



2026 Tri County Speedway Rules

4405 Hickory Nut Ridge Road

Hudson, NC 28638

#### RULE BOOK DISCLAIMER

The rules and regulations set forth herein are designed to provide for the orderly conduct of racing events and to establish minimum acceptable requirements for such events. These rules shall govern the conditions of all events, and participation in these events which all participants are deemed to be compliant with all these rules. NO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND/OR REGULATIONS. Rules and regulations are intended as a guide for the conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury or death to a participant, spectator, or official.

The Director of Operations shall be empowered to permit reasonable and appropriate deviation from any of the specifications herein or impose any further requirements. No Expressed or implied warranty of safety shall result from such alterations of specifications. Any interpretation of deviation of these rules is left to the discretion of the officials. This decision will be FINAL!

#### Section I

##### General Rules

- A. The rules listed herein are effective from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. The following rules supersede all previous rules for any TCS division. TCS retains the right to update, modify, add, or delete any rule at any time.
- B. 1. No intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances are to be consumed before or during ANY race event by anyone in the pit area. Drivers resume all responsibility for the actions of their crew. TCS reserves the right to require alcohol and or drug tests to anyone who has entered the pit area at any time.

- C. TCS reserves the right to reject or allow the entry of any car or driver for any reason.
- D. Abuse of any TCS official or people serving under their discretion and use of improper language at any time will not be tolerated. The offense will result in fines, suspensions, and/or loss of points.
- E. Drivers, owners, and/or any other crew member shall have no claims against or cause of actions for damages, expenses, or otherwise against TCS or its officials or promoters by reason of disqualification or damage to either car or driver, or both.
- F. Any race car may be inspected at any time by TCS officials.
- G. Absolutely no tire soak or softening of any kind will be tolerated. Punishment will be at the discretion of track officials. All tires will be confiscated and deemed property of TCS.
- H. All points and money will be distributed after all proper tax information has been received. TCS will not pay any money until all proper paperwork is complete. This is the final.
- I. Entry fees, pit passes, tires, fuel, track rental, transponders, etc. MUST BE PAID IN FULL at time of service. This is nonrefundable. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- J. Interpretations of rules, procedures, or scoring positions by TCS officials is final.
- K. Each division has assigned pit areas. All trucks, trailers and cars must be parked in designated areas neatly and straight. All trailers must pull up far enough, so race cars are in your pit box with no part hanging out.
- L. TCS has a one direction traffic pattern that will be enforced.
- M. Absolutely no pit bikes, golf carts, etc. will be tolerated on pit road while the speedway is hot. Any unsafe actions by these vehicles will result in loss of use for everyone.
- N. Safety for everyone, especially minors, is a top priority. Drivers are responsible for minors who enter with your team.
- O. It's the driver's responsibility to ask for clarification of any rules that he/she may not understand. Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it is legal. It is the racers' responsibility to clarify the rules before choosing to do so.

## Section II

### AGE REQUIREMENTS

- A. All drivers must be 14 years of age (EIRI) except in rare instances.
- B. All drivers must be physically fit for racing. TCS reserves the right to request a medical certificate at its sole and absolute discretion.
- C. All drivers under the minimum age will require clearance from TCS and will be continuously monitored for their ability.
- D. TCS officials reserve the right to revoke racing privileges at any time, of any driver, at any time.

## Section III

### Insurance and Liability

- A. Insurance

1. Participants and/or persons entering a restricted area of an event are made available insurance for accidental death or hospital, and/or medical bills. Such insurance is for a period normally associated with the completion of an event and for risks associated with participation in that event. Insurance shall be applied as secondary coverage and will be applied only after participants primary coverage reaches its limits of coverage.

#### B. Waivers

1. Any person admitted to the pits and other restricted areas of an event must obey all rules and regulations for that area as set for by TCS. Any negligence will not be covered. Every individual admitted to any TCS event must sign all releases as determined and/or required by TCS.
2. Performance, advertising, and promotion release: TCS and its assigns may use their name(s), picture(s), likeliness(es), and performance(s) in any way, medium or material (including without limitation's by and through television, videotape, air wave, cable and satellite broadcasts, film productions, and audio tape reproductions, transmissions over the internet and public and online services authorized by TCS and the like), before, during, and after the event, for promoting, advertising, recording, or reporting the event or any other TCS event, and do hereby relinquish all rights thereto for these purposes, provided that the car owner/ driver retain exclusive use of

its name, picture and likeness in connection with the product endorsements and the sale of products, services, concessions and merchandise.

#### C. Social Media Content

TCS defines social media as all means of electronic communication or posting of information/content of any sort on the internet. This includes but is not limited to your own or someone else's web blogs, personal website, social networking or affinity website, whether directly associated or affiliated with TCS. This includes but is not limited to Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Although forums may seem informal, individuals are solely responsible for what is posted online whether by themselves and/or allowing others the ability to post online content for them. Any social media policy allies to all TCS competitors, crew members and officials. A competitor is a driver, entrant, family member, or any other individual or entity who is a member and/or participates in any TCS event. All drivers are responsible for the actions of their crew.

Examples of inappropriate postings, statements, photographs, video or audio may include discriminatory remarks, harassment, and threats of violence or similar inappropriate or unlawful conduct is prohibited. Avoid content that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, that disparages others or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Any mistake should be corrected immediately.

#### BE RESPECTFUL

If any individual posts complaints or criticism, avoid using statements, photographs, video or audio that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, and threatening or intimidating, that disparages others or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone's reputation or posts that could contribute to a

hostile trackside environment based on race, sex, disability, religion or any other status protected by law, rule or policy.

#### BE HONEST AND ACCURATE

Posts are “on the record” whether the online medium is public or private and is accessible to the media, public, sponsors, and other business partners and is subject to discovery in litigation matters. Rumors, speculation or information about TCS or others are not to be posted until an official announcement, release or other post by official social media accounts have been made to the public and media.

#### RETALIATION

Retaliation is prohibited. TCS prohibits taking negative action against any member or other for reporting or for cooperating in a policy investigation. Member(s) who retaliate against another member for reporting or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including exclusion from the series. Social media plays an integral role in reaching out to and growing fan bases, engagement, marketing, and promotion to all entities. It is a way to give fans direct interaction with TCS drivers, teams, tracks and sponsors.

THIS POLICY WAS ADOPTED AND PUT IN EFFECT AS OF January 1, 2020, AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT INDEFINITELY.

#### D. INJURY REPORTS

1. Any injury involving any driver, owner, crew member, sponsor, or any employee occurring on the racing premises, must be reported to a TCS official or the medical personnel in charge, before leaving premises (if said member is able to make such a report). Otherwise, someone from the crew members should make a TCS official or the medical personnel in charge, aware of said injury and assist with completion of an accident report by TCS officials. SECTION IV

#### SAFETY

##### A. GENERAL SAFETY

1. All competitors are obligated to inspect the racing facility, safety personnel and equipment and conditions at the track on a continuing basis before, during, and after the event. Since the competitors are closer to the racing facilities, safety personnel and equipment, and conditions at the track on a continuous basis throughout the event than TCS officials, it is their obligation to inspect, observe and report to the Director of Competition or the Director of Operations and inadequacy in the facilities, personnel, equipment, or conditions at the track. Competitors also are solely and directly responsible for the safety of their cars and racing equipment and are obligated to perform their duties (whether as a car owner, driver, crew member) in a manner designed to minimize to the degree possible the risk of injury to themselves and others. TCS cannot be or will be responsible for the adequacy of a competitor's racing car, racing equipment, or racing activity to accomplish this purpose.

##### B. DRIVERS SAFETY

1. Drivers must wear an approved fire suit which should have current SFI ratings.
2. Drivers must wear full coverage fire resistant gloves at any time their car is on the speedway.

3. It is highly recommended for the driver to wear full coverage fire resistant underwear.
4. Drivers must wear an approved helmet. Helmets must carry the Snell SA/K 2010 or newer standard for protective head gear. Must also have a visible sticker for inspection.
5. Fireproof racing shoes are highly recommended.
6. All drivers are encouraged to wear head and neck restraint.
7. Working fire extinguishers must be placed in all cars and are recommended for each trailer.
8. Must have window net approved by TCS Director of Competition.
9. All seat belts must be within 5 years of 2026.
10. TCS Director of Competition reserves the right for a final decision on all safety equipment.

## SECTION V

### INSPECTION AND SPONSORS

TCS reserves the right to approve or disapprove any advertising, sponsorship, message or similar agreement in connection with any event. TCS members agree to accept any TCS decision in the event such judgment occurs.

#### A. CAR NUMBERS AND DRIVERS' NAMES

1. All cars will have the number on both doors, clearly readable at least 20" in height. All cars will have the number on the roof of the car, clearly readable at least 26" in height.
2. Primary car base color must be in high contrast to the number color to maximize visibility as well to assist scoring.

#### B. TCS SPONSOR CAR DECALS

1. TCS reserves the right to require TCS sponsor decals on cars.
2. TCS reserves the right to place TCS sponsor decals on windshield.
3. TCS reserves the right to place TCS sponsor decal on spoiler.
4. TCS reserves the area from the "A" post forward the placement of contingency award sponsor decals.
5. Decals must be adhered to the race car as outlined by TCS.
6. Failure to comply with guidelines for decals will result in forfeiture of awards and bonus money or competition.

## SECTION VI

### RACE PROCEDURE

#### A. DRIVERS MEETING

1. TCS officials will conduct a driver's meeting at each event. At this meeting, all new or special information that may differ from the rule book will be announced and will be considered official. The following guidelines will apply to all drivers' meetings.
  - a. A roll call will start each meeting.
  - b. The driver and crew chief from each team are required to attend each drivers meeting.

- c. Failure to attend the driver's meeting will result in the car starting in the rear of the field regardless of where the driver qualified.

#### B. QUALIFYING PROCEDURE

1. The order of events, including qualifying, will be posted around the speedway and discussed at the drivers meeting. Cars must be on time for qualifying. Failure to do so will result in starting in the rear.
2. Teams will only have one qualifying attempt. Once the car has taken the green flag their qualification attempt has started.
3. All cars will report to Tech as directed by the Director of Competition. Qualifying Tech procedure will be discussed in the drivers meeting.
4. In the event qualifying is rained out the following procedure will be used to establish the starting field.
  - a. During all other events cars will line up by current 2024 points. The car highest in points will start on the pole, second in points on the outside pole and so forth. The Director of Competition reserves the right to redraw. Cars with no points will line up on the rear in the order they signed in at the pit gate at the event.
  - b. If the above does not cover any situation, the balance of the field will be lined up at the discretion of the Director of Operations.
6. No driver may attempt to qualify more than one car in the same division.
7. Any car not clearing post qualifying tech will be moved to the tail end of the field.
8. When two (2) or more cars have a duplicate team the tie breaker will be as follows.
  - a. Revert to the first lap time.
  - b. During all other events the car highest in current 2024 points will get the preferred position.

#### C. RACE PROCEDURE

1. All drivers must be on time and lined up to compete in the event for which they are scheduled. Cars scheduled for the first feature of the night must be lined up in the staging area by completion of the National Anthem. Cars scheduled in all other events for the evening must be lined up in the staging area before the white flag is waved during the event currently being run. Failure to be in line and ready will result in the competitors forfeiting their starting position.
2. No driver changes may be made without advance notification from the Director of Competition. If there is a driver change before the race that car will start at the rear of the field. If a driver change is made during the race, the change may only be made in the pit area and the car will be moved to the rear of the field for the restart if applicable.
3. At the beginning of the race, when the starting flag is displayed by the chief starter, all cars must maintain their position as designated by TCS officials until they have crossed the start finish line. In the event of a caution flag before completion of the first lap, cars will line up per the original lineup except for cars involved in the accident. Cars involved in the accident will move to the rear of the field.

4. On restarts, the leader may start the race in the box of the start zone, the race will resume when the green flag is displayed. Cars must always maintain pace car speeds. Cars may pass outside only until they have crossed the start/finish line. Any car passing to the left before the start/finish line will receive a stop and go penalty.
5. Cars involved in the accident or have spun to avoid being involved in the caution flag will be sent to the rear of the field on the restart. Any car that has stopped to avoid contact without any contact will resume the position awarded by the Director of Scoring. The term "involved" means wrecking, spinning or any contact related to that caution that results in a car coming to a stop on the speedway. "involved" is at the discretion of the TCS Race Director and is FINAL.
6. The yellow flag signifies a caution, and this flag will be given to the first car passing the starter immediately following the occurrence of the cause for caution.
7. The red flag signifies a serious problem on the track and cars must stop immediately regardless of their position on the track. Absolutely no work will be done on the racing surface. Any team or driver caught working on a car while on the racing surface under any condition will be disqualified. If a driver exits his race car on the racing surface, he is forfeiting his position and is disqualified for the race.
8. The blue flag with a diagonal yellow stripe signifies that faster traffic is overtaking the cars being signaled. The cars being given this flag must prepare to the inside of the track. Please respect your fellow racers.
9. The black flag is the consolation flag, and that car must come to the pits for inspection immediately. This does not mean automatic disqualification. The car must report to an official on pit road for consultation. If a car ignores a black flag, at the discretion of the Race Director, the car will not be scored and then given the black flag with the white cross.
10. The white flag means one (1) lap to go and is given to the leader to signify that the leader had entered his/her last lap. If the caution flag is displayed during the white flag lap, cars will slow down, and do not race back to the start/ finish line. Once the lead car takes the white flag the next flag ends the race.
11. When the checkered flag is displayed, it means the race is completed. Cars will be put into position at the finish of the race by the greatest number of laps in the least amount of time.
12. Teams may not go onto the racetrack for any reason. Any team member that goes onto the track will receive a monetary fine and be asked to leave the speedway.
13. No car may pass the pace car or race leader at any time unless directed by a TCS official. Any car doing such will receive a one (1) lap penalty.
14. No car will be permitted to continue in competition if, in the opinion of a TCS official, it is a hazard to the other cars or themselves in the event.
15. Any driver who intentionally causes or attempts to cause a yellow flag will be assessed a one (1) lap penalty.

16. Cars must take the checkered flag on the speedway to win. Any race rained out or stopped because of curfew at one lap past halfway will be considered a completed race.
17. Any car running the stop/go sign at the end of pit road will be black flagged and must return to the pits for a stop/go penalty.
18. All divisions must have a spotter in the spotters stand during the event.
19. All cars must maintain a reasonable safe speed while in the pit area as designated by TCS official.

#### D. SCORING

1. TCS will designate the chief scorer for the event. The Chief scorer will be responsible for the timing and scoring of each event. All scoring issues will be handled through the chief scorer.
2. It is the responsibility of each team to the attention of the Director of Competition that they request a scoring recheck. Teams have one hour to request a scoring recheck, otherwise the scoring for that event will be considered "official" and finishing positions will stand.
3. Once a scoring recheck has been completed by the chief scorer and the team is still not satisfied with the outcome the team may "protest" scoring. To protest scoring requires a \$100.00 nonrefundable fee which must be presented to the director of operations or the director of competition immediately following the results from the recheck. An additional inquiry into scoring will then be made and the findings will be shown to the team. Once this is done the findings will be final. If the team is correct with the protest the \$100.00 will be refunded.

#### E. POINTS

1. Points will be given by the positions which the car finishes. Points will be awarded as follows:

- a. P1=50  
P2=48  
P3=46

And so, on

P25=2pts

Attempt to qualify= 2 pts

- b. BONUS POINTS

1. Perfect attendance =10pts
2. Points will be awarded to the driver who starts the car on any given night.

3. You will be allowed to drop 1 race. DQ is not eligible to drop.
4. It's the team's responsibility to ensure TCS has the correct information for the car and the driver.
5. It's the team's responsibility to keep up with points and bring the attention to TCS chief of operations of any suspected discrepancies in the point results. DQ's will receive last place points with no money paid.

## SECTION VII

### TCS Inspection

#### A. INSPECTION

1. All vehicles will be inspected during the event at the discretion of the Director of Competition. All inspections will be performed as designated by the director of the competition and may vary from event to event. All general safety as well as technical and general appearance guidelines must be adhered to before the vehicle will be allowed to compete.

#### B. POST RACE INSPECTIONS AND PENALTIES

1. Rules are no tolerance unless specified. Failure to comply with rules may result in disqualification from qualifying position, finishing position, or the entire event.
2. All TCS approved weighting, measuring and testing devices and procedures used by TCS tech officials are the standards which determine a vehicle compliance with TCS rules and regulations. No other equipment or device may be used unless approved by the Director of Competition.
3. The decision regarding rule infractions during post qualifying or post-technical inspections as imposed by the Director of Competition shall be final.

#### A. ILLEGAL PARTS

1. TCS reserves the right to confiscate all illegal and or unapproved parts
2. Any use of components utilizing mercury for the enhancement of performance shall be deemed to render the vehicle ineligible to compete in the event and such violation law shall be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. TCS reserves the right to impound any racing cars at any time.

#### D. PROTEST

1. Competitors have the right to protest another competitor's car to possibly reveal any rule infractions.
2. The protest must be made to the Director of Competition in writing stating the specific item they wish to protest within 10 minutes of the completion of the race. The Director of Competition can either accept or decline to accept the protest in which case his decision is final.

3. If a competitor wishes to protest the event, the competitor wishing to file the protest must fit within the following criteria:
  - a. Compete in the same division during the same event with a competitor that he/she wishes to protest.
  - b. Must have finished the race (running at the checkered flag)
  - c. Must have finished directly behind the competitor he/she wishes to protest.
4. If the competitor falls within the above criteria, the competitor falls within the above criteria, the competitor wishing to file the protest may request the following:
  - a. \$500.00 per item wishing to protest.
  - b. \$2000.00 complete engine
5. If the competitor being protested is legal, that competitor will receive 75% of the protest fee. If the competitor being protested is illegal, 75% of the protest fee will be returned to the competitor filing the protest.
6. The decisions made during the protest and the conduct in which the protest is handled is at the sole and absolute discretion of the Director of Competition. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**