



PARTICIPANT
PROCEDURES & RULES
2023



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Disclaimer

At all times, the NHRA Rulebook is the principal authority for the conduct of events. The Byron Dragway Race Program is a supplemental resource developed by Byron Dragway for the sole purpose of providing guidance specific to event operations at Byron Dragway.

By entering and participating in an event, participants are deemed to understand and accept the Rules and Regulations as set forth in the current NHRA Rulebook. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH NHRA RULES OR ANY POLICIES OF BYRON DRAGWAY. The NHRA Rulebook and Byron Dragway policies are intended as a guide for conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury or death to a participant, spectator or official.

Each and every participant is bound by the NHRA Rulebook and is held responsible for knowledge of and compliance with the Rulebook. Ignorance or misunderstanding of a rule does not excuse noncompliance. Participants' knowledge of and compliance with the Rulebook is required. By participating in the sport, every participant affirms that he or she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by all NHRA rules and regulations including those contained in the NHRA Rulebook, including amendments.

It is the participant's responsibility to stay abreast of all NHRA rule changes and Byron Dragway Track Program changes that may affect the participant. The latest edition of the Byron Dragway Track Program will be published on ByronDragway.com. Additions, deletions or changes to the NHRA Rulebook will be:

1. Published in NHRA National Dragster; and/or
2. Published on NHRARacer.com

It is the responsibility of the participant, not NHRA or the race track, to ensure that all safety equipment is approved and is correctly installed, worn, maintained, and used. Unauthorized cars, parts, and/or equipment will not be considered approved by reason of having passed through technical inspection at any time, or any number of times. Moreover, having passed through technical inspection at any time, or any number of times, is not a defense to a violation found on further inspection. Remember, it is your responsibility to follow the standards in the NHRA Rulebook that pertain to your vehicle.

Contact:

If after reading the NHRA Rulebook you still have questions, participants may communicate with the NHRA Technical Department or Byron Dragway regarding explanations and interpretations of rules. These communications are advisory only.

NHRA Technical Services Representatives

Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8 AM - 8 PM ET

Friday, 8 AM - 3 PM ET

Contact:

Phone: 844-468-7631 (844-HOTROD1)

Email: TechDL@nhra.com

Byron Dragway

Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM CT

Contact: Jake Steder

Phone: 815-391-0000

1. Participant Procedures

1.1. Arrival

- 1.1.1. Participants will arrive through Gate 1 and proceed to the ticket booth.
- 1.1.2. At the ticket booth, all persons must execute a RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT before entering the facility. This may be completed online via Byron Dragway website.
- 1.1.3. At the ticket booth, all persons will purchase their entry fees as a participant or admission fees as a crewmember or spectator. This may be completed online via Byron Dragway website.

1.2. Pit Area

- 1.2.1. Proceed to the pit area, park, unload and prepare the vehicle to race.
- 1.2.2. Reserved pit spaces are in effect during Big Bucks Bracket Bash Series events or other reserves parking events only.

1.3. Tech Inspection

- 1.3.1. All vehicles must pass tech inspection per the 2023 NHRA Rulebook.
- 1.3.2. Tech inspection is located in Staging Lanes 1 & 2, or at the Tech shack.
- 1.3.3. Driver must report to tech with vehicle and all required safety equipment, clothing and accessories.
- 1.3.4. Tech card must be legibly completed, front and back in ink, using full legal name (no nicknames), and including all applicable SFI numbers and expiration dates.
- 1.3.5. Driver must present proper licensure as required by NHRA to participate.

1.4. Staging Lanes

- 1.4.1. All classes will be called to the lanes by the track announcer in sessions.
- 1.4.2. If you cannot hear the P.A. system, tune your radio to 88.5 FM as all announcements are also broadcast over this station.
- 1.4.3. Never block the entrance of staging lanes.
- 1.4.4. Once you have selected a lane to run in, please pull forward as far as possible. Once you have come to a complete stop, you cannot switch lanes.
- 1.4.5. Please stay with your call at all times while in the staging lanes.
- 1.4.6. Before crossing the yellow line at the head of the staging lanes, be sure you are ready to race, your helmet is fastened, your seat belt is properly fastened, and all windows are up.

1.5. Water Box

- 1.5.1. Cars will be guided into the water by the water box track officials. Start burnout only when water box officials instruct you to do so.
- 1.5.2. Crewmembers are prohibited from touching cars while performing a burnout.

1.6. Pre-Stage

- 1.6.1. Proceed toward the starting line. The pre-stage lights will illuminate on your side of the Christmas Tree indicating you are pre-staged. If paired with another driver, courtesy staging is proper driver etiquette, meaning the first driver to pre-stage waits for their opponent to also pre-stage before either driver stages, so as not to rush your opponent. As a courtesy to other racers, pre-stage in a timely manner.

1.7. Stage

- 1.7.1. When the first driver is fully staged and the second driver is pre-staged, the second driver has ten seconds to fully stage or he will be timed out and disqualified by AutoStart activation of the Christmas Tree.
- 1.7.2. By staging your vehicle, you have signaled that you find all conditions acceptable and you are ready to race. If there is a problem, do not stage. Explain your problem to a starting line official and they will assist you.
- 1.7.3. Staging duels or other starting line games are not permitted. Track officials have the discretion to disqualify one or both racers if not staging in a timely manner. Officials' decision is final.

1.8. Deep Stage

- 1.8.1. Driver accepts all responsibility for deep staging.
- 1.8.2. When deep staging, do not stop your forward motion after illuminating the pre-stage light.
- 1.8.3. You must write "DEEP" clearly on both side windows so track officials and opponents are aware.
- 1.8.4. See class specific rules, as deep staging is not permitted in every class.

1.9. Finish Line

- 1.9.1. Begin to safely decelerate the vehicle after crossing the finish line.

1.10. Shutdown Area & Exit

- 1.10.1. Byron Dragway is a left exit track.
- 1.10.2. There is one turn off.
- 1.10.3. Yield the right-of-way to the vehicle in the left lane when exiting the track. It is the driver's responsibility to know where their opponent is before turning.
- 1.10.4. If you are unable to slow down in time for the turn off, there is an additional paved shutdown area beyond the turnoff. There is an emergency sand trap at the end of the additional shutdown area.
- 1.10.5. DO NOT REMOVE ANY SAFETY EQUIPMENT BEFORE EXITING THE TRACK.

1.11. Return Road

- 1.11.1. Speed limit is 15 MPH on the return road to the time slip booth. STOP at the time slip booth to collect your time slip. Speed limit from time slip booth to and throughout the pit area is 5 MPH.

2. General Policies

2.1. Restricted Area

- 2.1.1. At Byron Dragway, the restricted area begins at the burnout boards, continues down track through the shutdown area, includes all space between the guard walls and adjacent fences and the return road, ending at the time slips building.
- 2.1.2. All persons (driver, crew, etc.) must execute a RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT before entering the restricted area.
- 2.1.3. Crew members ages 14 through 17 are required to have a MINOR RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY form executed by both natural parents including situations involving divorce or separation unless one parent retains "Sole Custody" or the legal guardian(s) to enter the restricted area. In situations involving divorce or separation, the parent executing the form and indicating "Sole Custody" of the minor on the form must produce court documentation evidencing status as Sole Custodian. The signature of a step-parent is not acceptable. In cases of guardianship, a copy of the court order appointing the guardian should be attached to the waiver. Children under 14 years of age must remain in an enclosed vehicle while in the restricted area and also have an annual MINOR RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY form executed and on file. Minor Waiver forms are done on an annual basis. Therefore, a new form must be completed each year for every Minor and signatures must be either witnessed by a Track Official or witnessed and notarized by a Notary Public. The MINOR RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY form must be on file with Byron Dragway for a minor to enter restricted areas. Please contact Byron Dragway for further questions or forms regarding this matter.

2.2. Waste Oil & Hazardous Materials

- 2.2.1. Waste oil only may be properly disposed of in the oil collection container located near the fuel station.
 - 2.2.2. Contaminated oil (any non-pure oil contaminated with brake clean, carburetor cleaner, antifreeze, etc...) must be taken with you when you leave.
- 2.3. **Conduct:** Participants are expected at all times to conduct themselves in a professional and non-disruptive manner. Any participant who, in the judgement of track personnel, 1) verbally or physically threatens another participant or person, 2) uses vulgar or derogatory language, or 3) engages in unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct detrimental to the sport of drag racing may be removed from the facility.
- 2.4. **Animals:** Must remain on a leash at all times.
- 2.5. **Pit Vehicles:** May only be driven by an operator possessing a valid state Driver's License and over the minimum age of 16. No exceptions.
- 2.6. **Speed Limit:** Speed limit is 15 mph on the return road from the turnoff until time slip booth. Speed limit is 5 mph from time slip booth onward throughout the pit area.

- 2.7. **Photo Policy:** All images, videos, or audio filmed, photographed, captured and/or recorded at Byron Dragway are the property of Byron Dragway.
 - 2.8. **Drones:** Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) are strictly prohibited.
 - 2.9. **Glass:** Glass bottles are strictly prohibited.
3. **General Technical Requirements:** At all times, the NHRA Rulebook is the principal authority for the conduct of events. The following is a brief overview of general requirements set forth in the NHRA Rulebook. This overview is not intended to be an all encompassing summary of the NHRA Rulebook but rather a resource to assist in racer preparedness. At all times, refer to the NHRA Rulebook for complete

NHRA Rulebook Links

[2023 NHRA Rulebook](#)
[2023 NHRA Junior Dragster Rules](#)
[NHRA Division 3 Championship Rules](#)

- 3.1. **Batteries:** Batteries must be securely mounted, may not be located in driver compartment. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 7 & Gen. Reg. 8:1).
- 3.2. **Chassis Certification:** NHRA Chassis Certification sticker required for 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker or exceeding 135 mph.
- 3.3. **Competition License:** Valid NHRA competition license mandatory for drivers running 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker or 135 mph or faster.
- 3.4. **Coolant:** Catch can required for coolant overflow. Antifreeze prohibited in any modified vehicle.
- 3.5. **Credentials:** All drivers must have a valid, unrestricted state or government issued driver's license with no driving restrictions or an NHRA competition license. Valid NHRA competition license mandatory for drivers running 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker.
- 3.6. **Driveshaft Loop:** Required on all cars running 13.99 (*8.59) or quicker and utilizing slicks, except vehicles running 11.49 (*7.35) or slower equipped with street tires. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 4 & Gen. Reg. 2:4).
- 3.7. **Firesuit:** Fire jacket SFI spec. 3.2A/1 required for drivers in cars faster than 11.49 or quicker; Fire jacket and pants SFI spec. 3.2A/5 required for drivers in cars 9.99 or quicker.
- 3.8. **Harmonic Balancer:** Aftermarket harmonic balancer SFI Spec. 21.2 required on all cars running 10.99 or quicker.
- 3.9. **Helmet:** A Snell 2015 or newer certified helmet is required at 13.99 or quicker. Full-face helmet mandatory in all cars 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker; shield mandatory for all motorcycles and open cockpit cars. **NOTE:** Snell 2015 helmets will expire at the END OF 2027.

- 3.10. **Lower Engine Oil-Retention Device:** All cars 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker must utilize an NHRA-accepted lower engine oil-retention device. A properly fitting lower engine ballistic/restraint device mandatory. (NHRA Gen. Reg. 1:8).
- 3.11. **Master Cutoff:** Mandatory on any car with a battery running 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker, any car exceeding 135 mph, or on any car where the battery is relocated into the trunk area. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 7 & Gen. Reg. 8:4).
- 3.12. **Minimum Apparel:** If no specific Protective Clothing requirements are stated for a particular class, then the minimum requirements are as follows: full-length pants, short or long sleeve shirt, closed toe shoes and socks. No shorts, bare legs, bare torsos, tank tops, open-toed shoes or sandals. Synthetic clothing not recommended. See class requirements. (NHRA Sec. 10 & Gen. Reg. 10).
- 3.13. **Parachute:** Mandatory on any car that runs 150 mph or faster. (NHRA Gen. Reg. 4:8).
- 3.14. **Proper Use of Safety Equipment:** Seat belts must be worn and adjusted in such a manner that the driver's torso and head cannot extend outside the parameters of the roll cage. The loosening and removal of seat belts, helmets, gloves, window nets, lifting of helmet shield, and removal of all other safety equipment is prohibited from the time the vehicle leaves the ready line until the vehicle is on the return road. (NHRA Sec. 2 Race Procedures).
- 3.15. **Roll Bar:** Roll bar mandatory in all cars (including T-tops) running 11.00 to 11.49 (*7.00-7.35), in convertibles running 11.00 to 13.49 (*7.00-8.25). (NHRA Section. 4A, page 5 and Gen. Reg. 4:10, 10:6).
- 3.16. **Roll Cage:** A roll cage is mandatory in cars running 10.99 (*6.99) or quicker and exceeding 135 MPH. In full-bodied cars, with unaltered firewall, floor, and body (from firewall rearward, wheel tubs permitted), running between 10.00-10.99 (*6.40-6.99), roll bar permitted in place of roll cage. In convertibles running 10.99 or quicker or exceeding 135 mph, roll cage mandatory. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 5 and Gen. Reg. 4:11, 10:6).
- 3.17. **Roll-Cage Padding:** Padding must be used anywhere driver's helmet may come in contact with roll-cage components. Roll-cage padding meeting SFI Spec. 45.1 mandatory on any vehicle running 9.99 (*6.39) and quicker. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 5 & Gen. Reg. 4:11, 10:6).
- 3.18. **Driver Restraint System:** A quick-release driver restraint system meeting SFI Spec 16.1 or SFI Spec 16.5 is mandatory in all cars in competition required by the rules to have a roll bar or a roll cage. System must be updated at two-year intervals from date of manufacture. (NHRA Gen. Reg. 10:5, 10:11).
- 3.19. **Warm-Ups:** It is mandatory that a driver be seated in the car in the normal driving position anytime the engine is running. The practice of transbrake testing, converter stalls, line-loc testing, and/or transmission warming is prohibited in all classes, in all areas of the event except in the starting-line approach areas beyond staging, or unless vehicle is on jackstands. (NHRA Gen. Reg. 9:14).

3.20. **Window Net:** A ribbon-type or SFI 27.1 mesh-type window net is mandatory for any full-bodied car running 7.50-9.99 (*4.50-6.39) or if vehicle runs 135 mph or faster. (NHRA Sec. 4A, page 6 & Gen. Reg. 6:3).

3.21. **2023 NHRA E.T. Quick Reference Chart & SFI Expirations**

NHRA E.T. QUICK REFERENCE CHART & SFI EXPIRATIONS							
Y = Required • C = Convertibles • Numbers Refer to General Regulations • Years Refer to SFI Expirations • In no way is this Quick Reference Chart intended to supersede or replace the current NHRA Rulebook (quarter-mile e.t.s.) Unless otherwise noted in this E.T. Quick Reference Chart, refer to SFIFoundation.com for the latest version of all non-chassis specifications. Also, unless otherwise noted in this document, refer to TechConn.NHRA.com for the latest SFI chassis specification versions. Note: Only certified NHRA chassis inspectors and authorized NHRA officials have access to TechConn.NHRA.com. An item with an expiration period must be returned to the original manufacturer for inspection and recertification at the end of this period before it can be permitted for further use at an NHRA event.							
Item	6.00 to 7.49	7.50 to 9.99	10.00 to 10.99	11.00 to 11.49	11.50 to 13.99	14.00 & Slower	Expiration
Aftermarket Rear Axles	Y	Y	Y	2:11	2:11	2:11	
Arm Restraints (Open-Bodied Cars)	Y	Y	Y	Y	10:3 / 11.99	10:3	
Bellhousing (SFI 6.1; 6.2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	2:10	2:10	
Driver Restraint System (SFI 16.1; 16.5)	Y	Y	Y / 10:5	Y / 10:5	C / 10:5	10:5 / 10:11	2 years
Driveshaft Loop	Y	Y	Y	Y	2:4	2:4	
Electric Vehicle 16.00 & Quicker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2:4	
Flexplate Shield (SFI 30.1)	Y	Y	2:14	2:14	2:14	2:14	5 years
Flywheel/Clutch (SFI 1.1; 1.2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	2:5	2:5	2 years
SFI 1.1: Single-Disc Clutch & Flywheel Assembly, 1.2: Multi-Disc Clutch & Flywheel Assembly E.T. through Comp, PS							
Flywheel Shield (SFI 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 9.1)	Y	Y	Y	Y	2:10	2:10	
SFI 6.1: Flywheel Shield, Spec 1.1 & 1.2 (2-Disc Max. or 3-Disc, 8-inch Diameter Max.)							
SFI 6.2: Flywheel Shield, Spec 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5 Clutch (Check with Manufacturer; May Be Only 1 Year)							
Harmonic Balancer (SFI 18.1)	Y	Y	Y	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	5 years 2 years
Head & Neck Restraint Device/System (SFI 38.1)	Y	10:8 / 200 mph	10:8	10:8	10:8	10:8	5 years
Helmet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10:7	
SFI 24.1/2015; 31.1/2015; 41.1/2015; Snell 2015							
FIA 8860-2010, Snell CMR 2016 (JDRL only)							
SFI 24.1/2020; 31.1/2020; 41.1/2020; Snell 2020							
FIA 8860-2015							
FIA 8860-2018							
Liquid Overflow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	exp. 1/1/2027 exp. 1/1/2028 exp. 1/1/2032 exp. 1/1/2033 exp. 1/1/2036

Item	6.00 to 7.49	7.50 to 9.99	10.00 to 10.99	11.00 to 11.49	11.50 to 13.99	14.00 & Slower	Expiration
Master Electrical Cutoff Switch	Y	Y	8:4 / 135 mph	8:4	8:4	8:4	
Neck Collar (SFI 3.3)	Y	Y	10:8	10:8	10:8	10:8	
NHRA Competition License	Y	Y	10:4	10:4	10:4	10:4	
NHRA Chassis Sticker	Y	Y	4:4	4:4	4:4	4:4	
Padding Roll Bar/Cage	Y / SFI	Y / SFI	Y / SFI	Y	10:6 / 135 mph	10:6 / 135 mph	
Parachute	Y	Y / 150 mph	4:8	4:8	4:8	4:8	
Pressurized Bottles DOT (1800)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Protective Clothing SFI 3.2A/15; 3.2A/20; 3.2A/25; 3.2A/30 Driver's Suit	Y	Y	Y	Y	10:10	10:10	5 years, incl. year on tag
Roll Bar			Y	Y	C / 13.49	4:10	
Roll Cage	Y	Y	Y / 135 mph	4:11	4:11	4:11	
SFI Chassis Specification	Y	4:4 / 180 mph	4:4	4:4	4:4	4:4	1 year
SFI 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 10.1; 10.5; 25.1 Full Body Chassis Spec; Pro Stock							
SFI 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 25.1 Adv. E.T.; 25.2; 25.3; 25.4; 25.5							
Supercharger Restraints (SFI 14.1; 14.2; 14.21; 14.3)	Y	1:11	1:11	1:11	1:11	1:11	2 years
Taillight	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Transmission Flexplate (SFI 29.1)	Y	Y	2:14	2:14	2:14	2:14	3 years
Transmission Locking-Type Dipstick	Y	Y	Y				
Transmission Reverse Lockout	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Transmission Shield (SFI 4.1)	Y	Y	Y	2:14	2:14	2:14	Rigid, 5 yrs.; Flexible, 2 yrs.
Window Net Full-Bodied Cars	Y	Y	6:3 / 10:3	6:3 / 10:3	6:3 / 10:3	6:3 / 10:3	

Thank you for being an NHRA Member. It is always our privilege to serve you. To renew or join, visit NHRARacer.com.

NHRA Licensing Information

- 3.22. All drivers with an elapsed time of 9.99 (*6.39) or quicker or 135 mph or faster are required to have a valid NHRA Competition License and NHRA Membership.
- 3.23. License classes 1-3 (elapsed times of 7.49/*4.49 or quicker) require an NHRA medical examination. For licensing classes that require an NHRA physical examination, the physical examination must be complete before license runs are made.
- 3.24. In all licensing instances, driver must obtain the appropriate NHRA License Application. Applications can be found at NHRARacer.com or in Race Control at the track. Driver will begin by completing sections 1-3 of the application.
- 3.25. In all licensing instances, the applicant will complete the license application form in full and send all required forms, original time slips and form of payment to NHRA for processing.
- 3.26. In all licensing instances, full runs must be representative performance of the category applying for. Driver must complete the two full runs at or better than the requested classes minimum elapsed-time and mph standard. Additional runs may be required.
- 3.27. New Driver License Requirements**
 - 3.27.1. Driver must inform the track manager of intent to earn their license. Drivers will then arrange for two (2) currently licensed drivers of equal class or above class to observe each license run. Signatures of observers and times must be filled in after each run.
 - 3.27.2. A track official will conduct a special cockpit orientation test ("blindfold test") before beginning license runs.
 - 3.27.3. All license runs will be single runs. No side-by-side runs. License runs must be completed at an NHRA Member Track.
 - 3.27.4. Six (6) license runs will be required in the following order:
 - 1. One half-pass 2. One Moderate Pass 3. One Moderate Pass
 - 4. One Moderate Pass 5. One Full Pass 6. One Full Pass
- 3.28. License Renewal Requirements**
 - 3.28.1. Class 1-3 license renewal applicants 7.49 (*4.49) & quicker are required to pass an NHRA Physical Exam.
 - 3.28.2. No runs required for an on-time renewal. Late renewals over 2-years expired must meet all new driver requirements.
- 3.29. License Level or Type Change Requirements**
 - 3.29.1. If an applicant is upgrading from Level 5 or 7 to Level 4 or 6, track officials may waive runs 1-3 if continuing competition in the same vehicle.
- 3.30. Transfer License Requirements**

- 3.30.1. Complete runs 5 & 6 with two (2) full-pass time slips in class for which you seek a license.
- 3.30.2. Runs must be within the past 12 months at any facility or event.
- 3.30.3. Side-by-side time trials or elimination time slips are accepted.
- 3.30.4. Validation signatures from one (1) NHRA licensed driver & one (1) NHRA Official or NHRA Member Track Authorized Official.
- 3.30.5. Copy of current competition license from alternate sanctioning organization.