

# 2026 General Rules/Race Procedures

Effective 03/19/2026



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

Drivers must be 16 years or older unless pre-approved by Race Director. Minimum of 14 years old, excluding the Sport Compact and Jr Limited Divisions (minimum age 12). See additional information below...

Drivers under the age of 16 can be required to start at the rear and can be limited on laps until approved by Race Director. Any driver under the age of 18 must have signed/notarized parental agreement on file.

## GENERAL:

1. The management of Cotton Bowl Speedway reserves the right to alter the race program at any time for the improvement of the quality and/or convenience of the night's schedule.
2. If inclement weather interrupts a race program, the program will be considered complete if all heat races have been run. Rain checks will not be honored.
3. Anyone entering the race track premises does so at his/her own risk. Everyone entering the pit gate must personally sign a release. If ANYONE fails to sign the release, then they are not covered by the track insurance. Any minors entering the pits must have a minor release signed and on file with the track. This MUST be completed ONCE EACH SEASON; a list will be kept at the PIT gate for the year.
4. At all times during a race program, all persons in the pit area are responsible to the Pit Steward. The Race Director has complete control of the cars during the race. Decisions of the management of Cotton Bowl Speedway are official and final. Management is not responsible for accidents of any nature, or damage incurred, or loss by theft while on the premises of Cotton Bowl Speedway.
5. Management of Cotton Bowl Speedway reserves the right to refuse entrance to any car, driver, owner, or any other person or persons to the pit area, infield, or grandstand area.

## CONDUCT:

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

7. Any driver who intentionally causes a caution condition, without safety being an issue, by stopping, spinning, or any other action, is subject to 2-lap penalty.
8. Drivers Meeting: DRIVERS must attend or you may be starting scratch in your heat. If you have any questions, please ask them at the drivers meeting or before the 1st race. There should be no unanswered questions by the end of the drivers meeting.
9. Wheel Packing: All cars are required to pack the track if asked to do so.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:**

Cotton Bowl Speedway recognizes that Social Media has increasing prevalence in both the professional and private lives of all members of the Speedway & Race community.

**PURPOSE:** Promote Responsible Use of Social Media

Social Media offers the opportunity for people to gather in online communities of shared interest and create, share or consume content in ways that can be beneficial to the sport of Dirt Track Racing and Cotton Bowl Speedway. We appreciate the value in using Social Media to build more meaningful relationships with fans, the racing community and other stakeholders. Cotton Bowl Speedway aims to promote the responsible use of Social Media. It is important that the reputation of Cotton Bowl Speedway and the sport of Dirt Track Racing is not tarnished by anyone using Social Media tools inappropriately, particularly in relation to content that might reference Cotton Bowl Speedway, MAN Racing Promotions, LLC, dirt track racing, racers, officials or administrators involved in the sport. When someone clearly identifies their association as accredited media or otherwise with either Cotton Bowl Speedway or within Dirt Track Racing and/or discusses their involvement in the organization in these types of forums they are expected to behave and express themselves appropriately, and in ways that are consistent with the values respected by Cotton Bowl Speedway.

**Breach of Policy:** Cotton Bowl Speedway will continually monitor online activity in relation to our venue and associated events. If detected, a breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action being taken. Depending on circumstances and who is involved, disciplinary action may include suspension or cancellation of competition privileges, verbal or written warnings or in serious cases, fines and / or individuals being suspended from the venue and or event.

#### **Cotton Bowl Speedway Social Media Tip Sheet**

- Social Media can have many positives for you as an individual and for Cotton Bowl Speedway as a venue and event host, but history shows us that inappropriate use can lead to poor outcomes with significant consequences.
- Your use of Social Media to engage with your friends, family, our fans and the wider community is encouraged but please do so knowing that as part of the Cotton Bowl Speedway community you have a responsibility to uphold the image of the sport and our venue.
- Posts on Social Media are no different than speaking into a live microphone or voice recorder and can be readily reported in main stream media – only post what you would be comfortable with appearing in the mainstream media!
- Social Media posts are permanent, and your accounts/posts will identify you directly so always ensure the Social Media content you post is consistent with the Cotton Bowl Speedway values.
- Rules of common decency apply! Images and words used in Social Media reflect on you and our venue.
- Inappropriate language including abbreviations should never be used.
- Don't post photos of an offensive or sexual nature.
- Be respectful to your colleagues – do not engage in inflammatory or derogatory posts in these areas.
- Don't pick fights or arguments in Social Media forums - best to simply ignore those trying to antagonise!
- Be the first to correct your own mistakes.
- It is never a good idea to post when under the influence of alcohol or when your judgment is impaired.

#### **COMPETITION RULES:**

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

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

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

1. Protests to finishing positions in any race must be made within fifteen (15) minutes after the unofficial results are posted. Such protests must be in writing and must be given to the Director Scorer or Race Director.

2. Scoring re-checks decisions are final and cannot be appealed or litigated.

#### C. Inspections, Mechanical Protest

1. Track officials may require an inspection of any vehicle at any time. Vehicles placing in the first three positions must present themselves at the inspection station immediately after the conclusion of the feature race for such inspection and must not work on the car in any fashion until told to do so by a technical official.

2. A competitor must take whatever steps are required, including a complete tear down of the car, as requested by track officials to facilitate inspection of the car.

3. Failure to present a car for inspection when requested to do so, or refusal to take steps requested by track officials, will be considered an admission of guilt and will be grounds for disqualification.

4. Protests regarding alleged mechanical infractions must be made prior to the feature race being called to the track for the official lineup. The written protest must specify, in detail, a single, specific part or rule that is in violation, and be given to the Director of Tech, along with a fee of \$500 Cash. Mechanical inspection with respect to such protest will be made following the feature race. A \$100 Cash of the fee will be retained by the speedway, with the remaining \$400 Cash going to the winner of the protest.

5. A protest may only be filed by a competitor in the same feature race.

#### D. Lighting

1. Interior lights for properly securing interior safety equipment on driver are allowed but MUST BE OFF once on track. This includes all exterior lights.

### **COMMON TECHNICAL RULES:**

1. VP 110 is the Spec fuel of the Speedway. Gasoline or alcohol. Racing fuel and E85 allowed. NO performance-enhancing additives. Upper cylinder lube allowed with alcohol only. Fuel sample may be taken from any car at any time. The only other fuel allowed will be standard pump unleaded. Use of any fuel that contains oxygen is prohibited!!!

2. Bleeders are not allowed. Use of tire softening or altering agents is not permitted. Use of such substances will result in immediate disqualification and fine.

3. Vehicles must have 4-wheel hydraulic brakes.

4. No traction control devices, electronic or otherwise, will be permitted. Use of traction control will be cause for immediate disqualification and suspension from future racing activities.

5. Carburetor restriction must be done with a solid plate only and may not be externally adjustable in any way.

6. One Ignition Box Only.

7. No "U" Shaped Fuel Cells or non-standard shaped fuel cells.

8. No Tungsten or similar weight allowed!

9. No Data Acquisition equipment/wiring is allowed in the car on officially recognized race or practice days.

10. MUFFLERS - The following Cars, and classes must have Cotton Bowl Speedway approved UNALTERED mufflers and meet the 98DB noise reduction rule.

- IMCA classes must use IMCA legal Mufflers to meet 98 DB rule.
  - Turn downs Are required and you must meet 98 DB rule.
  - No exhaust may exit through the side of the car.
  - Mufflers must be on car prior to entering track surface.
  - Both Mufflers must be in place prior to hot laps, and at the finish of heat and feature races or car will be disqualified for the night, forfeiting all winnings and will not be able to finish the race.
  - There will be no grace periods given on mufflers. Make your turn down short if you have limited space.
- Factory Stock - Not Required
- Sport Compact - Not Required

11. Interior lights for properly securing interior safety equipment on driver are allowed but MUST BE OFF once on track. This includes all exterior lights.

## **PENALTIES:**

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

## **OFFICIAL DECISIONS:**

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

## **SAFETY:**

1. Approved seat belts and double shoulder harness will be required, Other than IMCA classes; Two years recommended, five years required. Based on condition can be disallowed by Director of Tech. A crotch strap will be required. Sternum strap recommended.
2. Drivers will not be allowed on the racetrack at any time without proper neck restraints in place. A strap type neck restraint or neck collar is required at all times.
3. Helmet should be 2015 Snell standard or better and have sticker visible for inspection. Full-face helmets required.
4. Approved, clean full driving suit and gloves for fire protection are mandatory.
5. Recommended; all cars have a working fire suppression system (preferred) or, at minimum, a driver accessible fire extinguisher. Gauges for extinguishers must be easily visible for inspection.
6. Side plate for driver's door will be mandatory. Must be 12 inches (12") high post-topost, 1/16" minimum thickness steel or 3/16" aluminum and must be fastened with a minimum of six (6) half-inch bolts or securely welded to speedways approval.
7. Driver's window must be equipped with safety net with quick release-latch. String window nets will not be permitted. The minimum net size must be 22" wide and 16" high. When latched, the window net must fit and pull tight.
8. Resilient padding designed for roll bar use must be installed on any roll cage member which can be reached by any extremity of the driver while driver is normally seated with restraints fastened. Steering wheel must be padded.
9. All lead weights must be painted white, with the car number painted on each individual piece on three sides and be visible from the top. All lead weights must be securely fastened. Any lost weight may not be added to car to make weight. No Tungsten or similar weight allowed!
10. Recommended; All competing teams must possess a minimum 10 lb. Aluminum working fire extinguisher while in attendance in pits, and this item must be presented at inspection. Car number must be painted on fire extinguisher.

11. A main electrical cut-off switch needs to be clearly marked and easily accessible to safety crews. It must be located on the dash in the center in clear view, or must be mounted on roll bar behind driver within reach of window. "On" and "Off" switch must be clearly marked.
12. Numbers must be a minimum of 20" in height, with body of each character a minimum of 4" in width and must be professionally placed on each door. A number will be required on top, readable from the infield. A car number at least six inches (6") in height must be placed in the upper right-hand corner of the windshield.
13. Roll cage must be constructed of 1 3/4" OD round steel tubing with a minimum wall thickness of .090". Three inches (3") maximum gussets measured diagonally must be welded in main roll cage area where a 90-degree angle exists or where the roll cage meets the main frame rails. The main frame rails must be steel from radiator area to behind the fuel cell.
14. No part of any cooling system may be located in driver's compartment. 15. Batteries must be securely fastened and mounted outside of driver's compartment with positive post cover or in a box with a cover.
15. A current year CBS Pre-Inspection Sticker is required before your car enters the track.

#### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY:**

- A. Definition Illegal drugs or substances are those substances defined and prohibited by local, state, and/or Federal laws.
- B. General Prohibition Possession or use of illegal drugs or drug substances, as defined above, is prohibited in any form by any participant in any Speedway grounds or in any area Considered to be used in the operation of the event, including but not limited to parking Lots, office areas, etc. All crewmembers and drivers are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol during an Event's scheduled activities.
- C. Violations and Penalties 1. Any person found to be in possession of or under the influence of an illegal drug or drug substance on a speedway Property, as defined above or any person who is arrested by duly constituted authorities and charged with possession And/or use of illegal drugs or drug substances, or any person who is formally charged by a court of law with illegal drug Violations may be subject to penalties by the Speedway as follows: 2. Suspension from competition and eviction from track property and denial of further entry to the track for any events for a period to be determined by speedway officials. 3. In the case of formal charges being filed in a court of law, upon notification to Speedway Officials by the agency Involved, the participant may be suspended from all forms of participation until the charges are fully Adjudicated through the legal process. In the case of a conviction by process of law, the participant may be prohibited from participating in any Speedway events for a minimum period of one (1) Year from date of conviction.
- D. Appeal and Hearing Any participant suspended for violation of these rules may be granted an appeal hearing by a board of officials designated by Speedway provided the Suspended participant requests such a hearing, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Date of suspension. It is the responsibility of the Suspended party to make such a request if a hearing is desired.
- E. Reinstatement A participant suspended for violations of these rules, except in the case of persons charged with selling illegal drugs or drug Substances, May, as the result of a decision reached through the hearing process, be reinstated if it is mutually agreed that The participant, at his or her own expense, will produce Documentation from a physician licensed with the state, certifying That he or she is illegal drug independent, as a result of random and periodic examinations and urinalysis testing made at the Request of Speedway officials.
- F. Prescribed Drugs If a participant is using prescription drugs on the advice of a physician, such use must be reported to the director of Competition prior to the participant's Entry into track activities. Failure to notify will subject the participant to penalties as Described in this section.

#### **RACING FLAG RULES:**

- Green – Start of the race. Any car not taking the initial green flag will not be scored.
- White – One lap to the finish
- Blue/Yellow Flag – Hold your line. Faster cars are coming.
- Checkered – End of the race
- Black – leave the track for repair or disqualification ➤ Green and White Crossed – Halfway point of the race ➤ Red – Stop where you are.

➤ Yellow – Slow Down to slow pace

All drivers must understand starter's flags. Failure to obey flags will result in disqualification. Failure to see the flag will not be considered an excuse. The starter has complete control of the cars while the race is on. His decision along with Race Director is final.

#### **FEATURE LINE-UP:**

Refer to IMCA Rules.

#### **TRANSPONDERS:**

Per IMCA national rules, Transponder locations have CHANGED!

In order to limit confusion, we are aligning all of our classes as stated below.

-Modifieds & Southern SportMods - Transponder will be located on the right side motor plate (back side)

I-Stock Cars, Factory Stocks, Sport Compacts & Street Stocks (with oem fire wall location) transponder will be located right side fire wall. Street Stocks with a mid plate in the car will mount the transponder on the right side of the mid plate on the back side, just like the open wheel cars.

Note: Westhold transponders operate at their best when mounted horizontally with the silver/label facing down to the speedway with clear line of sight to the racing surface.

If you rent a transponder from CBS, you will need to make a bracket/brace or provide your own pouch. The track does not have pouches available.

Note: All traveling series will designate the location of their transponders.

#### **PIT VEHICLES:**

- A. Auxiliary vehicles of any kind (golf carts, ATV's, etc.) should be used for necessary transportation only. Joy riding in the pit area is prohibited. Two wheeled vehicles are discouraged.
- B. Non-racecar drivers of auxiliary vehicles must be 16 years of age or older and must have a driver license or be approved by Track Operations.
- C. Auxiliary pit vehicles may carry only as many passengers as there are seats provided. No overloading of vehicles. No standing on back of vehicles.
- D. Auxiliary pit vehicles must be operated safely always. Excessive speeds will not be tolerated. Any auxiliary pit vehicle operated in an unsafe manner will be parked/and or loaded up for the night.
- E. All auxiliary pit vehicles must be parked and/or loaded up 30 minutes after the last race.
- F. The driver/owner of any auxiliary pit vehicle assumes full responsibility for any bodily injury or property damage related to use of their vehicle.
- G. All auxiliary vehicles of any kind must pay a \$35.00 annual fee or a one-time \$20.00 fee, fill out the form, and be issued a CBS sticker placed on vehicle, visible.

#### **POINTS:**

1st – 40 Points 2nd – 39 Points 3rd – 38 Points 4th – 37 Points 5th – 36 Points 6th – 35 Points 7th – 34 Points 8th – 33 Points 9th – 32 Points 10th – 31 Points 11th – 30 Points 12th – 29 Points 13th – 28 Points 14th – 27 Points 15th – 26 Points 16th – 25 Points 17th – 24 Points 18th – 23 Points 19th – 22 Points 20th – 21 Points 21st – 20 Points 22nd – 19 Points 23rd – 18 Points 24th – 17 Points 25th – 17 Points 26th – 17 Points 27th – 17 Points 28th – 17 Points 29th – 17 Points 30th – 17 Points

#### **RACE PROCEDURES:**

1. The number of cars starting a race is determined by the track officials and depends on the type of event, width, length and condition of track.
2. Race car must display number as assigned by track personnel. It must be minimum four inches thick and 20 inches tall and clearly visible, on both sides, top and back of car, and front, if possible. Recommended that no

- holographic or reflective numbers be used. All IMCA race cars divisions must display the official IMCA decal and required contingency decals, which will be furnished by IMCA.
3. Race Director and Pit Steward will not be responsible for allowing a late entry to compete. Rejection of entrants at any given time is allowed but pit gate closing time should be known to all competitors.
  4. Any driver not ready to compete when called may be sent to rear of starting line-up or left out of balance of program at discretion of official in charge.
  5. Prior to line-ups cars dropping out the field will be crisscrossed to fill that position. Once in line cars will moved straight forward.
  6. Once a race is started on a preliminary line-up lap, disposition of cars not in position shall be at discretion of officials.
  7. 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. No driver, car owner, pit man or mechanic may use any signaling device for purpose of signaling competitors. Including radios.
  8. If track has pre- or post-race inspection, those drivers not reporting to the inspection area will be disqualified, given no points and no money.
  9. No race is official until officials make declaration of final scoring of positions.
  10. 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.
  11. A dead heat may or may not be re-run at discretion of officials. If dead heat is not rerun, prize money and points for both positions under contention shall be divided equally.
  12. Only Race Officials and Authorized Persons are allowed on the race track or in the infield during competition. Drivers may seek a place of safety in the infield following a disablement if they can't make it off of the track safely. Only wrecker and safety crews will be allowed on the race track in the event of an accident. Unless race officials deem it necessary for said Family Member or Crew etc. to be on the track and then they must be escorted onto the track by an Official. (Zero tolerance for walking onto the track unescorted)
  13. Pitting is allowed under yellow/red at the approval and direction of Race Director. Only to outside designated Track Hot Pit.
  14. If a driver physically exits their vehicle under yellow or red conditions without PRIOR consent from the Race Director via receiver, they will not be able to re-enter that race and compete. Exceptions can be made by the Race Director in the event of an emergency situation.
  15. Re-entering is allowed under yellow at the approval and direction of Race Director from designated Hot Pit only. Should driver go to any other area of the pits they will not be considered by Race Director to return to the track. Race Official at track entrance may authorize driver to enter track under green only when deemed safe to do so by the Race Director.
  16. Any competing vehicle whose speed has been reduced to a point where it causes a safety problem or retards track activity will be removed from the race track at the discretion of the Race Director.
  17. Any car losing an identifiable part that causes a caution will be sent to the rear of the field.
  18. Any car that cuts through the infield intentionally may lose 1 lap for each offense.
  19. Any driver participating in a race event without a helmet properly strapped on/ and or safety belts securely fastened will be disqualified for that event.
  20. Interior lights for properly securing interior safety equipment on driver are allowed but MUST BE OFF once on track. This includes all exterior lights.
  21. Drivers who receive two solo cautions in any heat race or feature event will be directed to leave the racing surface. The Race Director reserves the authority to override this requirement when necessary.
  22. Restarts will be "Texas Two Step" style (in both heat races and main events) with the leader out front and double file behind. Second place will choose inside or out and the third place driver will take the remaining position, the rest of the field will line up double file in running order behind them (Fourth place will always be on the inside row) The leader controls the pace and no driver may accelerate before the leader; jumping the restart may result in a penalty at Race Control's discretion. Race Control may call for a single file restart at any time due to track conditions, time limits, or repeated failed restarts.

#### **SPORT COMPACT/JR LIMITED UNIQUE RULES:**

- If you are running in the Sport Compact or Jr Limited class, you may not register or drive in any other class with CBS. No driver under the age of 12 or over the age 16 or holding a sanctioning license or competing in any other division at Cotton Bowl Speedway in 2025 (excluding Sport Compacts) will be allowed to compete in this division. (although once a driver competes in Jr Limited they are no longer eligible to compete in Sport Compacts, again)  
Ages are based on age as of January 1st, 2026.