2026 12 Hour of Thunderhill

Abridged rules

3. Eligibility

3.1. All closed-wheel race cars and sports racers with the required safety equipment (as per NASA CCR) and a NASA annual inspection sticker are eligible.

3.1. Technical Safety Inspection

All cars are required to pass a NASA annual inspection and display an annual inspection sticker on the driver's side of the front windshield. Entrants must show proof of compliance with the safety rules in the CCR. It is the team's responsibility to ensure the vehicle and all drivers and crew have safety gear that meet NASA rules.

3.2. Tires

Any tires may be used.

3.3. Fuel Tanks / Cells

Vehicles must start with no more fuel than the OEM tank(s) holds, or a maximum of eighteen (18) gallons, whichever is less. No vehicle may have more than two OEM tanks or more than two fuel cells. No vehicle may be capable of carrying more than thirty-four (34) gallons of fuel at any time.

Filler hoses must be secured at each connection point with either a threaded connection or double hose clamps. Filler hoses must take the most direct path between the tank opening and the filler neck. Only one five-gallon can may be used to refuel the vehicle through a single fill point at any given time.

A single external container (e.g., swirl pot, vent can, surge tank) may be used, provided it has a capacity no greater than 1.5 liters (0.4 gallons), is constructed of metal, has threaded fittings to braided fuel hoses, and is separated from the driver's compartment by a bulkhead. Any container over 1.5 liters is considered another fuel cell and is subject to fuel cell requirements.

Each fuel tank/cell is limited to one vent, no larger than one (1) inch in diameter. All non-OEM vents must have a check-valve or "rollover" valve to impede fuel leakage.

3.4. Vehicle Substitution

If a vehicle breaks before the start of a race, a team may substitute another vehicle provided the vehicle has passed tech inspection and the substitution is approved by the Race Director. Note: Timing and Scoring must be notified of any car number and/or transponder number change. If

there was a timed session to determine qualifying order, then the substituted vehicle must start at the back of the field.

If the substitution happens after the start of a race, a team may substitute another vehicle provided the vehicle has passed tech inspection and the substitution is approved by the Race Director. However, the team's laps will restart at zero with a vehicle substitution. Note: Timing and Scoring must be notified of any car number and/or transponder number change.

4. Classes

There are 5 classes:
TREC U. Unlimited
TREC 3. Lap times of no faster than 1:54
TREC 4. Lap times of no faster than 2:00
TREC 5. Lap times of no faster than 2:05
TREC 6. Lap times of no faster than 2:10

Entrant must select the class. No changing of classes is allowed.

4.1. Penalties for Exceeding Minimum Class Time

Any lap that a car, regardless of which driver is at the wheel, does that is faster than its minimum lap time will be deleted.

8. Pit Lane / Pit Stops / Refueling / Drive Time

8.1. Pit Spaces / Markings

All teams are required to keep the following items in their pit space:

Two (2) gallons of water

At least one fully charged BC- or ABC-rated fire extinguisher (5 lb. or larger) with a functioning gauge

At least five (5) pounds of oil absorbent

CO2 and Halon/Halotron/Novec 1230 extinguishers are recommended as they do not leave residue.

Teams cannot share these required items between pit spaces, even within the same team unless one car is in the pit lane at a time. The team owner is responsible for any damage to the track, pits, or paddock.

8.2. Pit Stops

All pit stops during competition when fuel is added to the vehicle require a 6 minute minimum stop. The 6 minutes is including your in and out of the hot pits and will be monitored based on your pit lap time. As an example, if you are in the class B requiring 2:00 to 2:05 lap times, your pit lap time must be no quicker than 8:00. Pit stops not involving fuel have no time limit. Competitors are responsible for timing their stops and lap times. Leaving the pit lane too early shall result in a 5 minute stop and go penalty.

8.3. Refueling

Any handling of fuel and/or containers may only be performed by a person wearing proper fire attire and a helmet when the crew member is over the wall.

A maximum of two (2) approved five-gallon containers may be emptied into the vehicle during any single pit stop. Note: Six-gallon or otherwise oversized containers sold as “five-gallon” are not legal. Unlimited class cars may use quick fill methods such as fuel rigs and are not limited by the 10 gallon maximum per stop rule.

All refueling during the race must occur in the hot pit. Fuel cans must use a clear filler hose. When “full,” the fuel may be at the neck of the can but not above it (i.e., no fuel visible in the hose). Fuel cans must remain capped when not in use. Shutoff valves are considered caps. Fuel container vent hoses smaller than 3/16" inside diameter need not be capped. See Appendix A for examples of approved containers.

Methanol fuel is not permitted.

Teams are permitted one (1) 55-gallon drum in their paddock space at any time. Additional barrels must be stored in an area designated by track personnel. Storing fuel in containers larger than five (5) gallons in a team’s cold pit space is prohibited.

A standard doormat or small carpet piece is not considered a refueling device. It may be placed on the ground before the vehicle enters the pit box but must be removed once the vehicle leaves. Fire extinguishers are not considered refueling equipment.

Refueling begins as soon as any refueling device crosses over the pit wall. Items under direct control of a team member used for refueling may be placed on the pit wall once the vehicle enters pit lane. However, the vehicle must be stopped before any refueling item may be brought over the wall (or taken from the wall) into the hot pit lane. Only one fuel jug may be over the wall at a time. There is no requirement for the engine or master power switch to be on or off.

Refueling ends when fuel cap has been closed.

Teams are NOT permitted to perform any work on the vehicle that uses tools during refueling. Teams may change drivers, driver seat inserts, change GoPro batteries, wash windows etc. during refueling.

All refueling during a pit stop must be performed first. If the team wishes to add fuel after working on the vehicle, the vehicle must complete at least one lap before pitting again for fuel.

Vehicles with an 18-gallon or larger total fuel capacity must report to Tech before the race to verify the tank(s) are empty. Once verified, 18 gallons may be added, and the fill spout will be sealed for the start of the race.

Any number of people may be over the wall during a pit stop. During refueling, anyone involved in refueling must wear required suit, shoes, helmet and gloves. During refueling, at least one person holding a fire extinguisher must be standing over the wall watching the refueler(s).

Driver changes during refueling are permitted. The driver may remain in the car or exit to assist the next driver.

8.5. Refueler Attire

Refuelers and the fireman holding the fire extinguisher must wear safety equipment equivalent to the driver's gear (except a head-and-neck restraint) per the CCR. That means a Nomex suit, gloves, shoes, and helmet. All refuelers with open-faced helmets must wear a balaclava (head sock) and eye protection while refueling, regardless of facial hair. Exception: Refuelers may utilize a Snell SA2000 (or newer) rated helmet for refueling. Standard DOT or Snell M2000 (or newer) approved helmets may be used if a balaclava and eye protection are worn.

8.7. Tire Changes

Teams may change two tires per pit stop in the hot pits, (this does not apply to Unlimited class cars). Rotating tires is permitted, provided that all tires on the vehicle when it leaves the pit stop are those that were on the vehicle when it entered.

Compressed gas cylinders must remain behind the pit wall while the event is underway. A crewmember may use a person-mounted gas cylinder (e.g., SCUBA tank) to power a pneumatic tool. Cylinders must be carried or mounted upright, and only the crewmember wearing the mounted cylinder may operate the attached tool.