

## DRAG RACE PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR ALL RACERS

All riders will be assigned a staging lane based on their class, AHRMA Volunteers and Heartland NHRA staff will be available to help participants to the proper staging lane and to get through Technical Inspection.

When it is time for their class to run, a staging lane official will direct them to ride from that position towards the control tower. Once under the tower, riders will be greeted by the Head of Staging official. This official will hold the riders until Race Control personnel have the rider's competition number entered in the computer system. After this has been done, and the water box is cleared from the previous pair, the Head of Staging official will direct riders, one from the left and one from the right, into the water box.

Entering the water box, riders have a choice to do a burnout by driving into the water box directly, or bypass doing a burnout by going around the water on the outside edge. We ask riders to pay attention to the Racemaster, who will be standing in the middle-front of the burnout area, and who will be guiding riders when to stop and when to start their burnout. When the Racemaster gives riders the signal, it is time to light the tire!

After leaving the burnout area, riders will approach the starting line. Here, the Chief Starter will indicate with his hands out to hold the riders, and then motion them forward when it is time to start their pass. Riders should slowly move forward until they see the 'Pre-Stage' bulb light up on top of the Christmas Tree. Seven inches ahead of the 'Pre-Stage' bulb is the 'Stage' bulb. When these two lights are on in both lanes, the race is ready to begin. The tree will count down with each of the three amber lights coming on .5 seconds after the previous one. A rider's goal is to be leaving the 'Stage' bulb at the same time the green light is coming on—not leave after the green light turns on.

As you go down track, maintain balance of your vehicle in your lane. If at any point you feel uncomfortable, or something does not sound right, deaccelerate your vehicle and pull over towards the concrete wall in your lane. There is nothing to gain by putting yourself or others at risk over a pass.

As you approach the large scoreboards, you will be nearing the finish line. After crossing the finish line, deaccelerate at a controlled pace. Heartland Motorsports Park has one of the longest shutdowns in the nation at over 2,500 feet. There is no need to aggressively apply the brakes. Slow your vehicle down at a manageable pace and look for the exit on the left side of the shutdown. If you pass by the first exit, continue straight to the second exit, also on the left side of the shutdown. ***Under no circumstances should you turn around on the track at any time.***

After exiting the shutdown on the left, continue parallel to the dragstrip up the 'return road' until you approach the timeslip booth, which will also be on your left. Here you will receive a ticket showing all your times and speeds for you pass. You may now return to your pit/parking area, prepare your vehicle, and go back to the staging lanes for another pass. There will be a 'WIN' text with an arrow pointing to the winning lane printed on your timeslip. If you were able to get the win, congratulations! Prepare your vehicle and head back to the staging lanes for the next round of eliminations.