



## 2025 HANDICAPPING PROCEDURE ALL DIVISIONS

THE DRIVER IS HANDICAPPED NOT THE CAR

### SIMPLE EXPLANATION – WEEKLY HANDICAPPING

Weekly Handicapping Points will be used to calculate the weekly handicapping. The points awarded can be found in the 2024 DirtCar Racing™ Rule Book under Points Breakdown. The points awarded from the last three regular point races with the lowest points awarded will be starting in the front. When heat races are run the drivers finishing in a handicap position are lined up for the feature using the same formula. Drivers finishing in the non-handicap positions of the heat races are lined up heads up behind the handicapped drivers. After a driver has won a feature race the furthest forward that driver can start in any subsequent feature is from the fifth place starting position.

### DETAILED EXPLANATION – HANDICAPPING (FIRST TWO WEEKS)

The basic weekly handicapping formula is determined by using the combined points awarded from the previous two regular point races with the driver having the lowest points awarded starting in the front and the highest points awarded starting in the rear.

Below is the definition of how the handicapping will be determined starting with Race #1 of the new season. Modified, Sportsman, Limited Sportsman, Pro Stocks and Street Stocks will run heat races and features. 4-Cylinders will run features only.

Opening Night Race #1 – All drivers in all divisions will draw for starting positions regardless of their previous attendance at the speedway. Prior to drawing any driver who has not previously competed in the division they are drawing for will be given the opportunity to not draw and start in the rear. This will help eliminate the possibility of a less experienced driver starting in the front of a heat race or feature, and allow the driver the opportunity to start in the rear if they feel they need more experience.

Race #2 – Handicapping will be based on the reverse results from opening night with the winners of each feature starting in the rear and the drivers who did not qualify or finished in the rear starting in the front. Drivers who were absent for the first race will start in the rear. Drivers who were present for Race #1 and are absent for Race #2 will be scored with 1<sup>st</sup> place points awarded towards handicapping.

### REGULAR WEEKLY HANDICAPPING

Race #3 – Regular handicapping begins. After the first two races have been run drivers will be handicapped for each week's regular point races based on their points awarded for the previous two regular point races. New drivers will start at the rear of the heat races and features for the first two weeks. At that time a determination will be made by the Speedway Management as to whether the new driver is experienced enough or has enough power to maintain a safe speed to start in the front of a race. At any time a new driver may choose to continue to start in the rear until they feel more comfortable starting further towards the front.

**Speedway Management reserves the right to adjust any driver's starting position in heat races or feature races based on that driver's experience and ability to maintain a safe speed at the start of a race.**

The number of heat races and how many qualify from each and the inclusion of a consi will be determined by the Speedway Management based on car counts and will be posted when the night's order of events is posted on the pit board. Speedway Management has the option to make changes to this without advance notice due to weather conditions or scheduling issues.



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### GENERAL RULES - DEFINITIONS

**Feature Wins** – After a driver has won a feature race in any division the furthest forward that driver can start any subsequent regular points feature race is from fifth starting spot. This policy will be in effect for all divisions and all feature races with the exception of any DirtCar Series or Special Event Shows.

**New Driver** – Any driver who did not compete in at least three regular point races in the division for which they are competing the previous year. DNQ's and appearance point races do not count towards minimum race count total. A driver will also be considered a new driver after missing three consecutive regular point races during a season. After opening night – Race #1 new drivers will be required to start in the rear of heat races and features for the first two races for which they attempt to qualify.

**Absent Driver** – When a driver is absent and a substitute driver has not been assigned that driver will be handicapped with the respective points awarded as if they had won that feature race. When a driver has missed three consecutive regular point races the driver will then be considered a new driver again and must follow the handicapping rules for a new driver.

**Substitute Driver** – A driver may elect to allow a different driver to drive their car on a **one-time basis** during the season. The substitute driver may use either the same car the original driver would have used, or the substitute driver's own car (car must be from the same division).

*Driver substitutions may be allowed depending on the circumstances, and will be determined by Speedway Management. Any driver who plans to use a substitute please call John Casterella at 413-770-2769. Driver changes on race days during driver sign in with the handicapper are allowed, with as much advance notification as possible to be provided to the handicapper. Drivers may only run in one division per night. Drivers from a higher division are not allowed to substitute in a lower division. Drivers may however, move up in division as a substitute driver.*

The substitute driver will be handicapped in the original driver's position of the heat race. Should they finish in a handicap position they will start in the rear of the other handicapped cars. The substitute driver will be scored as if they were the original driver, with the original driver receiving the points and any purse money awarded for that race. *Substitute driver will not be credited with points or handicapping while racing as a substitute.*

**Did Not Qualify (DNQ) / Did Not Start (DNS)** – A driver who does not qualify for or does not start a feature event but does attempt warm-ups will be awarded 10 points for that race and they will be assessed **10 points** towards their handicapping for that race. This will be shown as a 99 on weekly performance reports. Drivers who do not attempt warm-ups but have their car in attendance must notify the handicapper. Qualification for a Medical Exemption must be approved in advance by DIRTCar™.

**Disqualification (DQ)** – In the event a disqualification occurs, either through a post-race inspection or due to an action occurring on or off the speedway, the driver will be assessed first place points awarded towards their handicapping for that event and will be awarded zero (0) Championship points for that event. This will be shown as a 100 on the weekly performance reports.

**Deviations From Normal Handicapping** – Speedway Management will make every attempt to maintain the regular handicapping procedure throughout the season. Occasionally through scheduling of a night of features



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only, triple 20s or double features (due to a previously weather shortened event or due to possible weather conditions), Speedway Management reserves the right to deviate from the normal handicapping procedure. In this instance notification will be posted on the website or pit board with as much advance notice as possible.

### HEAT RACE AND FEATURE RACE HANDICAPPING SPECIFICS

2024 Race #1 Handicapping – All drivers will draw for starting positions.

2024 Race #2 Handicapping – Based on finish from 2024 Race #1 and so on.

### MODIFIED, SPORTSMAN, LIMITED SPORTSMAN, PRO STOCK & STREET STOCK DIVISIONS (HEAT RACES & FEATURE RACES)

Heat Races – Handicapped directly from the points awarded list with no exceptions. The driver with the least points awarded for the past three regular point races who is present will start on the pole of the first heat race, the driver with the second least points awarded from the last three regular point races who is present will start on the pole of the second heat race and so on.

Feature Races – Drivers finishing in handicapped positions in their respective heat races will be handicapped for the feature race based on their points awarded for the previous three regular point races. New drivers will start at the rear of the handicapped drivers for the first two weeks. Drivers with feature wins during the 2024 season will start any subsequent feature no further forward than the fifth starting position.

If a driver runs a Sportsman car at any other track, they must attempt to qualify with the Sportsman at Albany-Saratoga. **Limited Sportsman class is reserved for less experienced drivers.** If a Limited Sportsman driver reaches a three (3) win total in the season, that driver will be required to move up to the regular Sportsman the following season. In addition, each year's Limited Sportsman Track Champion will be required to move up to regular Sportsman beginning with the following season. Management reserves the right to request any driver move up to the Sportsman division, at any time, at their discretion.

### 4-CYLINDER DIVISIONS (FEATURE RACES ONLY)

Feature Races – These divisions will not run heat races. Feature races will be handicapped based on driver's points awarded for the previous three regular point races. New drivers will start at the rear for the first two weeks.



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## FORMULA USED FOR DETERMINING HANDICAPPING

POS	PTS		POS	PTS	
1	60		31	12	
2	56		32	11	
3	52		33	10	
4	50		34	9	
5	48		35	8	
6	46		36	7	
7	44		37	6	
8	42		38	5	
9	40		39	4	
10	38		40	3	
11	36		41	2	
12	34		42	1	
13	32		43	1	
14	30		44	1	
15	28		45	1	
16	27		46	1	
17	26		47	1	
18	25		48	1	
19	24		49	1	
20	23		50	1	
21	22		51	1	
22	21		52	1	
23	20		53	1	
24	19		54	1	
25	18		55	1	
26	17		56	1	
27	16		57	1	
28	15		100	60	DISQUALIFIED
29	14		66	60	ABSENT
30	13		99	20	DID NOT QUALIFY