibited from making any adjustments or other modifications to any other competitors, except their own vehicles that will be competing in other classes.

20. Contestants will have a maximum of 3-5 minutes to make final adjustments, after which they must begin judging as-is and continue until the end of the entire evaluation period.

21. After the judging and voting is complete, the judges will explain the results of their evaluation to the contestants for approximately 3-5 minutes.

22. The judges' opinions will only be relevant to the evaluation results on the score sheet.

23. Scoring can be done by other judges so that the judges can focus solely on the evaluation.

24. The judges may write their comments on the scores received on this evaluation sheet.

25. All decisions of the judging panel are final and cannot be contested.

Part 3 Conditions for Contest Vehicles

- 1. All types and brands of vehicles can participate in the competition.**
- 2. There are no restrictions on changing the vehicle's exterior and interior structure, as long as the vehicle is drivable and safe to drive.**
- 3. Except for the Amateur SEALED BOX class, which only allows the interior space of the vehicle.**

Part 4 Requirements for audio system equipment

- 1. The contestant may choose to use limited sound equipment as specified in the conditions of the competition, such as the number of subwoofers, by informing the judges before the start of the competition and evaluation.**
- 2. All audio equipment must be vehicle-specific. Use a 12-volt DC power supply (except Head unit or players).**
- 3. All audio equipment related to judging must be securely installed in the vehicle.**
- 4. Allows you to set up, customize, and connect the entire audio system.**

5. The competition car must use a maximum power supply of 16 volts when being judged, except in the EXPERT and UNLIMITED classes, which can use a maximum of 18 volts.
6. Allows the use of all types of audio or vehicle products.
7. **There is no limit on the number of power amplifiers used.**
8. Limit the number of speakers used according to each competition model.
9. **No limit on battery and capacitor usage.**
10. **There is no limitation on the number of alternators you can replace, but you can only use one, except in the EXPERT and UNLIMITED models.**
11. There are no restrictions on speaker placement as long as it does not interfere with safety.
12. All installed audio equipment must not interfere with the primary functions of the vehicle. For example, power amplifiers should not be placed on the seats, etc., which would interfere with the safety and comfort of the driver.

Part 5 Judgment process

- 1. Contestants will have a maximum of 10 minutes total to bring their cars into the competition lane to prepare before turning on the sound system and the time control judge will turn on the stopwatch as soon as the music from that car is heard.**
- 2. Contestants will change the required tracks in the order instructed by the judges and allow to select volume for each song before playing that song but not allow to change EQ/saved present at the DSP/head unit.**
- 3. The judges will evaluate the sound quality from the rear of the competing cars at a distance according to the regulations of that race category. If you wish to be permitted more than the specified distance and receive additional bonus points, the competitor must inform the judges of their location immediately before the evaluation begins.**
- 4. Judging will be based on the evaluation of sound quality from outside the vehicle only.**
- 5. All car doors can be opened during the judging (front left/right door, Left/right rear (if there is a rear door or trunk) except the front hood.**
- 6. Scoring criteria for sound quality**

Sound Clarity Balance (Definition & Clarity)

a. SUB-BASS low frequency = **1 to 10**

b. MID-BASS mid-low= **1 to 10**

c. MID-RANGE= **1 to 10**

d. Hi - high frequency= **1 to 10**

e. Tonal balance = **1 to 10**

f. Environment = **1 to 5**

- Overall Sound Quality = **1 to 20**

Sound Quality score x 2 then plus additional distance score

Part 6 Miscellaneous Rules

In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the person with the higher total score in the Definition & Clarity category. If the tie is still there, the winner will be determined by the person with the higher score in the Overall Sound Quality category. If the tie is still there, the winner will be considered in the same position.

If a contestant suspects a vehicle of another contestant, they may submit a protest directly to the Head Judge. The Head Judge will then conduct a further review as per regulations. The protester must be prepared to pay a cash protest fee of 22,500 INR (\$250) as per USACI regulations. When the Head Judge collects the protest, he/she will be accompanied by proof of protest and will then proceed with the investigation. If the protest is proven valid, the organizer will refund the protester the cash protest fee and proceed with the overturning of the decision.

