



Heartland Racing Association  
General Rules

The guidelines and/or regulations set forth herein are designed to provide for the orderly conduct of racing events and to establish minimum acceptable requirements for such events. These guidelines shall govern the condition of events and participation therein. NO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE GUIDELINES AND/OR REGULATIONS. They are intended as a guide for the conduct of events and are no way a guarantee against injury or death to a participant, spectator, or official. The director of competition, or his authorized designate, shall be empowered to permit minor deviation from any of the guidelines and/or regulations herein, or impose any further restriction which, in his/her opinion, does not alter the purpose of the organization. Deviation of these guidelines and/or regulations will be the responsibility of the series officials whose decisions are final.

**NOTICE:**

All equipment is subject to the approval of Heartland Racing Association (herein is referred to as HRA) officials. No equipment will be considered as having been approved by reason of having passed through the inspection process unobserved. Any equipment which does not conform to specifications or tolerances contained in this rulebook or in the appropriate manuals, will not be eligible for approval. All cars must comply with the rules set forth by the HRA rule book and reference manuals used in the inspection process. All cars and car parts are subject to HRA technical inspection processes. HRA is not required to follow any other sanctioning bodies or manufacturers guidelines in its inspection process. HRA reserves the right to add to and or adjust left side and/or car weight when deemed necessary for equal competition purposes. Driver Eligibility is subject to approval by series officials.

**REQUIRED DECALS:**

When supplied, teams are required to use car stickers in their designated and mandated position. Failure to do so may result in them not being eligible for contingency awards. Teams must also leave the top of windshield for use by HRA sponsors decal stickers (subject to penalty if not adhered to). Select windshield valance may be absolutely required to participate in an event.

**I GENERAL RULES**

1. Upon admittance to a restricted area, all participants must conduct themselves in a manner not detrimental to stock car racing. Profanity in front of race fans, officials, management, profane signs or writing on cars, etc., will not be tolerated and may subject the offending party to penalties. Conduct in social media deemed detrimental to HRA or sponsors may subject the driver or team to sanctions. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT AND/OR CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE SPORT OF AUTO RACING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
2. The general appearance of drivers and crews must be neat and clean looking.
3. A competitor that stops his or her car on the track to argue or discuss an incident with the starter or other officials may be subject to penalties.
4. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, including improper language or actions will result in sanctions from HRA.
5. Fighting will not be tolerated. Drivers will be held responsible for the conduct of all persons connected with their car, and violations will be dealt with accordingly. Any person from a crew, including the driver, going to another pit area where any altercation erupts will be considered at fault and will be subject to penalties.
6. Any driver who, in the judgment of series officials, engages in rough driving, deliberately running into, blocking or swerving in front of another car - may be subject to penalties. Any car intentionally blocking the track will subject the owner and driver to immediate and indefinite suspension from HRA.

**II COMPETITION RULES**



#### **A. Finishing Positions**

1. Finishing positions will be determined according to the most laps completed (including those earned through announced race procedures) in the least time, regardless of whether the car is running.

#### **B. Finishing Position Protest**

1. Protests to finishing positions in any race must be made within fifteen (15) minutes after the unofficial results are posted (race monitor applicable). Such protests must be in writing and must be given to the Chief Scorer or Race Director.
2. Scoring re-check decisions are final and cannot be appealed or litigated.

#### **C. Inspections, Mechanical Protest**

1. HRA officials may require an inspection of any vehicle at any time. Vehicles placing in the first five positions must present themselves at the inspection station immediately after the conclusion of the feature race for such inspection and must not work on the car in any fashion until told to do so by a technical official.
2. A competitor must take whatever steps are required, including a complete tear down of the car, as requested by HRA officials to facilitate inspection of the car.
3. Failure to present a car for inspection when requested to do so, or refusal to take steps requested by HRA officials, will be considered an admission of guilt and will be grounds for disqualification.
4. Protests regarding alleged mechanical infractions must be made prior to the feature race being called to the track for the official lineup. The written protest must specify, in detail, a single, specific part or rule that is in violation, and be given to the Chief Technical Inspector or Race Director, along with a fee of \$300. Mechanical inspection with respect to such protest will be made following the feature race. \$75 of the fee will be retained by HRA for administrative costs, with the remaining \$225 going to the winner of the protest. An engine protest that requires an engine teardown (as determined by the chief technical inspector), requires a \$1,000 protest fee. **One written protest per competitor per race.**
5. Post-Race Body infractions are the responsibility of the tech inspector and protest of them are not allowed.
6. A protest may only be filed by a competitor in the same feature race.
7. Officials have the right to confiscate and keep any illegal parts or components.
8. Alcohol is not allowed in the post-race technical inspection area until all cars have cleared technical inspection.
9. Lab testing of tires may be done at any time.

#### **D. Common Technical Rules**

1. Spec Fuel or Fuel Standards may be announced at a later date. Fuel samples may be taken at any time and tested. Alcohol, nitromethane, nitrous oxide, other oxygenating agents, other additives and/or fuels that contain masking agents or oxygen are not permitted. Street-use pump gas is not allowed. Use of such substances or additives will result in immediate disqualification and loss of points. Use of any fuel that contains oxygen is prohibited.
2. Bleeders are not allowed. Use of tire softening or altering agents is not permitted. Use of such substances will result in immediate disqualification and up to suspension
3. Tires may not be altered in any fashion including grooving or siping.
4. Vehicles must have 4-wheel hydraulic brakes.
5. No traction control devices, electronic or otherwise, will be permitted. Use of traction control will be cause for immediate disqualification and suspension from future racing activities. No driver adjustments other than ONE adjuster for brakes.
6. Carburetor restriction must be done with a solid plate or cone type system only and may not be externally adjustable in any way.
7. One Ignition Box Only.



8. No "U" Shaped Fuel Cells or non-standard shaped fuel cells.
9. No Tungsten or similar weight allowed!
10. No DIGITAL radios are allowed.
11. No Data Acquisition equipment/wiring is allowed in the car on officially recognized race or practice days.
12. Air Jacks may not be used during a break or pit stop during a race.

#### **E. Penalties**

1. Penalties for violations of the rules are determined by the gravity of the violation and/or its effects on fairness of competition. They may also be weighted as to discourage future infractions of a similar nature. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, lap penalties, position penalties, disqualification, suspension of license, posting of bond, fines, and/or loss of points. A suspension may be for a determined period of time, number of events, indefinite or remainder of a season.

#### **F. License Fee**

1. In order to compete in any HRA event all cars must be registered with HRA.

#### **G. Racing Rules**

1. When supplied, teams are required to use uniform patches and car stickers in their designated and mandated position. Failure to do so may result in a minimum penalty of \$100 or up to 10% of their purse for that event. Teams must also leave the top of windshield, front fenders and first 12" of the door for use by Series sponsors decal stickers (subject to penalty above if not the color/dimensions supplied by Series). Select windshield sticker and fender/door decals may be absolutely required to participate in an event.
2. Normal HRA programs will consist of practice, qualifications, a possible last-chance race, and a feature.
3. Final practice session times may be used for qualification purposes should unforeseen circumstance dictate the necessity during the event.
4. Individual track promoters have the option to add additional starters to the feature race. These starters will be added to the feature according to qualifying times, points or last chance race. These may be done at a reduced pay amount.
5. In the event that all cars qualifying for the event will make the event, the entire feature line-up will be by qualifications with the announced inversion.
6. If a promoter agrees to start all cars, above the previously announced number of starters, the field will be set on time with the appropriate inversion. For payoff purposes, the additional starters (at the reduced amount) will be the 2 slowest cars that aren't the 2 highest in points in qualifying positions 21 and slower.
7. A driver may qualify only one (1) car, and a car may be qualified only one (1) time for a race program. If a car is scratched following a successful qualifying attempt, a driver may qualify another car, provided that car has not yet qualified.
8. A driver, with his car, must either practice or qualify, to be eligible to start the feature. The only exception is with prior approval.
9. All driver changes from the time registration starts must be reported to a HRA official prior to that driver taking to the track. Any driver changes prior to start of a race and after qualifying will result in that car starting at the rear of the field.
10. No team may use a points-based starting position if they do not have a car in the pit area that is capable of competing.
11. Lineups for races and qualifying order will be posted in a conspicuous location. It is the responsibility of the driver to check his or her starting position and be ready to race when called for an event. Cars not ready to race may be placed at the rear of the starting lineup or disqualified from the event.
12. The starter may start any event whether all cars called are ready or not.



13. Any car that loses a wheel, has a hood or trunk lid come off or open, or is observed dragging dangerous parts, or dropping any fluid, is subject to disqualification at the discretion of the officials.
14. Driver must remain with any disabled car to assist track removal.
15. Officials may alter the rules or procedures at any time in the interest of fairness/safety.
16. Transponders must be on cars at all times when they are made available.

#### **I. Rookie Eligibility**

1. Drivers can apply for the rookie program if they have competed in no more than 45% events in one season. Any event where the driver does not complete 50% of the laps will not count towards their total races competed.
2. All rookie drivers must register and be approved by the HRA director.

### **III FLAG RULES**

#### **A. Green Flag**

1. At the beginning of each race, when the green flag is displayed, the track is “green all over” and all cars may commence racing at that time. On starts and re-starts, a driver must stay in their lane until reaching the finish line.

#### **B. Yellow Flag**

1. The yellow flag and lights signify caution and will be displayed immediately upon a decision by the starter and/or race director that a cause for such action exists.
2. After the yellow flag and lights are displayed, all cars must immediately slow to a reasonable speed and hold position until such time as the green flag is displayed, or the red flag is displayed. Racing back to the line under caution will not be tolerated.
3. A pace car will likely be used at the start of each event and during caution laps. No car may pass the pace car unless directed to do so by a series official.
4. Pit crews or officials may not service a disabled or damaged car on the racing surface during a caution flag period.
5. Cars which leave the lineup and pit during a caution flag period, and return during a caution period, will rejoin the lineup at the tail of the field.

#### **C. Red Flag**

1. The red flag and lights mean, in the opinion of officials, a situation exists requiring that the race be stopped immediately regardless of position of cars on the track.
2. Pit crews and drivers may not service disabled or damaged cars on the racing surface during a red flag period.
3. Cars that pit during a red flag period will restart at the tail of the field.

#### **D. Black Flag**

1. The black flag is a consultation flag and indicates that a driver must take his or her car to the pits immediately for consultation with a series official. Scoring will stop on a car which is black flagged until the situation is rectified. Any driver who fails to heed the black flag after it has been displayed twice will lose two laps for every lap run from that point on. Any driver repeatedly ignoring the black flag may face suspension.

#### **E. Layover Flag (Blue with diagonal stripe)**



1. The flag is a courtesy flag and is displayed to indicate to drivers that they are being lapped by faster cars. It will be used at the discretion of officials.

#### **F. Crossed Flags**

1. When any two flags are crossed and displayed by the starter, it signals to drivers that the leader has completed half the distance of the race.

#### **G. White Flag**

1. When this flag is displayed, it signals to drivers that the leader has begun his or her last lap. If a yellow or red flag is thrown once the leader has taken the white flag there will be a green, white, checker restart.

#### **H. Checkered Flag**

1. When this flag is displayed, it signals to drivers that the race (or that segment) has been completed. After the checkered flag is displayed to the leader, the balance of the field will receive the checkered flag in the same lap.

### **IV OFFICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Any situation not specifically covered in these rules will be acted upon by the official or officials in charge at the time, whose decision will be final and binding on all participants.
2. Any disagreement over technical questions or operations will be resolved by series officials. When their decision is made, such a decision is final and binding.
3. Continuous developments in racing may necessitate changes which cannot be or were not anticipated at the time rules are formulated. If necessary, rules may be updated, changed, deleted or added to at the discretion of the officials.
4. Officials may use weight penalties for any infractions of these rules in an effort to make a car eligible to compete.
5. At certain events, to encourage participation of local or different competitors, the officials may alter the rules for those cars, to try and create a level playing field for cars that might fall outside of the normal rules. Officials' decisions are final.
6. For support divisions, in the event of an excessive number of caution laps, officials may alter the weight requirement for fuel burn-off.

### **V SAFETY**

1. Approved seat belts and double shoulder harnesses are required, no older than three (3) years or within a set specific expiration date. A crotch strap is required.
2. A capable form of head & neck restraint must be used. A strap-type neck restraint is mandatory (No Neck Collars). Drivers will not be allowed on the racetrack at any time without proper neck restraints in place.
3. Helmet must be 2015 Snell standard or better and have a sticker visible for inspection. Full-face helmets required. Only Snell S. A. helmets will be allowed (No "M" rated helmets). Helmet skirts are highly recommended. Approved, clean full driving suit, gloves, and shoes for fire protection are mandatory.
4. SEAT BELTS CAN NOT BE OLDER THAN 3 YEARS.
5. Late Models cars must have a working fire suppression system (preferred) or, at minimum, a driver's accessible fire extinguisher. Street Stocks are required to have at least a driver accessible fire extinguisher. Gauges for extinguishers must be easily visible for inspection.



6. Side plate for driver's door will be mandatory. Must be 12 inches (12") high post-to post, 1/16" minimum thickness steel or 3/16" aluminum and must be fastened with a minimum of six (6) half-inch bolts or securely welded to series' approval.
7. Driver's window must be equipped with safety net with quick release-latch. String window nets will not be permitted. The minimum net size must be 22" wide and 16" high. When latched, the window net must fit and pull tight.
8. Resilient padding designed for roll bar use must be installed on any roll cage member which can be reached by any extremity of the driver while driver is normally seated with restraints fastened. Steering wheel must be padded.
9. All lead weights must be painted white, with the car number painted on each individual piece and be visible from the top. All lead weights must be securely fastened. Any lost weight may result in a \$25 per pound fine. No Tungsten or similar weight allowed.
10. All competing teams must possess a minimum 10 lb. Aluminum working fire extinguisher while in attendance in pits, and this item must be presented at inspection. Car number must be painted on fire extinguisher.
11. A main electrical cut-off switch needs to be clearly marked and easily accessible to safety crews. It must be located on the dash in the center in clear view or must be mounted on roll bar behind driver within reach of window. "On" and "Off" switch must be clearly marked.
12. Numbers must be a minimum of 24" in height, with body of each character a minimum of 3" in width and must be professionally placed on each door. A number will be required on top, readable from the infield. A car number at least six inches (6") in height must be placed in the upper right-hand corner of the windshield.
13. Roll cage must be constructed of 1 3/4" OD round steel tubing with a minimum wall thickness of .090". Three inches (3") maximum gussets measured diagonally must be welded in main roll cage area where a 90-degree angle exists or where the roll cage meets the main frame rails. The main frame rails / bolt-on clips must be steel from radiator area to behind the fuel cell.
14. No part of any cooling system may be located in driver's compartment. No Antifreeze period
15. A driver that stops on the track should not get out of their car until safety crews arrive, unless a dangerous situation with fire exists.

## **VI SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **A. Definition**

1. Illegal drugs or substances are those substances defined and prohibited by local, state, and/or Federal laws.

### **B. General Prohibition**

1. Possession or use of illegal drugs or drug substances, as defined above, is prohibited in any form by any participant on NFS grounds or in any area considered to be used in the operation of the event, including but not limited to parking lots, office areas, etc. All crew members and drivers are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol during an event's scheduled activities.

### **C. Violations and Penalties**

1. Any person found to be in possession of or under the influence of an illegal drug or drug substance on a host track's property, as defined above, or any person who is arrested by duly constituted authorities and charged with possession and/or use of illegal drugs or drug substances, or any person who is formally charged by a court of law with illegal drug violations, may be subject to penalties by HRA as follows:
  1. Suspension from competition and eviction from track property and denial of further entry to the track for any NFS events for a period of time to be determined by NFS officials.



2. In the case of formal charges being filed in a court of law, upon notification to series Officials by the agency involved, the participant may be suspended from all forms of participation in any NFS events until such time as the charges are fully adjudicated through the legal process.
3. In the case of a conviction by process of law, the participant may be prohibited from participating in any NFS events for a minimum period of one (1) year from date of conviction.

#### **D. Appeal and Hearing**

1. Any participant suspended for violation of these rules may be granted an appeal hearing by a board of officials designated by HRA, provided the suspended participant requests such a hearing, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of suspension. It is the responsibility of the suspended party to make such a request if a hearing is desired.

#### **E. Reinstatement**

1. A participant suspended for violations of these rules, except in the case of persons charged with selling illegal drugs or drug substances, may, as the result of a decision reached through the hearing process, be reinstated if it is mutually agreed that the participant, at his or her own expense, will produce documentation from a physician licensed with the state, certifying that he or she is illegal drug independent, as a result of random and periodic examinations and urinalysis testing made at the request of Nashville Fairground Speedway officials.

#### **F. Prescribed Drugs**

1. If a participant is using prescription drugs on the advice of a physician, such use must be reported to the director of competition prior to the participant's entry into series activities. Failure to notify will subject the participant to penalties as described in this section.