



America's Leader in Recreational Hovercraft

Endurance Racing Regulations
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I. Introduction

- a. The Hoverclub of America, Inc. will update these rules as necessary. Any amendment(s) will be published in HOVERNEWS, the official Hoverclub of America newsletter, and on the Club website prior to enforcement unless the Board of Directors deems immediate action is necessary.
- b. The *Racing Regulations for Light Hovercraft*, published by the Hoverclub of America, shall be referred to in areas not covered by these regulations.

II. Objectives

- a. To create a hovercraft racing format similar to other recognizable forms of racing events.
 - i. Provide a single race of a long duration.
 - ii. Provide a race that spectators can identify with and follow.
 - iii. Provide safe, exciting racing.
- b. To increase racing participation by allowing a wide variety of machines to compete against one another.

III. Eligibility

- a. All hovercraft classified as F25¹ or above are eligible for competition.
- b. All hovercraft must pass the racing safety inspection.
- c. Drivers must be 15 years of age by the day of the race.
- d. The driver and race team must attend the drivers meeting.
- e. Drivers must complete a minimum of one (1) novice race prior to racing in an endurance race.

IV. Rules

- a. All teams must provide a marshal to be eligible.
 - i. Marshal to be assigned as a scorekeeper, recovery worker, or course worker by the race director.
- b. Race Start
 - i. Starting positions will be picked at random by the drawing of numbers at the pre-race drivers meeting.
 1. Drawing number one will have the pole position on the starting grid. Subsequent numbers will result in a starting position farther from the pole position.
 2. The race director shall determine the number of hovercraft per row on the starting grid.
 3. Drivers who arrive on the start grid late shall be placed at the rear of the grid.
 - ii. The race may have a LeMans style start at the discretion of the race director.
 1. In the event of a LeMans style start:
 - a. Drivers will start at an area defined by the Race Director.
 - b. Hovercraft will be lined up with engines shut down on the starting grid by number drawn in the drivers meeting.
 2. In the event of a standard formula style start:
 - a. Hovercraft will line up on the starting grid by number drawn in the drivers meeting.
- c. Race Length
 - i. The race shall have a minimum of 30 laps.
 - ii. Race length shall be published a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the event.
- d. The Race Course
 - i. The racecourse shall be large enough to accommodate a wide variety of hovercraft designs.
 - ii. The Race Director must describe the course at the pre-race drivers meeting.
 1. All drivers and team provided marshals must attend the pre-race drivers meeting.

¹ Refer to the Hoverclub of America's racing regulations for current F25 racing class specifications.

² Refer to the current Hoverclub of America's racing hovercraft safety checklist.

- iii. Drivers who try to gain race positions or time by missing part of the course will be black-flagged and will be assessed a one-lap penalty per occurrence.
 - iv. Everyone except emergency personnel and course workers will be banned from the course during the race.
- e. Pit Stops
- i. Hovercraft may only refuel in a specified refueling area separate from their own pit area.
 - ii. Pit crew members are allowed to assist in the refueling and repair of the hovercraft.
 - iii. Drivers making a pit stop for reasons other than refueling must return to their own pit area.
 - iv. Hovercraft speed in the pits may not exceed 5 mph (the speed of a fast-paced walk).
 - 1. The following penalties shall be assessed if the pit speed limit is violated:
 - a. A five (5)-lap penalty on the first offense.
 - b. The second offense will result in disqualification.
 - c. Penalties for speeding in the pits may not be protested.
 - v. Hovercraft must come to a complete stop and engines shut down during refueling and pit stops.
- f. Race Procedure
- i. The race shall not start before the published race time.
 - ii. The race will finish when the winner has completed the required amount of laps and passes the black and white checkered flag. Once the winner has passed the checkered flag the race is over.
 - iii. A race shall be stopped with a red flag if an incident occurs which poses a danger to drivers or spectators, or when medical assistance is required on the course. If a race is stopped, the following will apply:
 - 1. If less than 3 of the required amount of laps has been completed by the race leader the race will be restarted.
 - 2. If the race leader has completed more than 3 of the required amount of laps the race will be continued and each racer will resume with their number of completed laps prior to the red flag.
 - 3. Drivers or hovercraft in difficulty, or those that pose a safety hazard may be black flagged to return to the pits. If the problem is remedied in the pits and a race official deems the hovercraft safe it may return to the race.
 - a. The race director reserves the right to black flag any hovercraft or driver for unsafe operation.
 - b. Penalties for unsafe operation may result in the following:
 - i. A black flag requiring the driver to return to the pits for a penalty.
 - ii. Disqualification from the race.
 - iv. Hovercraft that stall on the racecourse constitutes the following:
 - 1. A full course yellow flag with no passing allowed.
 - 2. The recovery team will remove the stalled hovercraft from the racecourse.
 - v. Race Re-starts
 - 1. If the race was stopped prior to the race leader completing 3 laps the race shall be restarted from scratch with the craft lined up on the starting grid in the same order as the draw in the drivers meeting.
 - 2. If the race was stopped after the leader has completed 3 laps the drivers will be lined up on the starting grid in the order that they are currently in the race as determined by the last completed lap.
 - a. If a craft has not passed the finish line prior to the red flag the lap does not count.
 - b. The race will be restarted off the starting grid formula racing style at the green flag.
 - 3. During a red flag drivers are to return to the starting grid and follow the directions of the officials on the starting grid.
 - 4. No refueling or pit stops are allowed during a red flag.
 - 5. No pit crew members are allowed in the starting grid at any time.
- g. Scoring and Results
- i. There shall be a minimum of 3 scorekeepers.
 - 1. One scorekeeper shall be declared the Chief Scorekeeper.
 - ii. Scorekeepers shall use official scoring sheets provided by the Hoverclub of America.
 - iii. Transponders may be used in place of scorekeepers for scoring if available.

- iv. Provisional results shall be displayed as soon as possible after the race and will become final one hour after public issue.
- h. Protest Procedure
 - i. Any protests on scoring, results, race procedure, or imposed penalties should be filed with the Race Director within 15 minutes of the incident, or if it is physically impossible, within 15 minutes after the end of the race.
 - ii. A protest fee of \$100 is required to file a protest, returnable if protest is upheld.
 - iii. The decision of the Race Director is final.

V. Notes

- a. The following regulations are being considered for the 2006-2007 race season. The implementation of these proposed regulations will be considered after the inaugural endurance race at Hoverally 2006.
 - i. All hovercraft will be limited to 3 U.S. gallons of fuel.
 - ii. The fuel tanks must be removable.
 - iii. A minimum of 2 fuel tanks will be required.
 - iv. Refueling of hovercraft must be done by switching fuel tanks.
 - v. All fuel lines and tanks must have off-the-shelf quick-release connectors to allow the quick removal of fuel tanks.