



2022 General Rules

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 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 all events, and, by participating in these events, all participants are deemed to have complied with these rules. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATIONS OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND/OR REGULATIONS. They are intended as a guide for the conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury to or death of a participant, spectator, or official. The race director and owner or his representatives shall be empowered to permit minor deviation from any of the specifications herein or impose any further restrictions that in his opinion do not alter the minimum acceptable requirements. Any interpretation of or deviation from these rules is left to the discretion of the officials.

1.2 Merritt Speedway, Tri-City Motor Speedway, and Thunderbird Raceway (referred to as "facility" from this point forward) is private property. Management reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual(s) and/or vehicle(s) onto the property and further reserves the right to eject any individual(s) and/or vehicle(s) from the premises at any time, if in their discretion, determines their presence or conduct is not in the best interest of the Facility.

1.3 The decision of track officials is final.

1.4 All discussions with officials shall be conducted in a professional manner, the race director will be available at the noted location after the races for 15 minutes each race night. (Drivers/Car Owners only, no crew unless directly involved)

1.5 Drivers are responsible for the conduct and actions of all crew members (this includes spouses, parents, other relatives, and significant others).

1.6 Unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting, or harassing officials may result in disqualification and/or suspension.

1.7 All drivers and crew will conduct themselves in a professional manner.

1.8 Any person found working in your pit area that does not have a paid pit pass band from that day will automatically disqualify you and your car from that night's competition, and potential additional suspension.

1.9 Parking assignments may change depending on the event (Includes Paid stalls).

1.10 Punishment for deviating from the rules is at the discretion of track officials, but may include docking of points, docking of laps, docking starting positions, docking of prize money, being placed at the back of the field, loading your car for the night, suspension and more.

1.11 The facility reserves the right to deduct from your prize money any fees owed to the track for Raceceiver or other safety systems, pit stalls, etc.

1.12 Division and other track issued decals MUST be displayed behind front tires. If stickers are not in place before all qualifying/racing events, you will not be eligible to receive points or money.

1.13 All earned point money is paid to the entity identified on the W -9 or W-8BEN form.

1.14 Disqualification and/or suspension will result for the following unsportsmanlike behavior:

- a) Any driver recklessly driving his/her racecar or any other motor vehicle through the pit area or parking lot(s), which can endanger the lives of other drivers, crew members, fans, or facility staff.
- b) Driver or crew member going into other driver's pit area.
- c) Fighting or assault.
- d) Any driver threatening or touching an official or facility staff member.
- e) Any driver stopping on the track and throwing a tantrum or holding up the show.
- f) Any driver that takes his or her helmet off while on the race track during an event.
- g) Any driver or crew member using profanity or obscene gestures at flagman or any official.

- h) Any driver that intentionally makes contact with another car following the finish of a race or during a caution period. Any contact while green that is deemed intentional. All subject to discretion of race director/owner.
- i) Any driver that exit their racecar on the racing surface or directly off it, unless your vehicle is suspected to be on fire, directed to do so by the race director, or with permission from safety personnel. Once permitted to exit you must remain as close to your car as safely possible and assist the wrecker crew with getting your car back to the pit area. Minimum 2 week suspension for first violation plus disqualification for current event.
- j) Any other unprofessional or unsportsmanlike conduct not covered in this section.

1.15 IMPORTANT - Participants are not employees of the facility but are independent contractors and assume all responsibility for all charges, premiums and taxes payable on any funds they may receive as a result of their participation in any events as drivers. Participants will be required to be licensed by the facility in order to compete. All licensed drivers must read and understand the licensing agreement.

1.16 Drivers or car owners will be paid all monies and must furnish the facility with their valid Social Security Number or tax id number if paying a business. Failure to do so, or furnishing false Social Security Number/EIN, may result in not being paid, a fine and/or suspension.

1.17 Personal quads or golf carts are for fuel and tires only. Must have car # and name clearly displayed. This is a privilege and will be revoked if deemed necessary. At no other times is there to be any personal quads or golfcarts driven, at any time, on any part of property. All pit vehicles must stay behind safety fences off and away from the track surface once the first green flag drops for the race night.

1.18 There is a 10 mph speed limit in the pit area at all times.

1.19 If proof of driving ability of any applicant is deemed necessary, tests shall be conducted at the discretion of track officials and their decision shall be binding on the applicant. When it is deemed necessary, officials may insist on a physical examination of any driver.

1.20 Drivers under 18 years of age are required to submit to the facility a NOTARIZED parental consent form - signed by parents or legal guardians, - a copy of birth certificate and a resume, prior to competition.

1.21 Gloves – All drivers must wear fire rated racing gloves. No exceptions.

1.22 Track officials shall have responsibility for rules and regulation enforcement at race events. At discretion of track official(s) in charge, any competitor may be disqualified for rule violations, hazardous equipment or hazardous actions. All disputes developing as a result of rules must be settled at the track.

1.23 All cars racing at the facility for prize money will be required to register for the season. Registration fees for each class will vary. Drivers can pre-register online and pay the yearly registration fee. If a driver does not pay online the registration fee will be deducted out of the driver's payout. Individual special event registration will go towards that event's purse. Special event registrations must be paid before the event or when the driver checks in for the event.

1.24 No driver or crew member may enter the racing area until he/she has completed all releases, registrations and/or entry forms. No person will be allowed to sign release and waiver sheets for anyone other than themselves.

1.25 Drivers choosing to race two classes in one night will be required to pay for and properly display 2 adult pit passes.

1.26 Consumption of alcoholic beverage by driver, driver associate or his/her crew in advance of racing program, or while in pit area during racing program is strictly forbidden. Any driver, driver associate or crew member showing evidence of alcohol consumption will be required to leave the premises immediately and may be subject to an indefinite suspension. Use of illegal drugs at any time shall be cause for immediate, indefinite suspension.

1.27 The facility is private property and medical cards for marijuana are not valid at the facility. **You and/or your crew may not use marijuana or any other controlled substances at the facility.** Any misuse of prescription drugs will not be allowed on facility property. If someone seems to be affected by any sort of drug, they may not be allowed on facility property. The evidence of drug use or abuse will result in leaving facility premises immediately and may be subject to an indefinite suspension.

1.28 The driver is qualified and receives points, not the race car. Driver must compete in the race car they started the night with. No changing of race cars during the race night after the first competition event has begun for the driver's class. Any driver allowing another driver to use his/her race car, or any driver changing cars forfeits any points and money earned in that event.

1.29 No driver, crew member or associate of a driver shall participate in any fight on the premises, or take part or participate in any action or activity considered detrimental to the facility. These actions may result in suspension.

1.30 Driver is sole spokesman for car owner and pit crew in any and all matters pertaining to the race and only the driver shall take part in any arbitration with the officials.

1.31 Driver is responsible for the conduct and actions of their crew members and/or associates. Unsportsmanlike conduct by drivers, owners, pit crews and/or associates shall be grounds for disqualification and/or punitive action by the facility .

1.32 The facility reserves the right to inspect any race car at any time. They further reserve the right to disqualify any driver and race car from competition and confiscate any and all non-conforming parts. It is the responsibility of the driver and crew to disassemble race car for inspection when requested to do so. Refusal to comply will result in disqualification and forfeiture of prize money and points and may be subject to fine and/or suspension.

1.33 Any IMCA car, under protest or claim at the facility, taken from premises without first clearing with official in charge will subject car and driver to disqualification and forfeiture of prize money and points accumulated for the entire season.

1.34 Any driver or race car under suspension may not participate in any event.

1.35 All drivers, car owners and mechanics assume full responsibility for any and all injuries sustained including death and property damage, at any time they are on the premises, or in route to or from the premises.

1.36 If you are bringing your dog into the pit area, you must follow the dog rules. The dog must stay on a leash and inside the trailer or hauler unless taking it to and from the dog run.

1.37 Window nets are mandatory for all drivers unless otherwise specified by racing sanctions.

1.38 All race vehicles are required to have an aluminum racing seat with appropriate 5-point harness.

1.39 Added racing weight is required to be painted white and designated with appropriate car number.

1.40 All drivers required to have a 2010 or newer, SA2010 rated and approved racing helmet.

1.41 No driver shall exit their vehicle during racing activity unless vehicle is on fire or directly instructed to by a race official. No driver shall leave their vehicle until it is COMPLETELY pitted. Failure to adhere may result in DQ and/or suspension.

1.42 E-85 fuel is not permitted. Drivers using E-85 are subject to DQ and/or suspension.

1.43 Fuel additives are not permitted. Drivers using fuel additives are subject to DQ and/or suspension

1.44 Scaling

a) Qualifying - All vehicles must scale before qualifying; no exceptions.

b) Top 5 in heats and features must go to scales. All divisions, every race, no exceptions. Failing to scale and pulling into pit will result in a last place scoring for the event.

1.45 Qualifying – All drivers must qualify with their group, no exceptions. If transponder fails, driver has until the end of their group’s qualifying to replace. Driver will have a 1 lap qualifying run (1 lap penalty).

1.46 Claims – Promoter reserves right to make, review, halt, or allow all claims made under the claim rules.

1.47 It is the driver’s responsibility to ensure that occupied pit spot and/or racing hauler has a working, and up to date, fire extinguisher readily available in case of fire emergency. Refer to sanction rulebook regarding fire extinguisher requirements inside of vehicles.

2.0 PROTESTS

2.1 Protest must be in writing and filed with promoter within 15 minutes after feature race is completed, and must be specific in alleged violation to determine whether protest is allowed or rejected.

2.2 No protest of any type will be allowed after prize money has been paid. Only one item may be of protest per event. Drivers may not protest more than one car per event, another driver finishing in a position behind them, and may not protest same driver more than once per calendar year.

2.3 There is not a fee to bring an error in points or procedures to facility attention. This must be done within 2 race nights following the night that had the error or the error will remain.

2.4 All protests will be handled at track level and must be accompanied with a \$150 cash deposit. \$50 of the deposit goes to the track and will not be refunded, regardless of the outcome of the protest. If item being protested is found legal, \$100 of deposit will be forfeited to the car being protested. If item is found illegal, \$100 deposit will be refunded to protester.

2.5 The party against whom a protest is made has a right to know the charge and have a written copy thereof so that they may adequately defend themselves against any action.

3.0 AUTOMATIC PENALTIES

3.1 Electronic traction control device: Automatic disqualification and \$10,000 fine and may be barred from all MSPA tracks. If driver is found with an electronic traction control device at any point during an event, driver loses all points in all divisions and is suspended until fine is paid. Device may be confiscated and retained by Tri-City/Merritt.

3.2 The facility reserves right to test competitor's fuel. Fuel sample may be taken from any car at any time. Penalty for illegal fuel is disqualification from event and \$250 fine - first offense. Disqualification, no points and no pay for the night, loss of points for the year, 2 week suspension and \$1,000 fine - second offense.

WARNING - ethanol blended fuel may not pass fuel tests.

3.3 Use of **non-stamped or softened tires** in any division will result in a disqualification. Disqualification, no points and no pay for the night and \$250 fine - first offense. Disqualification, no points and no pay for \ the night, loss of points for the year, 2 week suspension and \$250 fine- second offense.

3.4 Fighting and/or physical assault: Penalties including fines, suspensions and points penalties to be at discretion of facility Promoter and officials. Penalties may be based on severity of incident. Applies to driver and or all crew members, family and/or associates. Minimum penalty is disqualification, no points and no pay for the night and 2 week suspension.

3.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or verbal assault: Penalties including fines, suspensions and points penalties to be at discretion of facility Promoter and officials. Penalties may be based on severity of incident. Minimum penalty is disqualification, no points and no pay for the night.

3.6 Intentional rough driving: Penalties including fines, suspensions and points penalties to be at discretion of the facility and officials. Penalties may be based on severity of incident. Minimum disqualification, no points and no pay for the night- first offense. Minimum disqualification, no points and no pay for the night and 2 week suspension - second offense.

3.7 Physical assault of a track official, or promoter: Penalties including fines, suspensions and points penalties to be at discretion of facility Promoter and officials. Penalties may be based on severity of incident. Minimum disqualification, no points and no pay for the night and indefinite suspension.

3.8 If your raceceiver is not working: you will be asked to leave the track and may be scored as last place with points and pay - if leave track when asked to do so. Minimum disqualification, no points and possibly no pay for the night - if you hold up the show and do not leave the track when asked to do so.

3.9 Repeated violations of rules may result in permanent suspension.

3.10 Any fines occurred by the driver, crew or associates must be paid in full by cash or money order before that driver/ car is allowed to compete again.

3.11 If antifreeze is found in any car on the track, that car will be disqualified and receive no points and no pay for the night.

3.12 All suspensions/violations may result in suspensions of all MSPA tracks.

4.0 RACE PROCEDURES

4.1 The number of cars starting a race is determined by the track officials and depends on the type of event and condition of track.

4.2 Race car must display number. It must be clearly visible, on sides, top, front and back of car. No holographic or reflective numbers are to be used.

4.3 Any driver not ready to compete when called will be sent to rear of starting line-up. Once a race takes the first green flag, the race is started and the field is complete. If you don't make the start, you don't race.

4.4 Once a race is started on a preliminary line-up lap, disposition of cars not in position shall be at discretion of officials. If you need a push start you will start that race to the rear.

4.5. No driver shall exit their vehicle during racing activity unless vehicle is on fire or directly instructed to by a race official. No driver shall leave their vehicle until it is COMPLETELY pitted. Failure to adhere may result in DQ, forfeit of pay, and/or suspension.

4.6 No person shall be allowed on track during a race except officials.

4.7 Hot Pits: Tri-City Motor Speedway (TCMS) has a designated Hot Pit Area that is located off of turn three. Work to any race cars during their race (changing tires, checking spark plug wires, repairing raceceiver, ect.) must be done in the Hot Pit Area. Any car driving into the pits or doing work to their car outside the Hot Pit area will not be allowed to return to the track. If you do return to the track after taking the car outside the Hot Pit area, you will forfeit prize money. Any car rejoining the race after have entering the Hot Pit area will be allowed to rejoin race at the rear of the field, you may only rejoin the race during a caution.

4.8 Cars that are in danger of being lapped by the leader may be show the Blue flag with Orange stripe. Car in danger of being lapped may be told on the raceceiver to "Hold your line, leaders are coming." Race Leaders racing with lapped cars is part of racing. Lapped cars more than 2 laps down will be warned with the black flag if they are racing cars on the lead lap. If lapped cars more than 2 laps down continue to race cars on lead lap, after being warned, they will be sent to the pits.

4.9 During any heat or preliminary race (heat, pursuit, 4-car dash, etc.) if a car brings out or causes a caution it will go to the pit area. During an A or B-Main race a car may only bring out 2 cautions. Once the first caution is brought out, the car will go the tail of the field on the restart. If a race car brings out a second caution during that race, it will be directed to the pits. Cars will only be allowed to bring out a total of 3 cautions during a race night, once a car causes the third caution for the night, the car will be directed to the pits for the remainder of the night. **Race Director makes the decision if and what car is the caution car.**

4.10 A car that brings out a caution on any start / restart will be sent to the tail of the field on the restart. That caution will not count against the cautions allowed for that race on the first time. Each additional caution, even if it is on a restart, will count against that car for the allowed cautions for each race.

4.11 A car that intentionally brings out a caution will be send directly to the pits.

4.12 Unless specified differently by a series or sanction the following signaling rules apply for **ALL** divisions:

- a) No driver, car owner, pit crew, or mechanic, may use starter's flags, signal sticks, lights, sign boards, cell phones, radios, other electronic devices, etc. for purpose of signaling competitors. Use of these devices will result in last place qualification (last place points and pay). Spectators, crew members, and fans, must stay off of the safety fence. Any person that crosses, or climbs the safety fence line during racing activity is subject to removal from facility and/or associated driver disqualification.

4.13 A race may be stopped at discretion of officials at any time, if considered dangerous to continue, but only officials have the right to stop a race. All races will be timed based on the type of race and number of laps. The clock will run from the first green flag and during all green and caution laps. The clock will stop during red flags for safety. Standard race time is one minute per lap. If the time runs out, the drivers will be notified over the Raceceiver and the next caution flag or the checkered flag (whichever comes first) will end the race. The race will go back to the last completed lap if it is ended on a caution with the caution car(s) going to the rear of the field.

4.14 If the caution flag comes out when the checkered flag is out, the race will go back to the last completed lap with the caution car(s) going to the rear of the field.

4.15 Raceceiver's are mandatory at all times on the track. You must be able to clearly hear the track officials and respond to their requests. Failure to do so will result in being sent off the track. Failure to leave the track will result in no points or pay for the night.

4.16 Top 5 finishers, in all races, must go directly over the scales. Any car that goes to a pit stall before going to the scales will be disqualified. If driver is not sure if they are in the top five, facility officials suggests that driver goes to the scales and get weighed.

4.17 If driver does not report to pre-race or post-race inspection, those drivers not reporting to the inspection area may be disqualified and given last place points. Tech area is for the driver and/or car owner only.

4.18 No race is official until officials make declaration of final scoring of positions.

4.19 No race car is to receive assistance after white flag is displayed and all finishes must be made under car's own power or momentum.

4.20 A dead heat may or may not be re-run at discretion of officials. If dead heat is not re-run, all drivers are to be awarded last place points and 75% of the prize money will be paid out and divided equally.

4.21 Transponders must be mounted on the **right side and the back of rear axle** and in an orange transponder pouch. If your transponder falls off you may not be scored and you will be responsible for replacing the transponder. Any racer caught trying to modify or deliberately changing location of transponder will be disqualified.

4.22 Drivers may only use the yellow(rechargeable) or orange(direct wire) Westhold transponders. Blue, or green, are not allowed.

4.23 All cars in line-up and tech area must be "race ready". Car covers of any kind are not permitted outside your pit area.

4.24 Any car that flips/rolls over will not be able to continue in that race or in any other event for the remainder of the night unless specifically cleared by 2 tech officials. The driver must be checked out by medical personnel.

4.25 If a car is disqualified with no points/ pay, the positions behind that car may not move up.

4.26 A car must attempt to start a race to receive start money. If a car makes it from the line-up and one revolution around the track during the parade lap it will be considered starting a race. Any registered cars who cannot start a race will receive tow money. Any car taking advantage of this rule will receive no money for the night.

4.27 Once half or more than half of a race is completed, and the race has to be cancelled due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, the race is complete. Cars must still report to claim, scales and tech in this instance. If less than half of a race is completed, the race will be re-ran from a complete restart the following scheduled week. EX: In a 20 lap race, once the 10th lap is complete (all of the cars cross the start/finish line), the race is complete.

5.0 Merritt Speedway / Tri-City Motor Speedway / Thunderbird Raceway

5.1 Heat Races:

- a) 1st - 5
- b) 2nd - 4
- c) 3rd - 3
- d) 4th - 2
- e) 5th - 1
- f) All starts get at least 1 point

5.2 Features:

- a) 1st - 25
- b) 2nd - 22
- c) 3rd - 21
- d) 4th - 20...
- e) Down 1 each position to 10 points minimum
- f) Non-transfer (B Feature) cars get 8 points
- g) No points for qualifying or fast car dashes

6.0 CLAIM REFUSAL "Any claim rule applies to TCMS/Thunderbird IMCA division rules only"

6.1 Refusal to sell any claimable item forfeits all cash, trophies and contingencies for feature and all IMCA, T-Bird & TCMS points in all claim divisions for calendar year.

6.2 Any driver refusing a claim, when claimed within rules, loses right to claim any other driver for 12 calendar months from reinstatement date.

6.3 First refusal will also result in driver being suspended for 30 calendar days from facility events in all claim divisions from refusal date and until proper cash fine is paid to the facility. Second refusal will result in driver being suspended from the facility events for one year from refusal date and until \$5,000 cash fine is paid to the facility. Third refusal is permanent suspension from the facility. In any refusal the driver will lose all season points and may not be able to compete in that class ever again (see class rules for details).

6.4 Engine refusal fine – Modified \$2,000. Refusal fine must be paid before racing in any class at the facility in the future.

6.5 All fines must be a cash or money order and be received by the facility prior to driver returning to competition. Track may also suspend car for duration of penalty.

6.6 Regardless of claim outcome, claim is charged to claiming driver in case of a refusal. (Exception is: in case of sabotage).

7.0 SHOCK CLAIM PROCEDURES: The facility Promoter reserves the right to the following:

7.1 Invoking a penalty for shock claim refusal of \$1,000 and 30-day suspension.

7.2 IMCA Modifieds, Factory Stock and Pro Stock - Promoter can claim any shock for \$50 from any driver's car. One or all shocks may be claimed

8.0 IMCA CRATE ENGINE PROCEDURES

8.1 Must use unaltered GM crate engine with authentic GM seal bolts – NO EXCEPTIONS.

8.2 In addition to authentic GM seal bolts, all GM 604 crate engines must have IMCA Cable-Loks.

8.3 Upon inspection, any different, altered or missing GM seal bolts or IMCA Cable-Loks will result in disqualification, loss of all IMCA points for the season, \$5,000 fine and a 30-day suspension from all IMCA sanctioned events.

8.4 GM seal bolt exception is IMCA approved and issued Cable-Lok repair system.

8.5 No repairs allowed for non-licensed drivers.

8.6 No repairs allowed for any drivers that have been penalized for tampering or illegal parts on crate.

8.7 Crate can be repaired once per year/per member only.

8.8 \$250 fine for any crate engine not using required pushrods, valve springs or rocker arms. \$250 fine for utilizing altered rev-limiter components.

8.9 Oil pan may be replaced by IMCA certified repair center with the corresponding Champ or Kevko replacement oil pan and pick-up. See divisional rules for approved part numbers.

8.10 Any driver using crate engine cannot claim engine nor have engine claimed. During same season, no driver is allowed to claim an engine after competing with a crate. If a driver switches to a crate after claiming an engine, the crate engine is then claimable.

9.0 B-MOD CRATE MOTOR PROCEDURES

9.1 Crate motors must be IMCA sealed.

9.2 The facility promoter reserves the right to require any unsealed crate motor be removed from a B-mod competitors' car, and be exchanged for a IMCA sealed motor that may be put in its place.

10.0 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

10.1 Rules apply at all times car is on track. Snell-rated SA2010 or newer helmet required. Roll bar padding required in driver compartment. Recommended: Fire retardant padding. SFI-approved full fire suit required. Fire retardant gloves, shoes and neck brace (or head and neck restraint) required. Competitors under the age 18 are recommended to use an SFI 38.1 head and neck restraint system due to the young body and developing bones. Right and left seat head supports required if using head and neck restraint system. Recommended: Fire retardant head sock and underwear, collapsible steering shaft. Driver-side window net required, minimum 16 inch by 20-inch ribbon or mesh style, and must be mounted to roll cage so latch is at top front of window. (Unless otherwise stated in sanction rules) Minimum three inch (two inch with head restraint system) wide SFI-approved five-point safety belt assembly required, must be mounted securely to main roll cage. Recommended: Safety belts no more than two years old. Any safety equipment physically or visibly wore or damaged must be replaced, regardless of age. All safety equipment must not be altered and must follow manufacturers use, specifications and requirements for installation.