



2026 Rule Book

Spirit and Intent

The Southwest Jr. Dragster Series has been created to offer junior dragster racers with all levels of experience a place to compete in a professional atmosphere. All Southwest Jr. Dragster Series races are intended to be run within the rules and guidelines of the NHRA and IHRA sanctioned racing facilities. At no time is it intended, or allowed, that safety will be forfeited at the expense of any driver.

The following set of standardized rules is set forth to inform every contestant what is required when attending a Southwest Jr. Dragster Series event. Please email all comments and/or suggestions regarding the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series to any board member at southwestjrdseries@gmail.com.

All rules for the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series are based on this simple premise – junior drag racing is a sport designed for the fun and enjoyment of the whole family.

The spirit and intent of that principle will be the standard by which our series will be guided. In the past, there have been attempts to circumvent series rules in violation of the spirit and intent of this series. The rules and regulations set forth below are as complete as we can humanly make them. However, it is impossible to craft rules that cover every contingency. When an unforeseen circumstance arises that tests the spirit and intent of the rules, event officials are authorized to decide if an equipment change, or design is an attempt to “beat” the rules.

Event and/or track officials can and will disqualify an entry in violation of the spirit and intent of the rules. Race Officials have the right to correct conditions not in compliance with the spirit and intent of the regulations.

Driver and Crewmember Conduct

Drivers and crewmembers are expected, at all times, to conduct themselves in a professional and non-disruptive manner at all Southwest Jr Dragster Series events. All other **track rules** governing behavior, pit vehicles, staging, and other acts will be followed by the series, its drivers, and crewmembers.

Any driver and/or crewmember that engage in any conduct listed below may be excluded, placed on probation for a period of time decided upon by the SWJDS Board Members, disqualified, and the entire race team may be asked to leave the event and receive additional race suspensions not to exclude, the remainder of the current season or possibly an indefinite suspension. This includes actions on social media such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

1. Verbally or physically threatens another driver or other person.
2. Use of vulgar or derogatory language.
3. Engages in un-sportsmanlike conduct or conduct detrimental to the sport of junior drag racing.
4. Causes or contributes to the destruction of property.
5. Or otherwise creates a condition or circumstance that is unsafe, unfair, or out of order.

THE RULE BOOK IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO REFLECT THE SOUTHWEST JR. DRAGSTER SERIES RULES IN GENERAL. If something is not specifically ALLOWED in these rules you are advised to check with the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series Race Director BEFORE you attempt to race at a Southwest Jr. Dragster Series event. The Southwest Jr. Dragster Series holds the right to amend any and all rules to this series at any time.

Driver Requirements

All drivers' performance and driving abilities will be reviewed during every event. If at any time, during competition, it is determined by a Board Member/Race Official that any driver is jeopardizing anyone's safety, or is not properly qualified to compete, that driver shall be excluded from any further competition at that event. A valid NHRA or IHRA license is required and should be available for review by a race official or board member.

Southwest Jr. Dragster Series Membership

Membership in the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series is required for all drivers that wish to participate in the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series Championship Points. Membership is \$75.00 per driver. Membership fees will aid the series in offsetting costs in presenting an event, purchase advertising, and any other expense incurred by the series. Membership paperwork is due the Monday after the second race event. Any additional memberships after that Monday will not be eligible to accrue points for those previous events.

Race Categories-

Index-

11.90/13.90, 6-9 years old, .500 Pro Tree, 660 ft distance

8.90, 10-17 years old, .500 Pro Tree, 660 ft distance

7.90, 12-17 years old, .500 Pro Tree, 660 ft distance

Bracket 330-

No age limit, .500 Full Tree, 330 ft distance.

Trophy-

11.90 and slower, age 6-8, .500 Full Tree, 660 ft distance

Age Group-

Beginners 6-9 years old, .500 Full Tree, 660 ft distance

Advanced 10-12 years old, .500 Full Tree, 660 ft distance

Masters 12-17 years old, .500 Full Tree, 660 ft distance

All Run-

No age limit, .500 Full Tree, 660 ft distance.

General Rules

1. NHRA or IHRA Jr. Dragster rules and guidelines will be observed at the respective sanctioning body facilities.
2. Participating drivers must hold an NHRA or IHRA competition license.
3. The area and procedure for starting the engine will be defined by the officials on an event-to-event basis based on the track layout.
4. Dial-Ins must be written on the side of the car, or if a dial-in board is being utilized it **MUST** be attached to the side of the car.
5. Age - A driver's competition age is the actual attained age as of January 1 of the year being competed in. Drivers may compete in the SWJDS through the year of their 18th birthday. Drivers over the age of 18 are prohibited from competing. A driver who ages up during the year may continue to compete in the class they started the year in or may move to a higher class once their actual attained age qualifies them. **But accumulated championship points will not be transferred to the higher class.**
6. Index classes- There is no maximum age for drivers competing in the 8.90 and 7.90 Index classes, i.e., 16-year-old competitor competing in 8.90 index is permitted. The maximum age for drivers competing in the 11.90/13.90 Index class is 9 years old.
7. Drivers participating in 8.90 and 7.90 index or 10-12 and 12-17 age group will need to choose which index and/or age group class they would like to accrue championship points in before the first event. Drivers can compete in both index and/or age group if they choose but will only accrue points in only one index or age group.
8. Any documented violation of age, engine capacity rules or falsification of documents may result in a minimum five race suspension, and/or loss of all series points.
9. Technical Safety Inspections performed with online tech form. Sanctioning body rules (NHRA, IHRA) rules apply. It is the responsibility of the parent/driver, not SWJDS or any track, to ensure that all safety equipment is approved and is correctly installed, worn, maintained, and used. A current NHRA or IHRA license is required. Tech forms will be available at the track. Tracks reserve the right to conduct Technical Inspections.
10. Use of proper safety equipment is mandatory per sanctioning body guidelines (NHRA, IHRA). Seat belts must be worn and adjusted in such a manner that the driver's torso and head cannot extend outside the parameters of the roll cage. Drivers are also required to use safety equipment until the vehicle exits the racing surface and comes to a complete stop.
11. A Jr. Dragster is not allowed to be driven under power outside of designated racing areas at any time. The designated racing area will be identified during the drivers' meeting on Saturday morning. Driving through the pits is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification. Sanctioning body rules (NHRA, IHRA) rules apply. When being towed the driver must sit in the driving position if in the car.

12. If a board member witnesses these rules being not adhered to, a disqualification may be administered.
 1. Anyone who operates a motorized vehicle in the pits, or on racetrack grounds, must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license. A learner's permit is not acceptable. A motorized vehicle includes, but is not limited to, golf carts, four wheelers, scooters, motorbikes, and side-by-sides.
 2. Driving your JR Dragster on the return road past the designated area. The car must be shut off and come to a complete stop before the end of the designated area.
 3. Seat belts not being worn and adjusted in a manner that would allow the driver's torso and/or head to extend outside the parameters of the roll cage while operating their JR Dragster on the track and/or return road.

Board members may administer these disqualifications as required.

- If caught on Saturday, any points that have been earned for that day prior to being caught will be taken from the racer. In addition, the racer will be disqualified from any additional racing on that day.
- If caught on Sunday, any points that have been earned for that day prior to being caught will be taken from the racer. In addition, the racer will be disqualified from any additional racing on that day.
- Any points lost cannot be used for a drop weekend.
- In addition to the above, no money will be refunded.

Race Procedures

1. **Restarts** – Only one restart after the car has passed the water box. Once one pre-stage bulb is lit, neither competitor may restart their car. If either competitor's car shuts off, while one pre-stage bulb is lit, they forfeit the round.
2. **Auto Start** – Auto start settings will be used in all classes.
3. **Tires** – No treating/prepping tires passed the water box.
4. **Deep Staging** – Deep staging is permitted in all classes. Deep Staging is **NOT** guaranteed. (If the track's timing system is not set up for deep staging you **MAY** be disqualified by a red-light.) Please check with track officials before attempting. **DEEP** must be displayed on both sides of the car.
5. **Courtesy Staging** – Courtesy staging will always be in effect. Both contestants must activate their pre-stage lights before either entry may advance into the stage beams.
6. **Crewmembers** – A crewmember is not allowed to touch the car in any manner after the **PRE-STAGE bulb** is lit in your lane. Driver will be disqualified and shutdown immediately if this infraction occurs. This rule also applies to bye-runs. In the event of a starting line issue and one car is pre-staged, the starter may allow both cars to be backed from the beams to correct issue.
7. **Bye Runs** – The car must stage under its own power to claim round win. First round bye run will be selected by best reaction time in last time run. Subsequent bye runs will be based upon the best

reaction time of the previous winning round provided the driver has not received a buy run. If all remaining drivers have received a bye run, then the best reaction time of the previous round will be used for selecting the next bye run.

8. **Protests** – Any protest or question must be voiced prior to the driver staging his/her car. If you take the tree, the run will stand.
9. **Call to the lanes** – There will be a first, second and final call to the lanes. It is the responsibility of each driver/team to promptly report to the staging lanes to eliminate any delay of the race. If a racer has an issue delaying their arrival at the lanes, they should immediately notify the race director or board member of their situation and do so BEFORE the final call is made.
10. **Change of Car**- In the event your car breaks down and is unable to complete the race, the car may be substituted with a car not competing in the current race. A board member will authorize all substitutions. No time trial will be authorized.
11. **Show up Points**- If you show up to an event and pay for the race you entered and have an unforeseeable medical/family emergency and can not start that race you will be awarded your show up points.

Championship Points System-

Championship Points will be awarded to the driver of a competition vehicle only. If you own a competitive vehicle, and have more than one driver during the year, the driver will accumulate points not the car or the owner. Points will only be awarded to drivers & car owner in good standing with the Southwest Jr. Dragster Series. A minimum of one-time trial or qualifying run will be required to earn participation points. Championship total will be calculated using a driver's best 6 performances throughout the year. Show up points will not be dropped for any races dropped by a driver that competes in more than 6 races.

Points Earning

Attendance (show up) Points	5 points
Each Round Won	10 points
Event Win	2 points
Event Runner Up	1 point

Example: A driver enters (5 points) and wins a race (3 rounds @ 10 points each round & 2 points for win), he or she earns 37 points.

Championship Points Tie Breakers (ALL Classes)

1. Most race category win points.
2. Most race category runner up points.
3. Most round points.
4. Most events attended.
5. Run off for Championship.

Southwest Jr Dragster Series – Driver of the Year Criteria

The standing Southwest Jr Dragster Series board members will review the following criteria to determine the series Driver of the Year. By using these criteria, board members will be able to vote for the best candidate who represents the face of the Southwest Jr Dragster Series. The percentage of rounds won in all races available will be based off the 4 main categories that are open to all drivers. Index, Bracket 330, Age Group and All Run. Drivers who are competing in 8.90 index, 7.90 index, 10-12 age group, 12-17 age group must select which index/age group they would like to factor into the driver of the year criteria before their first race.

- 1.) The percentage of rounds won from all available races.
- 2.) Sportsmanship.
- 3.) Number of Series Championships won in the current year.
- 4.) Loyalty to Series. (Number of races attended)

After the review of the above criteria, the current standing board members will cast their vote. In case of a tie, the standing series director will cast the final determining vote.