

2026 Rule Book



Revision 0 – Issued 3/10/2026

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Revision Log

<u>Revision #</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
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1.0 Organization

1.1 Contacts

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1.2 Scope

The rules and/or regulations set forth herein do not express or imply warranty of safety, from publication of, or compliance with these rules and/or regulations. They are intended as a guide for the conduct of the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series and are in no way a guarantee against injury to participants.

These rules and/or regulations will apply to all Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series sanctioned racing events.

Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials have full authority over said sanctioned racing events. In the event of any dispute, the Series Director's decision will be final.

All race cars are subject to be inspected by the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series Technical Director at any time during the event.

The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series reserves the right to alter or amend these rules and/or regulations in the interest of safety and/or fair competition.

Throughout the Rulebook, a number of references are made for particular products to meet certain specifications (i.e. SFI Specs, FIA, Snell, etc.). It is important to realize that these products are manufactured to meet certain specifications, and upon completion, the manufacturer labels the product as meeting that spec. Therefore, except as outlined under SFI requirements, any change to the product voids that certification. Under no circumstances may any certified product be modified, altered, or in any way vary from the "as manufactured" condition. Such a practice is in violation of the SFI, FIA, Snell, etc. program, and voids such certification and therefore will not be accepted by the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series.

1.3 Conduct Policy

The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series is a professional organization and will

conduct itself so in its dealings with everyone, including fans, drivers, team members, series sponsors, team sponsors, tracks, and the Press. The Series therefore expects the same from its Drivers, Team Members and Team Sponsors. The Series organizers and officials therefore reserve the right to take disciplinary action against anyone who brings the Series into disrepute by their actions, either on or off the track.

Disciplinary action may also include, but is not limited to, the right of the Series organizers and officials to suspend either temporarily or permanently, any driver, team member or team sponsor whose actions, in the sole opinion and discretion of the Series organizers and officials, may have resulted in, or may result in, harm or detriment to the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series, Race Tracks, or events.

The Series organizers and officials also reserve the right to request the removal of any derogatory or distasteful statements on any race car or hauler. Failure to comply with this request for removal may result in disqualification from some or all the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series Events.

The decisions made, and the disciplinary actions taken, by the Series organizers and officials here under shall not be appealed by the driver, team member or team sponsor affected thereby.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Any driver/ crew member/ participant found by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials to be engaging in unsportsmanlike behavior or any inappropriate behavior that affects the orderly conduct of an event, the interests of dirt late model racing, or Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will receive a penalty. This includes any aggressive action toward a Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official by a driver/ crew member/ participant including arguing, yelling, or raising your voice when talking to an official, touching the official in any physical way, and any social media posts, public or private statements that are offensive or detrimental to the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series or a Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official. Driver/ Crew Member/ Participants are solely responsible for the actions of all team members at all times. In the event that a team member shows unsportsmanlike conduct, Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials may penalize the driver/ crew member/ participant for the actions of the team member in addition to any penalty to the team member for his/her actions.

No driver or crew member may be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substances while competing. The Series reserves the right to require drug testing in order to assist its enforcement of the Series' no alcohol and no drug policy. Decisions on drug testing and disciplinary action (which may include but is not limited to immediate ejection from a track, a fine of \$500.00, a 90- day suspension, and/or a denial of further entry to Southern Thunder Promotions, Inc. sanctioned events) is at the sole discretion of the Series.

1.4 Identity

Any driver entering and competing in a Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series event acknowledges and accepts the following: Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series and its representatives may use the driver's names, pictures, likeness, and performances in any way, medium, or material, including without limitations by and through, television, radio air- wave: cable and satellite broadcasts, film productions, videotape reproductions, audio-tape reproductions, transmissions over the Internet and public and private on-line service authorized by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series and the like, before, during and after the event for promoting, advertising, recording or reporting in the event or any other Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series sanctioned event, and do hereby relinquish all rights there to for these purposes, provided however that the car owner and driver shall retain the exclusive use of its or his name; picture and likeness in connection with product endorsements and the sale of products, services, concessions and merchandise.



2.0 Pre-Race Procedures

2.1 Registration

- A. It will be the responsibility of all drivers/ teams to sign in and pay their entry fees prior to the Pre- Race Rules and Safety Briefing. Driver registration will be conducted at the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official trailer and/or at a designated location in the pit area with starting and ending times designed by series officials. Drivers/ teams registering after the registration closes will be assigned to the tail of the next on-track event.
- B. Each driver must read and decide if he/she is going to sign the tax registration portion and the competition and enforcement portion of the registration form to be eligible to compete in a Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series event. By signing the form, the driver understands that the rules and enforcement calls and decisions of the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series are final.

2.2 Registration Fees

- A. All drivers/ teams will pay a \$125 entry fee for each event unless otherwise specified.
- B. Entry Fee must be paid before a team will be allowed to draw for time trials.
- C. In the event of a cancellation, or postponement (other than next day), all entry fees will be refunded or held over at teams' request.
- D. Entry Fees are collected on a race-to-race basis. Each race will be separate. Entry Fees collected will only be good for that event. Only in the event of a postponement will the entry fee be carried over to a future event.

2.3 Technical Inspections

- A. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will follow the Unified Dirt Late Model Car Construction Rules (including droop) for the 2026 season with exceptions for minimum weight and limits to tire compound and size options.
- B. Technical inspection will be held at an area designated by the technical inspectors, and all cars must sign in and pass-through technical inspection before going out onto the track. No exceptions. Failure to follow this procedure may result in forfeiture of qualifying time.
- C. Any changes or alterations required must be completed, and the race car returned to technical inspection before Hot Laps.
- D. After a race car has passed technical inspection, and sticker has been issued, no alterations can be made to the race car. Any changes to any part of the body will result in loss of qualifying time or loss of position in the next assigned race.

- E. All race cars are subject to be inspected by the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series Technical Director at any time during the event.
- F. If a driver decides that changes need to be made to his/ her car (such as changing tires) once it has been put into position on the starting grid for the A-Main, he may not leave the grid to make changes until the field has been sent off on the warm-up lap. It is the driver's responsibility to return before the one-to-go signal has been given to start from the rear.
- G. Any technical inspection that occurs immediately prior to an event is conducted as a courtesy to the drivers. All post-race technical decisions shall supersede any courtesy inspections prior to an event.
- H. Any type of car covering including rear car covers are only allowed in a team's designated pit area. Any covering must be removed prior to leaving the pit stall.

2.4 Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing

- A. Attendance for the Rules and Safety Briefing (often referred to as the drivers meeting) prior to each event is mandatory for all drivers plus one crew member from each team.
- B. It is the responsibility of all drivers to know when the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing is and to arrive on time for the briefing. In most circumstances, the briefing will be held prior to hot laps at the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official trailer. The scheduled time for the briefing will be posted at registration.
- C. Any rule, format or schedule changes will be discussed at the briefing.
- D. All drivers will be responsible for information discussed at the Rules and Safety Briefing. The briefing is not a social gathering.
- E. At all races a roll call of drivers in attendance may be conducted. The penalty for not attending or arriving late to the briefing may be loss of hot laps for any offending driver or team.

2.5 Provided Decals

- A. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will provide each team with a set of mandatory decals. These decals must be visible on both sides of the car. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series decal must be immediately behind the front wheel, at the top of the fender. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series is aware of and does not wish to create a conflict between drivers, teams, and their marketing partners.

2.6 Unplanned Testing Sessions

- A. On the day of race events, no additional practice or testing will be allowed before, during, or after the race night unless the session is open to all series competitors and is announced at least 30 minutes before the session begins.



3.0 Points and Payouts

3.1 2026 Points Fund

- A. Drivers must attempt to compete in 70% of events during the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series season to be eligible for points fund awards.

The 2026 Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series point fund:

Season			
1st	\$15,000	6th	\$2,000
2nd	\$8,000	7th	\$1,500
3rd	\$6,000	8th	\$1,000
4th	\$4,000	9th	\$1,000
5th	\$3,000	10th	\$1,000

3.2 2026 Rookie of the Year Points Fund

- A. The Rookie of the Year shall receive \$2,000.
- B. Drivers must attempt to compete in 70% of events during the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series season to be eligible for Rookie of the Year points fund awards.
- C. The Rookie of the Year standings will be maintained based on the series championship points breakdown.

3.3 Rookie of the Year Application Process

- A. Drivers wishing to compete for the Rookie of the Year Award must indicate their intention by informing the Series General Manager in writing.
- B. Intentions to be eligible for RoY must be received no later than the start of the fifth series event or by June 1, 2026, whichever is earlier.

3.4 Rookie of the Year Eligibility

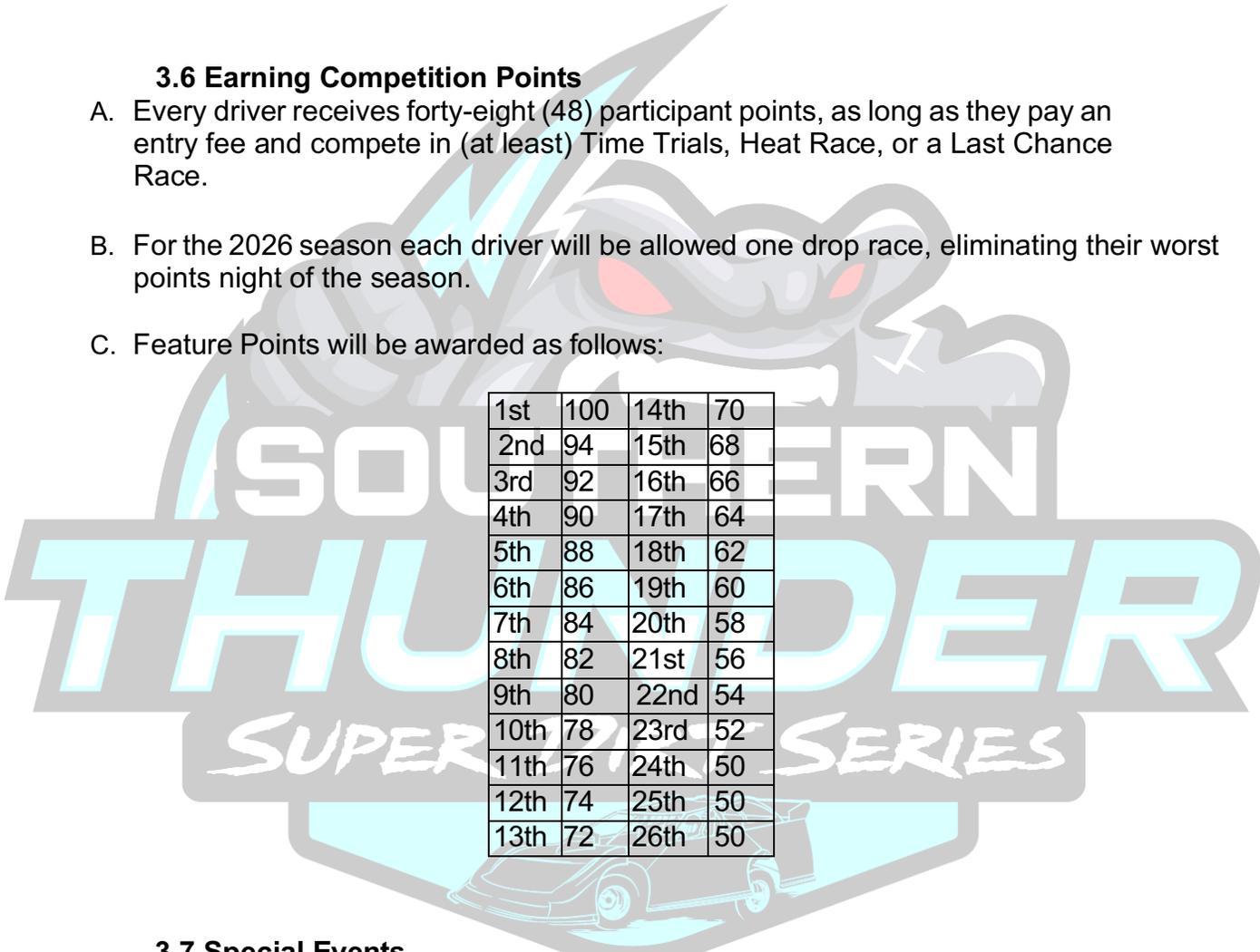
- A. The parameters for eligibility will include but will not be limited to; any competitor that has never competed in an entire previous season; any competitor may not have won more than five (5) declared Series races (qualifying and/or features) in their career; have exceeded a maximum of three (3) declarations of intent to participate for Rookie of the Year in any prior seasons and/or competed in 50% or more series events in a single season.
- B. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will have final approval on eligibility.

3.5 Points Tie Breakers

- A. Any ties in point standings will be broken in the following order:
- i. First by number of wins in events where points were earned.
 - ii. Second by number of second place finishes in events where points were earned.
 - iii. Third by number of third place finishes in events where points were earned.
 - iv. Continue by best finishes until the tie is broken.

3.6 Earning Competition Points

- A. Every driver receives forty-eight (48) participant points, as long as they pay an entry fee and compete in (at least) Time Trials, Heat Race, or a Last Chance Race.
- B. For the 2026 season each driver will be allowed one drop race, eliminating their worst points night of the season.
- C. Feature Points will be awarded as follows:



1st	100	14th	70
2nd	94	15th	68
3rd	92	16th	66
4th	90	17th	64
5th	88	18th	62
6th	86	19th	60
7th	84	20th	58
8th	82	21st	56
9th	80	22nd	54
10th	78	23rd	52
11th	76	24th	50
12th	74	25th	50
13th	72	26th	50

3.7 Special Events

- A. In a multi-day event, where preliminary events set the line-up for the final event, Championship and Rookie of the Year points will only be tallied from the final event.

3.8 Cancellations or Postponements

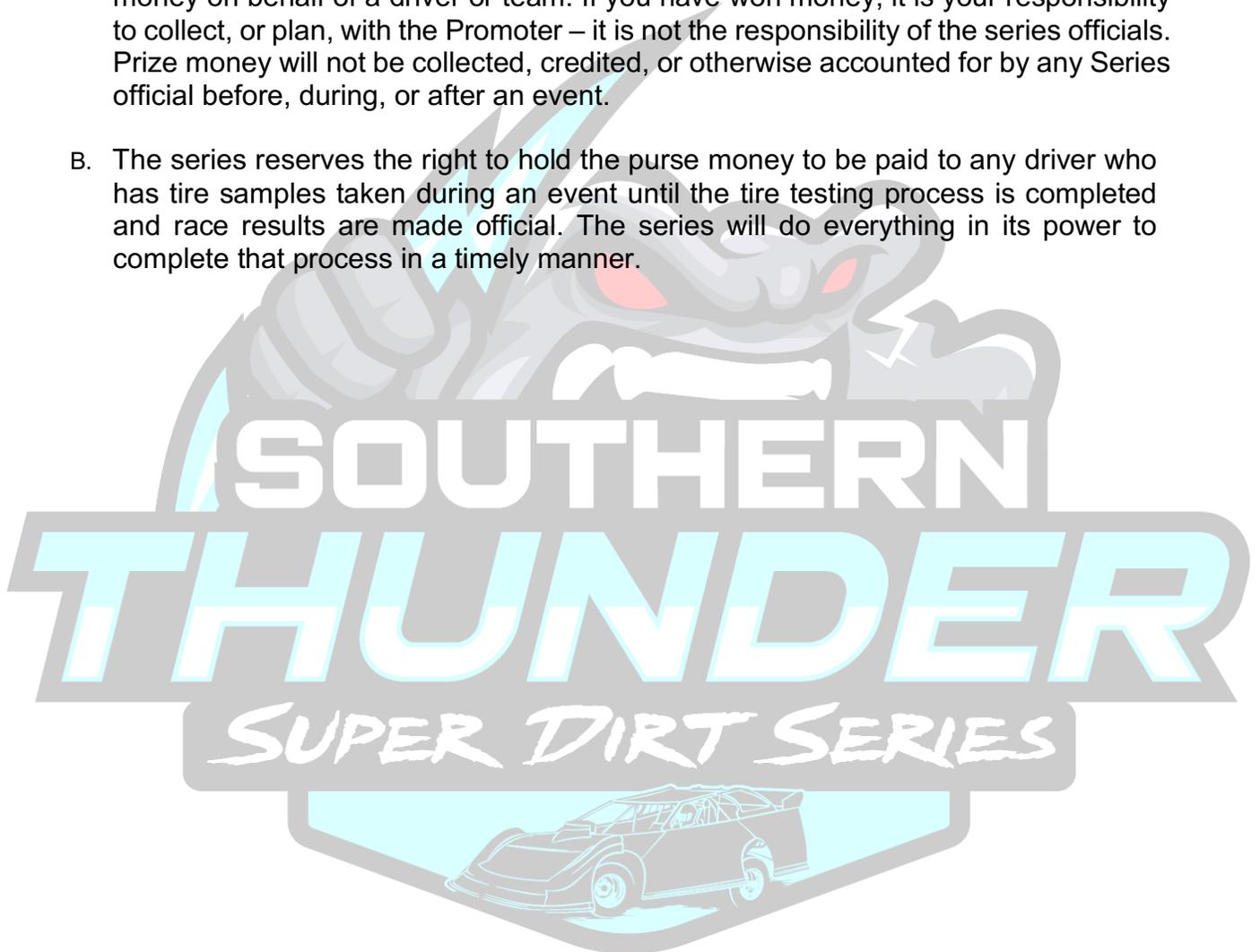
If an event is canceled or postponed to a later date after registration has closed, drivers will receive fifty (50) points.

3.9 Pay to Policy

- A. Purse money will be paid to the payee designated on the Entry Form completed at registration. It is the responsibility of the driver/owner to report the correct tax information to the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series.

3.10 Collection of Purse Money

- A. Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials are not obligated to collect any prize money on behalf of a driver or team. If you have won money, it is your responsibility to collect, or plan, with the Promoter – it is not the responsibility of the series officials. Prize money will not be collected, credited, or otherwise accounted for by any Series official before, during, or after an event.
- B. The series reserves the right to hold the purse money to be paid to any driver who has tire samples taken during an event until the tire testing process is completed and race results are made official. The series will do everything in its power to complete that process in a timely manner.



3.11 Race Purses

A. The below will be the standard event purses for the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series unless otherwise noted.

Standard Purses							
1	\$15,000	1	\$10,000	1	\$7,500	1	\$5,000
2	\$7,500	2	\$5,000	2	\$4,000	2	\$2,500
3	\$3,500	3	\$3,000	3	\$2,000	3	\$1,500
4	\$2,500	4	\$2,000	4	\$1,500	4	\$1,200
5	\$2,000	5	\$1,500	5	\$1,250	5	\$1,000
6	\$1,500	6	\$1,200	6	\$1,050	6	\$900
7	\$1,400	7	\$900	7	\$850	7	\$800
8	\$1,200	8	\$850	8	\$800	8	\$750
9	\$1,100	9	\$800	9	\$750	9	\$700
10	\$1,050	10	\$750	10	\$650	10	\$600
11	\$1,000	11	\$700	11	\$600	11	\$550
12	\$950	12	\$650	12	\$550	12	\$500
13	\$900	13	\$600	13	\$500	13	\$500
14	\$900	14	\$550	14	\$500	14	\$500
15	\$900	15	\$500	15	\$500	15	\$500
16	\$900	16	\$500	16	\$500	16	\$500
17	\$900	17	\$500	17	\$500	17	\$500
18	\$900	18	\$500	18	\$500	18	\$500
19	\$900	19	\$500	19	\$500	19	\$500
20	\$900	20	\$500	20	\$500	20	\$500
21	\$900	21	\$500	21	\$500	21	\$500
22	\$900	22	\$500	22	\$500	22	\$500

4.0 On Track Procedures

4.1 Driver Communications and Signaling

- A. RaceCeiver one-way radios are required to be used in every segment of an event. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series uses the default frequency of 454.0000 unless otherwise noted. If you do not own a RaceCeiver, the series has new units available for purchase.
 - i. Race Director and Head Scorer are the only people permitted to transmit on a RaceCeiver device.
- B. Two-way communication devices are not allowed.
- C. Lighted and/or electronic signaling devices are not permitted to be utilized. "Signal sticks" are allowed but must not be illuminated.
- D. Driver signaling from crew members may only occur in specified areas, depending upon the track configuration. These locations, and locations where signaling is prohibited, will be announced in the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing.

4.2 Transponders

- A. Westhold transponders are required to be used in every segment of an event. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will allow transponders owned by race teams to be used. If you do not own a Transponder, the series has units available for rental.
- B. Transponders must be mounted in an approved mount/pouch on the left front of all cars. In the event of two cars finishing side by side, transponder location will be verified. If it is found that a transponder is not mounted in the approved location, that car will be scored behind the other.
- C. The use of a transponder scoring system shall be considered the "official" timing and scoring of an event. Photo/video evidence of disputed scoring will only be utilized if clear and indisputable video evidence exists to refute the official scoring system. This is at the discretion of the Race Director.
- D. In the event the official transponder scoring system fails, The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series will make all attempts possible to quickly repair and rectify the issue. If the system cannot be repaired, hand timing and scoring will be utilized.
- E. If hand timing is used, no less than two series officials will utilize series owned timing devices to determine timing (time trials only).

4.3 Flagging Procedures

A. Green Flag

- i. When the starter displays the green flag, the track is open for racing.
- ii. The green flag signifies the start of any race and/or time trial run.
- iii. Passing will not be permitted before the green flag is displayed at the designated point.

B. Yellow Flag

- i. When the yellow flag is displayed and/or the yellow caution lights are illuminated, this signifies a caution period.
- ii. When the yellow flag is displayed and/or caution lights illuminated, passing will not be permitted unless instructed to do so by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials.

C. Red Flag

- i. When the red flag is displayed all cars on the racing surface and in the pit areas must come to a complete stop in a controlled manner, while not stopping and/or driving through the area of the incident. Cars are not permitted to move for any reason unless instructed by a Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official. Any car that moves during the red flag without permission will be penalized to the rear of the field. Continued movement under red flag may result in disqualification.
- ii. All red flags are considered closed red flags unless Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials determine it needs to be an open red. In an open red flag a work area may be designated on the racing surface. All cars will be moved to the designated work area on the racing surface before work begins.
- iii. Tire changes will not be permitted during 'open red-flag' conditions. In the event that a competitor changes a tire during an 'open-red-flag' that competitor will restart from the rear of the field on the ensuing restart. Crew members may not begin to work during an 'open-red- flag' situation until informed to do so by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials.
- iv. If Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials determine that it is a 'closed-red- flag' situation, then no work of any kind and/or type may be permitted during the red flag period.
- v. During any red flag situation all drivers, unless involved in the incident, must remain in their car unless otherwise instructed by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials.
- vi. If the race is red flagged due to inclement weather conditions and cars have returned to their pit stall, work and tire changes will be permitted.

- vii. Any car that is not involved in the red flag that leaves the racing surface will not be permitted to return to the event.

D. Black Flag

- i. If the black flag is displayed, the driver that the flag is being displayed toward must exit the track immediately. If the driver fails to comply, they will no longer be scored from the point the black flag was displayed. In both cases, the driver will be scored last in the running order.
- ii. In the event that the black flag is displayed toward a car during a caution period and the car is cleared by Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials, the car may return to its position in the running order of the race as instructed to do so by the officials.

E. White Flag

- i. When the white flag is displayed this signifies that the leader of the race and/or the car that is qualifying has started the last lap of that event.
- ii. Once the white flag is displayed and the leader plus three (3) cars have crossed the start/finish line, every effort will be made to race back to the checkered flag. A caution may be displayed at the discretion of the race director in the event of a severe accident, the track is blocked and the leader(s) must pass through it before taking the checkered, etc. If a caution is displayed, the green and white flag will be displayed simultaneously when the race is restarted as one lap will remain.

F. Checkered Flag

- i. The checkered flag signifies the completion of the event. All cars must pass underneath the checkered flag to be scored correctly on the final lap of the event.
- ii. Any race and/or qualifying attempt is not completed until the checkered flag is displayed.
- iii. If, for any reason, the race is run one (1) lap long, the race is officially over when the advertised distance has been reached. If, for any reason, the checkered flag is displayed one (1) lap early, the race will be ruled complete. If the checkered flag is displayed more than one lap early, there will be a caution and a restart to complete the remaining laps.

G. Blue Flag with Yellow/Orange Stripe

- i. The lap flag will be displayed to drivers at the tail of the field who are in jeopardy of losing a lap to the leader driver during green flag conditions.

- ii. When a driver sees the lap flag displayed to them they are to hold the line they have been utilizing to that point.
- iii. It is the responsibility of the faster cars to safely navigate around drivers who are at the tail of the field.

4.4 Initial Starts

- A. All initial starts will be double file and start at the designated start zone. The start zone will be approximately two car-lengths in distance. The driver on the pole sets the pace and starts the race within the designated start zone. The driver on the pole must maintain a steady pace when entering the start zone. Any change in momentum or orientation of the car will be interpreted as the driver on the pole's attempt to start the race. If the driver on the pole has not accelerated by the end of the start zone, the flagman will start the race.
 - i. Any driver jumping the original start will be warned.
 - ii. Drivers jumping the initial start a second time will be moved back a row.
 - iii. If a driver who is previously moved back a row jumps the original start again, they will be penalized to the rear of the field.
- B. If any driver is penalized to the rear of the field before one (1) complete lap is scored, the remainder of the field will be crossed for double file start.
- C. A lap will not be scored on the original start and/or any restart unless all cars complete the lap by passing through the start/finish line except for the cars involved in the incident.

4.5 Cautions

- A. Caution on First Lap
 - i. Once the green flag waves, the race is officially underway. On the original start and before one complete lap is scored, if only one car is involved in a caution and stops on the track, that car will restart from the rear. If more than one (1) car is involved in a caution before one (1) lap is scored, all cars involved in the caution that came to a stop will receive their original starting positions, provided there are no penalties to be assessed.
- B. Caution Procedures After First Lap
 - i. A car who spins on the racetrack, necessitating a caution, will be determined to be part of the accident regardless of whether or not their wheels stop spinning and will be sent to the rear. In an effort to promote driver safety, any driver who spins is discouraged from attempting to continue moving if potentially unsafe.
 - ii. In the event of a caution, the car, or cars, involved in the incident that spin or

come to a stop on the racetrack, will be sent to the rear. All cars that are indirectly involved in the accident (spinning or stopping to avoid the wreck) at the discretion of the Race Director, will be given their position back.

- iii. If the race director deems obvious and/or egregious intentional contact was made by another competitor, causing a car to bring out a caution, they too will be charged with the caution and sent to restart the race at the rear.
 - iv. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials will err on the side of driver safety. Cars that fall significantly off the pace without a clear and direct path to pull safely off the racetrack, will draw a caution and be charged with the caution and will restart the race at the rear.
 - v. In the event of either a caution or a red flag, after one (1) start has been attempted, any car that goes into the pits will rejoin the field at the rear. Lead lap cars who pit and rejoin will line up behind the lucky dog recipient.
 - vi. In the event of a caution, all lapped cars will line up for the restart at the rear of the field by position on the racetrack, and according to the previously completed lap.
 - vii. In the event of a caution, the field will line up for restarts in the order of the last completed green flag lap. In order to retain position, a car must have been in position for one (1) scored green flag lap.
 - viii. Laps will count when the leader plus three (3) cars cross the finish line. This includes cars who are one or more laps down. Split scoring will be utilized to set the lineup if the leader plus three (3) cars crosses the finish line and a lap is scored.
 - ix. Any driver that spins or stops and is charged with a caution, for the reason of being lapped or is about to be lapped by the leader, and brings out the caution, may be scored one lap down from that point onwards in the race.
 - x. In the event of an inadvertent caution (i.e., the caution is displayed without a car spinning or stopping, all cars will retain their positions from the previously scored lap.
 - xi. Any car that spins, is involved in an incident, and/or has a problem but does not create a caution period, will blend back into the field where the driver is able to do so. If a caution is called prematurely, the placement of the car will be where the car blended back into the field.
- C. Any driver, or any member of any team who works on the car during a caution, while the car is still on the track will be judged to have made a pit stop and will be sent to the rear. Only track or series official(s) may work on cars on the track. If the official(s) are unable to fix a problem, they may send the car to the pits.

This rule also applies in the event of an accident. Do not get out of your car unless you are prepared to resume the race at the rear of the field.

- i. As a courtesy, Series officials will attempt to fix minor damage (i.e. pull fenders) during caution periods. Drivers will not be penalized if HTF Series officials pull or repair minor damage. Damage that cannot be repaired or pulled quickly will require a driver to go to the Hot Pit area.
 - ii. Refiring a car by repairing an ignition switch or “kill” will require a driver to restart at the back of the field.
- D. All cars pitting under caution in the Heat, Last Chance Race or A-Main will be allowed to re- enter the race and will be scored as long as they make the one to go or restart signal. All cars that miss the one to go or restart signal will wait until the next caution to re-enter the race. No cars will be allowed any re-entering of the race once the entire field has gone by the flag stand after a restart. We reserve the right to amend this policy as needed or dictated by the layout of a given racetrack.
- E. Drivers will get two (2) courtesy laps to change a flat tire. The courtesy laps begin to count when the official starter indicates that the field is safe, and all cars are out of danger. Drivers will rejoin the event at the tail of the lap they are scored as long as they make the one to go signal restart.
- F. A designated hot pit area will be announced at the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing. At tracks where the layout allows for a distinguished hot and cold pit area, cars entering the cold pit area during an event will not be allowed to re-enter the track unless they return before the one to go. There will be no courtesy laps awarded in the cold pit area. Cars who go to the cold pit area can return to the racetrack at any time, providing a race is not under green flag conditions, regardless of being laps down.
- G. Once the caution flag is displayed, cars must slow down. The field will be put into correct running order in a single-file line. All cars one (1) lap or more down to the leader will be placed at the rear of the single-file line. Once the correct running order is established the field will be placed in double-file restart order. The leader of the race will be placed alone in front of the field. Second place car must signal to pre-designated on-track official, choice of either inside or outside. Rest of field will line up double-file.
- i. **EXAMPLE #1:** Second place driver chooses inside. Third place driver goes outside of second place, fourth place driver goes inside, fifth place driver goes outside of fourth place driver, etc., etc.
 - ii. **EXAMPLE #2:** Second place driver chooses outside. Third place driver goes

inside of second place driver, fourth place driver goes outside, fifth place driver goes inside of fourth place driver, etc. Once field is properly aligned, you will be given the one to go signal.

4.6 Lucky Dog Award

- A. In only the A-Main event, at each caution flag the first car that is one (1) lap down to the field will be given back a lap.
 - i. The highest running lapped car that is not involved in the caution period will be given one (1) lap back. In order to receive the lucky dog award, the driver must remain on the track. If the eligible driver exits the track, no alternates will be chosen. The Lucky Dog recipient may pit during the next caution after the race has attempted to restart.
 - ii. A driver who is charged with a caution flag is ineligible for the Lucky Dog Award during that caution period.

4.7 Restarts

- A. Delaware style double-file restarts – defined as leader alone on front row with remainder of the field double filed behind the leader. Second place will have the choice of the inside or outside lane. The leader sets the pace and starts the race within the designated start zone. The leader must maintain a steady pace when entering the start zone. Any change in momentum or orientation of the car will be interpreted as the leaders attempt to start the race. If the leader has not accelerated by the end of the start zone, the flagman will restart the race.
 - i. Delaware style double-file restarts will be used until halfway in any preliminary event. Single-file restarts will be used beyond halfway of any preliminary event.
 - ii. Delaware style double-file restarts will be used in all events regardless of the number of laps remaining unless series officials decide to forgo the use.
 - iii. Series officials reserve the right to forgo use of Delaware style double-file restarts at any time.
- B. All restarts must be nose to tail. The leader may start the race within the designated start zone. The leader must maintain a steady pace when entering the start zone. Any change in momentum or orientation of the car will be interpreted as the leader's attempt to start the race. If the leader has not accelerated by the end of the start zone, the flagman will start the race.
- C. Drivers, other than the leader, may not pass until they have passed the original

start zone. Doing so will be considered a jump- start and result in positions being docked by however many cars you pass plus three (3) at the next caution period or at the end of the race.

- D. If a caution flag occurs after a Delaware double-file attempt before a lap is completed, the second-place driver will re-choose the inside or outside lane and the lineup will be double-file as stated in section A.
- E. All lead lap cars, including those who bring out the caution, will be placed in front of lapped down cars.
- F. Cars not on track at the time of double file (e.g. in the Hot Pit) shall fill in at the tail of lineup. An attempt will be made to have lead lap cars returning from the Hot Pit in the correct spot, but a caution period will not be extended to accommodate cars in the Hot Pit returning to the correct lineup order after the double file.

4.8 Racing Off Track

- A. A driver racing off the racetrack to gain a position may be black flagged and scored last.
- B. A driver who is deemed by series officials to have been forced off the racetrack must attempt to immediately re-establish themselves within track limits.

4.9 Spin Outs

- A. Any driver that is involved in three (3) single car incidents during any A-Main event that is fifty (50) laps or more in total distance, resulting in a caution, will be black flagged from that event.
- B. Any driver that is involved in two (2) single car incidents during any A-Main event that is less than fifty (50) laps in total distance, resulting in a caution, will be black flagged from that event.

4.10 On-Track Safety Concerns

- A. During a caution period, if a driver has a personal safety concern or medical issue, they may stop at an infield official for assistance.
 - i. **Helmet Changes:** At the discretion of the Race Director, if a driver suffers a broken helmet or helmet accessory, the driver may be granted a helmet change and retain his position.
 - ii. **Medical Issues:** At the discretion of the Race Director, if a driver suffers a minor medical issue (i.e. Asthma attack, need of inhaler), the driver may be given the necessary attention and retain his position.

iii. Heat Advisory: At the discretion of the Race Director, during extreme heat conditions a driver may be granted a bottle of water and retain his position.

B. Other issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis.



5.0 Event Procedures

5.1 Race Format

A. Race Length

- i. For events paying less than \$10,000 to win, the race format will consist of time trials, last chance races and a 40-lap feature.
- ii. For events paying \$10,000 to win or more, the race format will consist of time trials, heat races, last chance races, and a 50-lap feature unless otherwise posted and announced prior to the event.

B. Hot Laps

- i. All Drivers will be allowed one (1) Hot Lap session per day. Hot Laps will be conducted in groups in order, as per the draw. Drivers / teams are responsible for knowing what group their driver/ team is in. Lineups will be posted at the Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series official trailer in the pits. Drivers must Hot Lap in their assigned groups. If a driver does not make it to the staging area in time for his assigned session, that driver will not be allowed to Hot Lap.

C. Time Trials

- i. Drivers must Time Trial in the order that they drew. If the driver misses their Time Trial spot, the driver will only receive one (1) lap at the end of the Time Trial line. If the driver uses this option, the driver cannot start better than the first non-transfer spot in a Heat Race. Example: if four (4) cars are transferring, the highest starting position will be fifth (5th).
- ii. It is the drivers/ teams' responsibility to be in their Time Trial spot-on time, in most instances, Time Trials will be immediately after Hot Laps.
- iii. In a case of twenty (20) or less entrants, heads up Time Trials will be used. When twenty-one (21) or more entrants are registered, a group Time Trial format (Group A/ Group B) will be used.
- iv. Cars will Time Trial two (2) laps back-to-back. Once the green flag is given to the driver to start the Time Trial run, there will be no wave offs. Drivers exiting the track will not be allowed to return to Time Trial.
- v. For events paying less than \$10,000 to win, the top five (5) from each group of time trials will be locked into the feature if a group Time Trial format is utilized. The top ten (10) from Time Trials will be locked into the feature if heads up Time Trial format is utilized.
- vi. Cars will either be weighed before or after Time Trials, depending on the layout of the current track, and will be announced at the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing. All cars that are judged to weigh light crossing the scales after Time

Trials will lose their time and will start at the rear of a Heat Race. If there is more than one car that has been judged light, those drivers will be lined up at the rear of the Heat Races by the Time Trial order.

- vii. If a car is weighed before Time Trials and has an issue (i.e. light, flat tire, etc.) a driver can return to their pit area (if scale area and pit are co-located) and attempt to rectify the issue. The driver will not be waited on and if they miss their spot in the time trial order, they will be subject to rule as outlined in 6.1 C i.
- viii. If a car is weighed before Time Trials, once it has weighed, any work performed by a crew member (i.e., tire change) that happens without returning to the pit area, will result in the car being considered out of line and will time trial at the tail of the group as per 6.1 C i.
- ix. All cars must cross the scales at their sticker weight during Time Trials. There is no burn-off allowance for Time Trials.

D. Heat Race Assignments

- i. Heats will be eight (8) laps unless otherwise notified in the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing for all events.
- ii. In the event of Heat Race inversions, the race director will announce the inversions at the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing.
- iii. The number of transfers and Heats will depend on the number of entrants and will be announced at the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing. In most cases, twenty-seven (27) entrants or less will result in three (3) Heat Races; forty-eight entrants or less will result in four (4) Heat Races, forty-nine entrants or more will result in six (6) heat races.
- iv. No car will be allowed to change Heat Race or Last Chance Race assignment. If it is deemed by the series officials to be a rare and or uncontrollable circumstance, the series reserves the right to allow someone to change their assignment but will start from the rear.
- v. Depending upon the number of heats, the top six (6) finishers from three (3) heats, top four (4) finishers from four (4) heats, or the top three (3) finishers from six (6) heats will transfer to the A- Main. All other drivers, in order of Heat Race finish, will go to either one (1) two (2), or three (3) B- Mains.
- vi. Immediately following the conclusion of each heat race, the race winner will redraw for their feature starting position. Heat race winners will be the only cars to redraw (positions 1 thru 4 for four (4) heats, and 1 thru 6 for six (6) heats).

E. Last Chance Race Assignments

- i. Last Chance Races will be ten (10) laps unless otherwise notified in the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing for all events.
- ii. The number of Last Chance Race(s) and transfers will depend on the number of entrants and will be announced at the Pre-Race Rules and Safety Briefing.

5.2 Changing Cars

- A. Drivers may change cars at any time between Time Trials and start of the A-Main. However, any change will result in the driver starting in the rear of his Heat Race, Last Chance Race, or A- Main. If a driver chooses to change cars after Hot Laps, that driver will remain in his drawn position for Time Trials.
- B. If a driver chooses to change cars, that driver must present his/ her car for technical inspection before being allowed on track.
- C. During a multi-day event, a driver may change cars from one day of the event to the next and retain their assigned starting spot for their next scheduled race.
- D. It is the driver's responsibility to notify series officials of any desired change.
- E. At all events, once the A-Main has pulled away from the starting grid, no car changes will be permitted.

5.3 Pre-Race Staging

- A. Any driver that arrives late to a staging area, either in the pits, or on the track, may be required to start that event from the rear of the field.
- B. A tech inspection may occur before each event. It is the driver's responsibility to be in line early enough to pass through technical inspection. If the driver is not in line early enough to pass through tech, this will result in starting the rear of the field or possibly missing that event.

6.0 Provisional and Alternate Starting Positions

6.1 Points Provisional Starters

- A. For the first two (2) series event of the 2026 season, there will not be any paid series provisionals.
- B. Standard provisoional starting spot rules based on the 2026 points standings will go into effect with the third points event of the season. Unless otherwise decided by the track, all series races except the first event of the season will be 24-car starting fields with the 23rd and 24th positions being paid series provisionals. The 23rd starting spot will be awarded to the highest driver in driver points entering the night who did not qualify for the main event through prelims. The 24th starting spot will be awarded to the next highest driver in points entering the night who did not qualify for the main event through prelims
- C. In the event that all points drivers qualify for a feature through prelims or all but one qualify, unused series provisionals become track provisionals and the event promoter will determine how to award those starting spots.

6.2 Emergency Provisional Starters

- A. Only the top 10 drivers in series points who are in good standing with the Series are eligible for Emergency Provisionals.
- B. For the first points race of the season, emergency provisionals will be offered in order of drivers' B-Mains finishing positions.
- C. A maximum of one (1) emergency provisional starter will be allowed in any A-Main, starting after the qualified field. Emergency provisional starters will be the highest in points.
- D. Emergency Provisionals may not be utilized in consecutive events.
- E. If a driver chooses to use an emergency provisional, they will receive points for the A-Main finish but will only be awarded payoff for the difference of start money and their A-Main finish. For example, consider a situation where a driver uses an emergency provisional to start 25th in an event advertised as a 24-car field and advances to finish 12th. If that position's payoff is \$1,300 and start money is \$1,000, the driver will be paid \$300. The remaining \$1,000 is used to pay start money to the driver finishing 25th.

6.3 Promoters Option

- A. The event Promoter has the option to start two (2) additional drivers at the rear of the field. If this option is exercised, the event promoter is responsible for paying the additional positions.

6.4 Alternates

- A. The first car not transferring from each Last Chance Race(s) will be designated as alternates.
 - i. Order of priority is determined by the Last Chance Race number. The non-qualifier from the first Last Chance Race will be designated the first alternate. The first non-qualifier from the second Last Chance Race will be designated as the second alternate, and so on.
- B. Any driver qualified for the A-Main, who is unable to start, will lose his/ her position to an alternate. Alternate drivers will be notified of their positions. Once an alternate driver has been called forward to take a position, the previous driver may not reclaim that position.
- C. No alternates will be allowed to start after the field has pulled away from the starting grid. If a driver is unable to make his assigned grid position, the following cars will be crossed, giving away the best positions. Alternates will join at the back of the field, and not in the empty positions.



7.0 Inclement Weather

7.1 Weather Delays

- A. In a weather delay situation, Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series officials reserve the right to amend the racing format in the interest of time restraints and/or scheduling conflicts. The format change will be made with the race teams and fans best interest in mind. Changes will only be made if an event is in jeopardy of being lost due to rescheduling availability, a time curfew, or inclement weather. Under these circumstances the number of laps for Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Main(s), and A-Main may be shortened.
- B. The A-Main must reach the halfway point before an event will be considered a complete event.

7.2 Postponements

- A. Should an event be postponed until a later date, all events that have been completed will be upheld upon returning to the rescheduled event. Any driver not present on the previous date may compete upon payment of entry fee. Drivers entering an event in this way will be tagged on to the rear of events that are left to be completed, by the way they sign in.
- B. In the event weather should affect the A-Main before the half-way point, the event will be restarted at the point and in the running order it was in before being delayed.
- C. If the event cannot be restarted and must be rescheduled for a late date other than the next day, the races will be restarted from the previous portion of the event. Example: If Time Trials are not complete then Time Trials will restart from the first pill position. Heats and/or Last Chance Races will be restarted from the beginning of a given Heat Race or Last Chance Race as long as it is over half-way complete. Feature races will be restarted from the last scored lap.
- D. Provisionals will be awarded based on the current rescheduled date standing. A driver must be present at the originally scheduled event, or have received hardship, to be eligible for a provisional at the rescheduled event.
- E. Drivers and crew members must retain armbands, or any other pit admission ticket to be readmitted to a rescheduled event. Tracks are not required to refund pit admission unless the event is not rescheduled.

8.0 Penalties

8.1 Deception

- A. Any driver or team who, in the opinion of Series Officials, engages in deceitful conduct in an effort to gain an unfair competitive advantage will be penalized at the Race Director's discretion.

8.2 Tires

- A. Tire changes will not be permitted once a car has been presented to the starting grid/lineup area. Any cars making a tire change will forfeit their assigned starting position for that race and start from the rear of the field.
- B. Tires may be inspected at any time. Any violation with any tire presented for competition may result in immediate disqualification from the events and/or other penalties including but not limited to; loss of money, fine, loss of points, and/or suspension.
- C. Chemical treating or altering of tires will not be permitted. The Southern Thunder Super Dirt Series has a zero tolerance policy regarding the altering or chemical treating of tires and will utilize independent lab analysis for verification. The series will take tire samples at its discretion. Any tire(s) not conforming to the manufacturer's benchmark will be deemed illegal. Any competitor is subject to tire inspections and/or samples being taken at any time during an event.
- D. The sample will be taken in three parts, as an A, B, and C sample with location of the tire samples determined by a series official.
 - i. The A sample will be sent to the lab; series officials will retain B and C samples. In the event the A sample does not conform to the manufacturer's benchmark, multiple B samples (matching sample A as well as other B samples) will be sent to the lab, where the lab must match A and B samples to the same tire.
 - ii. If the B sample yields the same result, the offending team will be notified and given the option to send a representative to the lab to observe the testing of the C sample and the benchmark.
 - iii. Regardless of the team decision to have a representative present, the lab will verify that A, B, and C samples do not match the benchmark, all penalties will apply; there will be no option for an appeal.
 - iv. A sample will not be provided to the team.
 - v. All tire testing will be done through Blue Ridge Race Labs, LLC.

- E. Any driver who refuses tire samples to be taken will be automatically disqualified from the event/weekend, will not be allowed to compete, and will be treated as though the tire was found to be chemically altered.
- F. The following penalties may be assessed for a tire found to be chemically altered following certified lab testing:
1. First Offense:
 1. Loss of all series points from the event.
 2. Loss of all prize monies and contingencies from the event.
 3. \$2,000 fine—payable to the Series.
 - i. Fine, prize monies, and any contingencies must be paid/repaid/returned before the offending team can compete in another series sanctioned event.
 4. Pay all tire testing and shipping costs.
 5. 12-month probation for owner and driver from the date of the offense.
 2. Second Offense (within 12-month probationary period) team penalties:
 1. Loss of all series and points from the event.
 2. Loss of all prize monies and contingencies from the event.
 3. \$2,000 fine—payable to the Series.
 - ii. a. Fine, prize monies, and any contingencies must be paid/repaid/returned before the offending team can compete in another series sanctioned event.
 4. Pay all tire testing and shipping costs.
 5. 12-month suspension period for owner and driver from the date of the second offense occurred.
- G. Series officials have the right to confiscate any tire deemed to be suspicious, at any time on speedway grounds. Refusal for confiscation will result in immediate disqualification from the event

8.3 Droop

- A. These penalties will be enforced on all Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Main and A-Main events:
- i. Fifty-one and one-sixteenth of an inch (51-1/16") to fifty-one and one-half inch (51-

- 1/2"):
- i. Post Time Trials will result in a one (1) row penalty in the original Heat Race line up.
 - ii. Post Heat Race, B-Main or A-Main will result in a four (4) position penalty for that event.
- ii. Fifty-one and nine-sixteenths of an inch (51-9/16") to fifty-two inches (52"):
- i. Post Time Trials will result in a two (2) row penalty in the original Heat Race line up.
 - ii. Post Heat Race, B-Main or A-Main will result in an eight (8) position penalty for that event.
- iii. Fifty-two and one-sixteenth of an inch (52-1/16") or higher:
- i. Post Time Trials will result in the driver being penalized to the rear of the original Heat Race line up.
 - ii. Post Heat Race, B-Main or A-Main will result in the driver being scored last for that event.

8.4 Conduct

- A. Any physical confrontation, either on the track or in the pits, will result in the aggressor or aggressors being suspended and/or payment of up to \$3,000 fine plus the loss of one-hundred (100) points. A second offense will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.
- i. Any driver who enters another driver's pit area will be deemed the aggressor. Away from the driver's pit area, both drivers may be considered aggressors. Drivers will be held responsible for any members of their race team, and the above penalties will apply even if the driver concerned is not directly involved.
 - ii. Any incidents that occur during the last three (3) championship events of the season could result in penalties being applied at the beginning of the following season.
 - iii. Any incidents that are judged to be "deliberate acts of aggression", whether on or off the track, under green, caution, or after the conclusion of the event, will result in penalties being applied up to and including disqualification at the discretion of series officials.

8.5 Weight

- A. All Cars will weigh in at the scales immediately before, or following, their Time Trial laps, as per the weight rule and track layout. The transferring cars plus the first car not transferring must weigh in immediately following their Heat Races, and B-Mains.
- B. Following the A-Main, the top five (5) that finish the race must cross the scales

and weigh in correctly.

- C. Any car that does not meet minimum weight after Time Trials will result in loss of time and start at the rear of their assigned Heat Race.
- D. Any car that is light at the scales following a Heat Race, B-Main, or A-Main will be scored last place for that event.

8.6 Bodies

- A. A 50 lbs. penalty per infraction may be assessed.



9.0 Driver Personal Protection Equipment

9.1 Helmets

- A. A helmet certified to Snell SA2015/FIA-8859-2015, Snell SA2020/FIA-8860-2018, SFI 31.1/2015 or SFI 31.1/2020 is required to be always worn during competition or on the racing surface.

9.2 Head & Neck Restraints

- A. At all times during an event, drivers must connect their helmet to a head and neck restraint device/ system certified to SFI Spec 38.1. The head and neck restraint device/ system, when connected, must conform to the manufacturer's mounting instructions, and must be configured, maintained, and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

9.3 Fire Suits

- A. A driver suit certified to SFI Spec 3.2A/5 is required to be always worn during competition or on the racing surface.

9.4 Gloves

- A. Gloves certified to SFI Spec 3.3 are required to be always worn during competition or on the racing surface.

9.5 Socks

- A. Socks certified to SFI Spec 3.3 are required to be always worn during competition or on the racing surface.

9.6 Shoes

- A. Shoes certified to SFI Spec 3.3 are required to be always worn during competition or on the racing surface.