

# 2026 GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES



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THE RULES 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 RULES SHALL GOVERN THE CONDITION OF SPEEDWAY EVENTS AND, BY PARTICIPATING IN THESE EVENTS, ALL RACEWAY COMPETITORS ARE DEEMED TO HAVE COMPLIED WITH THESE RULES. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF, OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS. THEY ARE INTENDED AS A GUIDE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPORT AND IN NO WAY ARE A GUARANTEE AGAINST INJURY OR DEATH TO PARTICIPANTS, SPECTATORS OR OTHERS.

References are made throughout these regulations requiring and/or recommending that products meet certain specifications. These products are manufactured to meet or exceed certain criteria and are labeled as such upon satisfying those criteria. Any change to these products voids that certification. Under no circumstances may any certified product be altered from the "as manufactured" condition or such certification is voided.

Changes and additions to the 2026 USRA General Rules, Regulations & Procedures are underlined and highlighted in red. Changes made for grammatical purposes or to improve clarity are not highlighted. All participants and officials are expected and required to be familiar with the definitions and details in the USRA General Rules, Regulations & Procedures and the Rules for the division(s) in which they compete.

The United States Racing Association shall hereafter be simply referred to as the USRA throughout the rules description. USRA official(s) shall include all personnel employed as an official by the participating racetrack.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Definitions  
Section 2: General Rules  
Section 3: Conduct  
Section 4: Technical Inspections  
Section 5: Awards & Decals  
Section 6: Licenses & Points Funds  
Section 7: Points System  
Section 8: Rookie Eligibility & Procedures  
Amendments

## SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **Racecar:** An automobile designed solely for competition on oval racetracks, controlled from within by a competitor.
- 1.2 **Automobile:** A vehicle which carries its own motor and operates on four non-aligned complete wheels, of which two are used for steering and two for propulsion.
- 1.3 **Vehicle:** A manufactured locomotive device propelled by constantly taking real support on the earth's surface whereas the propulsion and steering are under the control of a competitor aboard the vehicle.
- 1.4 **Competitor:** The person controlling the operation of the racecar, also referred to as the driver. The competitor is expected to understand how to operate the mechanisms which control the speed, direction and braking of the racecar.

- 1.5 **Participant:** A person directly involved in the mechanical operation and/or management of a racecar, including, but not limited to, competitors, crew members, racecar owners, sponsors and their family members.
- 1.6 **Event:** A USRA-sanctioned competition between two or more competitors and their racecars. An event shall consist of practice (hot laps) and actual racing contests.
- 1.7 **Official:** An official shall be any person participating in the exercise of authority for enforcing or interpreting these rules. The official may also make judgments concerning the conduct of participants and declare penalties for breaches of these rules, as well as perform technical inspections on any racecar. The combination of officials may vary from week to week and from one racetrack to another.
- 1.8 **Promoter:** An entrepreneur who oversees the operations of the racetrack, either as a tenant or owner of the facility. Furthermore, the promoter is the person responsible for the implementation of rules, hiring staff and financial compensation to participants.
- 1.9 **Cockpit:** The volume of the racecar which accommodates the competitor.
- 1.10 **OEM:** An original equipment manufacturer (OEM) manufactures products or components that are purchased by another company and retailed under that purchasing company's brand name. OEM refers to the company that originally manufactured the product. OEM replacement parts are those which have been manufactured by another company to the same specifications as the OEM parts.
- 1.11 **EIRI:** Except in rare instances.

## SECTION 2: GENERAL RULES

- 2.1 USRA rules shall apply at all events. All participants are subject to the rules of the USRA and are expected to know the rules. These rules are a guideline as to what is permitted and/or not allowed. If these rules do not explicitly say it is permitted, then you must contact the USRA to identify if the part in question is permitted for competition. An expressed ignorance of USRA rules by any participant will not be recognized as a valid argument for failure to comply with USRA rules. Some tracks may have amendments, additions or other adjustments to the rules for a division. Promoters must make these differences clear, in writing, always posted online and available to competitors. Competitors should verify rules packages with racetrack prior to competing at an unfamiliar venue.
- 2.2 Approval of any racecar by an official shall mean that the racecar is approved for participation in the event and shall not be construed in any way to mean that the inspected vehicle is guaranteed to be mechanically sound or safe. Be it further declared that officials and/or the USRA shall not be liable for any mechanical failure, nor for any losses, injuries or death resulting from the same.
- 2.3 All competitors must be at least twelve (12) years of age (proof of age required). Competitors under eighteen (18) years of age are required to have a signed and notarized Parental Consent Form. The Parental Consent Form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and must be received by the USRA prior to participation of the competitor in any event.
- 2.4 The USRA may require any competitor to undergo a physical examination by a licensed health care provider prior to being allowed to participate in any event.
- 2.5 No equipment or racecar will be considered as having been approved by reason of having passed through inspection unobserved.
- 2.6 All racecars must be able to join the race lineup on demand.
- 2.7 The USRA reserves the right to add to, delete, supersede or modify any rule, exhibit or drawing that the USRA deems necessary for the conduct of events and/or safety of participants. All amendments are effective on the date of publication by the USRA regardless of when a person subject to the rules receives actual notice of the amendment.
- 2.8 Every competitor must inspect the racing surface and the track area to learn of any obstructions or other defects which, in the competitor's opinion, presents an unsafe condition for competition. The competitor shall report any unsafe condition in writing to an official. Any competitor that competes in an event is considered to have inspected the track surface and surrounding perimeter to determine that all conditions are satisfactory. If the competitor does not feel that the conditions are satisfactory, the competitor should not compete in the event. The competitor further acknowledges that he or she is aware that auto racing involves risk, and that by competing in an event, the competitor assumes these risks with full awareness and responsibility.

- 2.9 All competitors are responsible for registering their racecar for each event in order to ensure their respective starting position in each event.
- 2.10 The USRA and/or promoter reserve the right to refuse to accept the entry of any racecar, competitor or participant. Furthermore, the USRA and/or promoter reserves the right to revoke or cancel any entry, or any participant's claimed right to be on the racetrack's premises, if it is determined that a participant's presence or conduct is not in the best interest of the sport of auto racing, other participants, spectators, track management and/or employees of the USRA.
- 2.11 Lighted signaling devices, hand signals or any other equipment or methods used for communication during an event between a non-competing participant and a competitor is not allowed.
- 2.12 Officials may require competitors to utilize a one-way radio with no scanning capabilities to enable audio communication from official(s) to competitors only. Furthermore, racecars may be fitted with a timing transponder as supplied by an official. All other radios and any other devices used for transmitting or listening are not allowed on the racecar.
- 2.13 Computers are not allowed on the racecar. This includes, but not limited to, electronic traction control devices. Any competitor found to be using traction control will be subject to a minimum fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and up to a lifetime suspension from all events.
- 2.14 Decisions of the USRA are final and binding without exception.
- 2.15 These rules have been set by the USRA and are subject to change without notice. All promoters will be informed of any changes to these rules after the date of publication, and those changes should be made available to competitors at each racetrack and/or announced at competitors meeting. The USRA will publish amendments to these rules on the USRA website at [usraracing.com](http://usraracing.com).
- 2.16 Unless specified otherwise by another rule, a competitor will earn the minimum show-up points (45 for track and regional, 90 for national) if he or she is disqualified during an event.

## **SECTION 3: CONDUCT**

- 3.1 Participants will conduct themselves as professionals. Any conduct or actions by a participant deemed inappropriate and/or unsportsmanlike by the USRA shall be grounds for disqualification and/or punitive action by the USRA. This will be strictly enforced.
- 3.2 Competitors are responsible for the conduct and actions of their car owners, crew members, sponsors and family members.
- 3.3 Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy**
- 3.3.1 The USRA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy prohibits the misuse of alcohol, prescription drugs and any other substance used in a manner that affects safety or impacts the integrity of the competition, including, but not limited to, illegal or performance enhancing substances. All USRA participants are responsible for whatever goes into their body.
- 3.3.2 The USRA may test any participants whose performance at a USRA event potentially affects the safety of themselves, other USRA participants, spectators and/or guests.
- 3.3.3 Participants are prohibited from using, having in their system, possessing, purchasing, selling and/or participating in the distribution of any drug that is illegal to possess, use and/or distribute by the laws of the United States of America and/or any of its 50 states, regardless of the amount, at any time. Illegal acquisition and/or illegal distribution of any prescription or over-the-counter medication are strictly prohibited at any time.
- 3.3.4 Violation of this Substance Abuse Policy shall be cause for immediate and indefinite suspension.
- 3.4 Any participant who defies or violates the intent or spirit of the USRA rules shall be considered to have engaged in unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be dealt with accordingly and swiftly by the USRA.

## **SECTION 4: TECHNICAL INSPECTIONS**

- 4.1 For all division at all events, the first four (4) finishers in the main event—and any other racecars as instructed by officials—are required to report to a designated area after the completion of the main event where post-race technical inspections will be performed.
- 4.2 Each racetrack is required to have a USRA-certified technical inspector at each event. It is recommended that each racetrack employ a second tech official to assist during inspections.

- 4.3 At the discretion of officials overseeing an event, any participant may be disqualified by the official(s) for violation of any USRA rule, equipment and/or conduct deemed to be hazardous to other participants or officials.
- 4.4 All racecars are subject to inspection by an official at any time. Any competitor who refuses to allow any inspection by an official, or terminates an inspection in progress, shall be subject to a fine of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), suspension from all events for fourteen (14) days, loss of all points earned to date for the current year and forfeiture of all cash and/or awards earned at the event.
- 4.5 Any illegal part discovered through inspection any time after the competitor signs in to compete in that event can be confiscated by an official and forfeited by the competitor. Any competitor's racecar that is caught with any illegal part during pre-race inspection is subject to the same associated penalties and will not be entitled to any refunds of any money. Competitor discovered to be using illegal parts of any kind shall be subject to a cash fine, suspension from all events, loss of all points earned to date for the current year and forfeiture of all cash and/or awards earned at the event. Confiscated parts may be sent to manufacturer for inspection. Failure by the competitor to surrender any illegal part for confiscation shall result in a separate penalty, in addition to other applicable penalties under this rule.
- 4.6 All measurements must be made with the racecar as-is after exiting the racetrack while the racecar is stationary on a surface which is as close to flat and horizontal as permitted by the terrain of the space, with front tires straight and competitor remaining in the racecar.

## **SECTION 5: AWARDS & DECALS**

- 5.1 Approved USRA sponsor decals must be displayed in required locations on the racecar for the competitor to participate in any prize money, points funds and/or contingency awards which require specific decals and/or decal placement for eligibility.
- 5.2 All decals shall be distributed by the USRA or racetrack, along with a description of each sponsor's program, decal placement requirements and contact information.
- 5.3 In order to be used in competition by a competitor in any event and/or be eligible to earn points or points funds, all racecars in all division must display the approved decals in the required location(s) as described in the USRA Decal Placement Guide.
- 5.4 Competitor may be required to submit a photograph of his/her racecar in competition during an event to the USRA to be eligible for contingency awards.

## **SECTION 6: LICENSES & POINTS FUNDS**

- 6.1 All competitors competing in an event must possess a valid USRA license. The purchase of a USRA competitor license provides supplemental insurance coverage above covered medical expenses. Drivers must purchase the USRA license by March 1, 2026 to get the \$100,000 supplemental insurance. After March 1 that insurance decreases to \$25,000.
- 6.2 The cost of a USRA competitor license for the 2026 calendar year is \$140 for Modifieds, \$120 for Stock Cars, \$120 for Late Models, \$110 for B-Mods, \$110 for Hobby Stocks, \$110 for Limited Mods, \$110 for Factory Stocks and \$70 for Tuners. All license fees will increase by \$20 beginning March 1, 2026. A USRA competitor license must be purchased directly from the USRA by calling (515) 832-6000 or online at [usraracing.com/register](https://usraracing.com/register). Competitors may also download the application at [usraracing.com/downloads](https://usraracing.com/downloads), and then print and mail the completed form with a check or credit card information. A service fee of 4% applies to all credit card transactions over the phone or by mail. Online registrations will incur a \$10 service fee. There are no refunds for any license purchase.
- 6.3 Alternatively, competitors may purchase a USRA temporary (temp) license for \$10 which is valid for one (1) event only. Competitors opting to purchase a temp license will earn the same points as those with a USRA competitor license. The purchase of a temp license does not apply toward the cost of a USRA competitor license if one is purchased later. Tracks may charge up to \$20 for temp licenses.
- 6.4 USRA competitor licenses must be purchased directly from the USRA. Temp licenses must be purchased from the racetrack. Racetracks do not sell USRA competitor licenses, and the USRA does not sell temp licenses. Exception is for the USRA Nationals.
- 6.5 Competitors that do not attend the USRA banquet may forfeit one-half of any points fund money and/or any contingency award(s) earned.

## SECTION 7: POINTS SYSTEM

- 7.1 Competitors competing in a USRA-sanctioned event may be eligible to earn track, regional and national points for the division the competitor is competing in at the event. Points are awarded to the competitor only—substitutions are not allowed.
  - 7.2 A competitor may register a one-time-only provisional start by paying a \$50 fee to the racetrack prior to the event. Upon receipt of the fee, competitor will receive credit for attendance and earn the minimum track, regional and national points for entering the event. If using a provisional, competitor is forbidden from competing as a competitor in any auto racing event whatsoever on that same day. If it is discovered that the competitor competed in another event, that competitor will lose all USRA points accumulated to date.
  - 7.3 Points will only be awarded to competitors at events held and officially reported to the USRA by the promoter. The promoter is solely responsible for submitting event results in a timely manner.
  - 7.4 To earn points in an event, competitor must, at minimum, be in full uniform and participate by being in the racecar and on the racetrack during warmups (EIRI).
  - 7.5 Competitors will be awarded national, regional and track points at USRA-sanctioned events beginning February 21 and ending October 25, 2026. In the Modified, Stock Car, B-Mod, Hobby Stock and Tuner divisions, one hundred (100) additional national points will be awarded to competitors racing at the USRA Nationals scheduled for September 30-October 3. In the Limited Mod and Factory Stock divisions, one hundred (100) additional national points will be awarded to competitors racing at the USRA Southern Nationals scheduled for (TBA). Mason City Motor Speedway will host the Nationals for the Late Models in October and they will receive 100 bonus points for their attendance.
- 7.6 National Points**
- 7.6.1 National points are awarded to each competitor in the main event as follows: 1st - 200 points, 2nd - 190 points, 3rd - 182 points, 4th - 174 points, 5th - 168 points, 6th - 162 points, 7th - 156 points, 8th - 152 points, 9th - 148 points, 10th - 144 points, 11th - 140 points, 12th - 136 points, 13th - 132 points, 14th - 128 points, 15th - 124 points, 16th - 120 points, 17th - 116 points, 18th - 112 points, 19th - 110 points, 20th - 108 points, 21st - 106 points, 22nd - 104 points, 23rd - 102 points. All other competitors that start the main event and finish below 23rd are awarded 100 points. All competitors that fail to start (take the green flag) in the main event are awarded 90 points.
  - 7.6.2 Hard Charger Bonus: One (1) additional point is awarded to each competitor for each position advanced in the main event from the actual starting position to the official finishing position (example: start 10th, finish 2nd = 8 bonus points).
  - 7.6.3 Car Count Bonus: Additional points are awarded at each event for the number of competitors in each division: 0-10 entries earn points equal to actual car count; 11-14 entries earn 12 points; 15-18 entries earn 13 points; 19-21 entries earn 14 points; and 22 or more entries earn 15 points.
  - 7.6.4 Track Championship Bonus: Ten (10) additional points are awarded to each USRA track champion as of September 28.
  - 7.6.5 In 2026 drivers will earn 1 bonus point per USRA track attended during the 2026 race season. Maximum points for one driver are 20 points. These points will be added at year end when track champion points are added.
  - 7.6.6 National points are awarded to each competitor in Modifieds, Stock Cars, B- Mods, Late Models and Hobby Stocks based on best thirty (30) finishes; Tuners, Limited Mods and Factory Stocks based on best twenty-five (25) finishes.
  - 7.6.7 In the event of a tie for first place in the final track, regional or national points on October 5, the champion shall be the competitor with the most wins. Should a tie still exist after wins are counted, the next determining factor(s) shall be top-five finishes, and then top-ten finishes, and then total number of events entered, and then the highest finisher in the most recent event(s) until the tie is broken. Competitors that are tied in any other finishing positions shall remain tied. Points funds, if any, for competitors that are tied shall be divided evenly between the competitors that are tied.
  - 7.6.8 Points will not be awarded for any "invitational" or "limited entry" event that restricts any eligible competitor to enter and participate in that event.

7.6.9 During the USRA Nationals from September 30- October 3, at the Lucas Oil Speedway in Wheatland, MO there shall be no USRA track, regional or national points awarded in the Modified, Stock Car, B-Mod, Hobby Stock and/or Tuner divisions. National points will only be awarded at the USRA Nationals, and competitors in attendance in each division will earn 100 bonus national points.

## **7.7 Regional Points**

7.7.1 Regional points are calculated the same as national points but including only events in each region.

7.7.2 Regional points are currently awarded in the Modified, Stock Car and B-Mod divisions only.

7.7.3 Additional divisions, if any, and regional alignments will be published prior to March 1.

## **7.8 Track Points**

7.8.1 Track points are awarded at all USRA-sanctioned events designated as such by the racetrack promoter.

7.8.2 Track points will be awarded to each competitor in the main event as follows: 1st - 100 points, 2nd - 95 points, 3rd - 91 points, 4th - 87 points, 5th - 84 points, 6th - 81 points, 7th - 78 points, 8th - 76 points, 9th - 74 points, 10th - 72 points, 11th - 70 points, 12th - 68 points, 13th - 66 points, 14th - 64 points, 15th - 62 points, 16th - 60 points, 17th - 58 points, 18th - 56 points, 19th - 55 points, 20th - 54 points, 21st - 53 points, 22nd - 52 points, 23rd - 51 points. All other competitors that start the main event and finish below 23rd are awarded 50 points. All competitors that fail to start (take the green flag) in the main event are awarded 45 points.

## **SECTION 8: ROOKIE ELIGIBILITY & PROCEDURES**

8.1 Cash, trophies and contingencies designated for rookie competitors shall be awarded to competitors who fulfill and meet all minimum requirements for eligibility.

8.2 Rookie of the Year awards will be awarded to competitors in all divisions. National points shall be used for rookie points determination.

8.3 Competitor may have participated in a maximum of ten (10) USRA events in division prior to the current year to be eligible for rookie status. B-Mod and/or Limited Mod competitors may have participated in a maximum of ten (10) Late Model or Modified events in a prior year. Hobby Stock competitors may have participated in a maximum of ten (10) Late Model, Modified, Stock Car, B-Mod or Limited Mod events in a previous year. Hobby Stock and/or Factory Stock competitors may have participated in a maximum of ten (10) Late Model, Modified, Stock Car, B-Mod and/or Limited Mod events in a prior year. Tuner competitors may have participated in a maximum of ten (10) events in any other USRA division in a previous year.

8.4 Competitors must designate their eligibility for rookie status when registering for their USRA License.

8.4 Official decisions regarding rookie eligibility are final, binding and not subject to appeal.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.

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