

## Ionia Sand Drag Rules

### ***General Rules And Regulations***

Ionia sand drags makes and enforces the rules, and may from time to time change, modify, add or delete any part or all of, any rule, at any time, for any reason that is deemed necessary. The rules may be changed without notice, however the ionia sand drags will endeavor to notify all affected racers in a timely manner. The ionia sand drags will not arbitrarily change any rule without good reason and after deliberation.

The rules are developed to promote safe, competitive racing, and should be interpreted in that manner.

Ionia sand drags shall reserve the right to refuse racing privileges and/or pit access to anyone at any time.

Ionia sand drags shall have the authority to appoint track officials as it sees fit. Any person or group of persons that verbally or physically menace the ionia sand drags or its officials may be **PERMANENTLY BARRED** from any ionia events and will otherwise be dealt with in the harshest manner.

All entrants **MUST** attend all drivers meetings and make themselves aware of the racing circumstances, as to not hinder the flow of the racing program.

**NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, DRUGS, or other ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** shall be allowed in the staging area and the drivers and riders shall not use any of the substances mentioned before or during an event, as long as they remain in competition. Any driver or rider that is impaired shall not be allowed to compete and no fees will be returned.

Each driver assumes the complete responsibility for their pit crew or the people associated with their vehicle. Any rules infraction committed by a crew member shall reflect directly upon the driver. The driver will be required to rectify the problem, or be subsequently penalized according to the rules stated herein.

No glass containers will be allowed in the staging or racing area and it is suggested that you and your crew do not use any glass. The tire or foot you save may be your own.

### **Specific Rules and Regulations**

Sand drags, unlike asphalt drags, are designed to be run on uneven sand or dirt tracks. In building, preparing, or modifying your vehicle for sand drag racing, a competitor should keep in mind that ionia sand drags will try to maintain a suitable racing surface.

However, there may be holes at the starting line or in the track surface, ridges down the track, uneven surfaces and rocks or other debris on the track. These obstacles are not intended to make the race any more difficult, but are part of the sport. The ionia sand drags will endeavor to remove all the problems before the race. It is up to the individual to determine if the conditions are unsafe for their vehicle. It is the option of the racer to race or not. If the track is deemed suitable and the racer chooses not to race he/she will lose that race, but will not be disqualified from further competition.

### **Class or Bracket Explanation and General Regulations**

Ionia sand drags rules will run by the general rules. , Gregg price will determine how the brackets are aligned . It is up to the individual racer to make him/herself aware of the rules of ionia sand drags.

#### **Pro Brackets**

Pro brackets will run on a pro staggered tree with 1 dial in change per race

#### **Sportsman Brackets**

Sportsman will run on a sportsman tree with 1 dial in change per race

#### **Ladder Placement**

Ladder placement is up to the local custom; however we typically use a random draw for first round pairings. If you are not sure, ask an official. Remember it is up to you to know the rules.

#### **Bye Runs and Legal Singles**

Bye runs are predetermined by the number of racers in a bracket or group. The ladder placement will determine who gets the bye and which round will have a bye. No bracket or group will have a bye run in the final race. A legal single is a run that two racers are scheduled to race each other, however for some reason one of the racers can't make the race. The racer that takes the starting line under his own power is an automatic winner and will advance to the next round. A vehicle on a bye or legal single run is not exempt from disqualification. Disqualifications on bye and legal single runs are for crossing the center line, going out of bounds or hitting the timing equipment. Breakouts will not be a disqualification. A competitor will have thirty seconds to fire or fix his vehicle after his opponent has fired. A competitor will have 1 minute to fire once the staging crew calls upon him to fire and proceed to the line.

## **Registration and Tech**

All vehicles must be registered before entering the staging lanes for time runs. No racer will be required to have more than the rules require, unless notified in writing by isd. All vehicles must be inspected and pass tech at least once a year. All vehicles that have been inspected must display the inspection sticker at every race. If there is no current tech inspection sticker displayed, vehicle must go to tech inspection for a current sticker.

## **Vehicle Numbers**

No duplicate numbers will be allowed. No letters other than assigned letters will be permitted. Ionia sand drags assigned numbers will always take priority over local numbers. Numbers may be requested and will be assigned on a first-come-first-assigned basis. All vehicles must display their numbers in three places on the vehicle, one on each side of the vehicle and one on the front facing forward. The numbers must be easily read by the staging crew. It is highly recommended that the numbers be 6 inches tall for best visibility. Vehicles displaying more than one number may be disqualified or not allowed to race until such problem is rectified to the satisfaction of the staging officials.

## **Event Procedures**

All brackets: Driver or crew member must remain with the vehicle at all times while in the staging area. Any unattended vehicle may be disqualified at the officials' discretion.

Eliminations: The entrant and vehicle must be in proper staging lane before the lanes are closed. Any entrant not in the lanes when eliminations begin for that bracket will be disqualified, unless other arrangements have been made prior to the start of eliminations.

## **Breakouts**

A breakout is going faster than your dial-in time or bracket time. Breakout procedures will be in effect for all paired runs during eliminations. There is no breakout cushion. If both competitors breakout in the same run, then the competitor closest to their dial-in time will be declared the winner of that race regardless of who reached the finish first. Single or bye runs may run as fast as they wish without disqualification, however if any other infractions occur the racer will be disqualified. For example crossing the center line or hitting the timing equipment.

## **Race Procedure**

These procedures will be followed at all events. All participants are to know and follow these procedures. If a driver does not comply, disqualification may result.

**A.** It is the driver's responsibility to be in the proper staging lane when his/her class is to be run, and to have the vehicle ready to run when called upon. Cooling and heating the motor is the driver and crew's responsibility and should be completed before the vehicle is called to the starting line. It is not the staging crew's responsibility to tell the driver when to fire for heat, nor is it their responsibility to cool the vehicles. Vehicles are to move through the staging line in a timely and orderly manner as directed by the staging crew.

**B.** When in the staging lanes, the driver or crew member must remain close to the vehicle at all times, and be ready to pull forward when asked to do so. If a vehicle fails to start there will be only a 1-minute grace period. After the grace period expires, the other competitor will be sent to the starting line. The running competitor will be given the green light as soon as the vehicle stages, regardless if the other car fires or not. If both competitors fire and move out towards the track and one racer's car stalls, that racer will be given 20 seconds to re-fire and be at the "ready cone". If the racer that stalled cannot make the 20-second call to the ready cone, that racer will be disqualified. If the stalled competitor does re-start their vehicle and makes the ready cone within the 20 seconds, the starter motions both drivers to the starting line where both drivers need to pre-stage within 10 seconds. This will eliminate the slow pre-staging vehicle to build heat while the other competitor does not overheat. This scenario would only apply to a competitor who loses fire after starting and pulling onto the track.  
No equipment, batteries, tools, or trailers may be left in the staging lanes.

**C.** When directed to do so by a track official, the driver will pull to the pre-stage line and stage the vehicle. At this point no person other than the officials and the driver are allowed to approach the vehicle. All staging must be unassisted. Once a vehicle is fully staged (both lights on) the other competitor has 10 seconds to completely stage his/her vehicle. If the other competitor is not fully staged within the allotted time, auto-start will start the staged vehicle, thus red-lighting the non-staged vehicle. If it is apparent to the starter that both vehicles are playing games, the starter will motion the vehicles to the line. If neither vehicle will pre-stage, then at his discretion, the starter will activate the tree, thus causing both vehicles to red-light and be disqualified without reinstatement for that race.

**D.** Once a race has been concluded the racers will drive or maneuver their vehicles to the extreme side of the shut down area or into the hook up area if provided. If the vehicle is driven back to the pit area it must be along the designed roads and with care, not exceeding the speed limit of **10 mph**. Vehicles that must be towed should be removed from the track area as fast as possible to expedite the racing program. Any driver who does not operate his/her vehicle in the appropriate manner is subject to disqualification and/or expulsion and/or loss of points for that race and/or year. **This rule is designed to be as tough as necessary to make the pits and return road safe for everyone. The speed limit applies to all vehicles, tow, pit bikes, cars, trucks and race vehicles.**

## **Infractions**

A rules infraction occurs when there is a violation of a rule or procedure. Infractions vary in degree of severity. The following is a partial list of infractions listed in order of severity.

1. Menacing an official, either verbally or physically.
2. Crossing the center line.
3. Hitting a cone, timing equipment or going out of bounds either to the side or center of the track.
4. Excessive wheel stands, burnout's or loss of control of the vehicle as determined by the ionia sand drags officials.
5. A red light foul or leaving before the timing system is activated.
6. Breakout during eliminations

**REMEMBER: FIRST FOUL-- WORST FOUL** (see explanation at the end of the rules section)

Not completing the course under power is not an infraction; however vehicle must stage and start the timing equipment under its own power to be considered a run. If both vehicles break and do not make the full run, then both vehicles will be disqualified from the next round.

**Exception:** Once a red light, breakout or out of bounds foul occurs, the broken opponent (if they have started the timing equipment) will be declared the winner. If no red light, breakout or out of bounds occurs, the vehicle crossing the finish line first will be declared the winner. There will be no re-run.

## **Legal Single and Bye Runs**

A vehicle on a single or bye run is not exempt from disqualification due to the commission of an infraction. If on a single or bye run the driver goes out of bounds, he/she will be disqualified. Breakouts and red lights are not grounds for disqualification on legal single and bye runs.

## **Dual or Paired Runs**

A. In a case where both vehicles fail to fire or have mechanical problems, and neither can stage, then the run may (at the discretion of the officials) be postponed to the end of that round for that class. If neither vehicle can fire and make it to the line, then both will be disqualified.

B. If one (1) vehicle is properly staged and the other vehicle does not stage or show a forward motion for any reason, within the allotted time, that race will become a legal single run and is subject to the single run rules. The vehicle that has failed to stage is considered a no show and is thereby disqualified. The timing equipment is set on "auto start" and it must see (3) lights on to activate the system. The drivers in the sportsman classes will have (10) seconds to fully stage, Pro classes will have (7) seconds to fully stage.

## **Track, Pit and Staging Lane Rules**

**Pit Area:** No automobile motor may be started or run without a person in the driving position. No motorcycle powered vehicle may be started or run without a person standing beside the throttle and kill switch.

**Staging Lanes:** The driver responsible is responsible for the conduct and actions of his/her pit crew and all persons with him/her. Any penalties and/or rules infractions will be assessed against the driver as well as the person involved. No alcoholic beverages, drugs or controlled substances shall be allowed in the staging area. Drivers shall not use any of the mentioned substances before or while still in competition. Any driver that is noticeably intoxicated or otherwise unsafe to race will be disqualified on the spot, with no recourse.

**Track Area:** No person, other than track officials will be allowed on the track after the car is in the pre-stage lights. Infractions will result in immediate disqualification of the vehicle involved. No vehicle may be worked on or touched by the crew after the vehicle's front wheels have entered the 25-foot zone before the starting line. A vehicle will be disqualified if a member of the crew trips the light beam (either intentionally or inadvertently) while either vehicle is approaching the line for competition. Burn outs and intentional roll-thru's are not accepted.

A person may help stage a car 3.29 and faster or if an ionia official permits it.

If a competitor notices a rule infraction or a dangerous condition, tell the competitor. If the problem is not corrected, contact an official. It is up to the competitor to help the officials watch the rules. We do not expect you to enforce the rules. Any rules infractions must be brought to the officials before the race. Any complaints after the fact will not alter the results of any of the previous races.

No excessive engine revving will be allowed.

No trans-brake checks or nitrous purging is allowed in the staging lanes!

## **Safety Requirements**

Because of the wide variety and diversity of the types of vehicles that we have in sand drag racing, it is hard to describe and mandate specific rules for each vehicle. We have made the rules as broad as we can to cover all vehicles in competition, however every once in a while innovative people come up with something new. Anything not covered by these rules will be dealt with on an individual basis, to the best of our ability. It is solely the responsibility of the driver to comply with these rules. It is not the ionia sand drags, the officials or your crew's responsibility to protect you. It's your life, protect it. Safety is extremely important! To keep this as simple as possible we have designated vehicle types as follows:

Type 1 - Dragsters, Buggies, Rails, UTVs Type Automotive Powered. (Class A)

Type 2 - Pickups, Hardtops and Stock or Stock Appearing 4 Wheel Drive. (Class A)

Type 3 - Motorcycle, Snowmobile or Non Automotive Powered. (Class M)

Unless otherwise stipulated, all safety rules apply to all vehicles.

**It's Your Life -- Protect It!**

**Arm Restraints:**

Arm restraints are recommended for all classes that are driven. They are required for any vehicle faster than 2.99 seconds. Open cockpit cars 4.25 and quicker are required to have arm restraints (dragster, altered, roadster, jeep). All arm restraints must be worn and adjusted in such a manner that the drivers' arms or hands cannot extend outside the roll cage. Arm restraints shall be combined with the driver restraint system such that the arm restraints are released with the driver restraints.

**Ballast:**

All weight boxes or ballast material must be securely mounted to the frame or frame structure. Minimum two ½" diameter steel bolts are required to hold 100 pounds.

**Batteries:**

All batteries must be securely bolted down. Any battery in the driver's compartment, or where the driver is not protected by a firewall, must have a cover sufficient to keep the acid off the driver. Inner tubes and rubber straps are prohibited. Battery shut-off switch should be located in the rear of the vehicle in case of an emergency. This allows crew or track personnel to shut vehicle and all electrical components off in an emergency situation (fire or crash). It should be located on the positive side of the battery and kill the engine when turned off.

**Blowers:**

All blowers require explosion restraints. Blower blankets are recommended.

**Brakes:**

All type 1 and 2 vehicles must be equipped with a minimum of (2) functional hydraulic axle brakes, or (1) large functional brake if mounted on live axle. No go-cart brakes. No excessive lightening or drilling of brake components is allowed.

### **Chain Guards:**

All chain-driven vehicles must have a 180-degree guard if other than factory components are used, or if motor location has been altered. All class A vehicle guards must be 3/16-inch steel or 1/4-inch aluminum minimum. All class M vehicles must have a guard that will prevent any part of the driver/rider's body, clothing or boots from coming in contact with the chain or sprockets. Bodywork is not considered as a chain guard. Guard must be two times the thickness of the thickest link with a minimum of 1/8-inch steel or aluminum. In no way any part of the riders/drivers body parts should be able to contact chains, sprockets or any other "drive" device.

### **Clothing:**

All vehicles quicker than 3.75 are required to have a full fire suit (jacket, pants and gloves). Jacket and pants must be minimum sfi rated 3.2a/1 and gloves 3.3/1. Jacket meeting sfi rated 3.2A/1 required for vehicles running 4.25 and quicker or any vehicle with nitrous. Neck brace mandatory while running 4.25 and quicker. Class M riders are required to wear a minimum of a long sleeve shirt or non-nylon jacket, long pants, boots and gloves. All riders must have eye protection! Any rider faster than 3.5 seconds will be required to have full riding leathers or nomex 2-layer fire suit. No nylon clothing of any type will be allowed. Top Fuel, Top Alcohol and quick 8/16 Drivers must wear a minimum 3.2A/5 jacket and pants. Gloves meeting SFI 3.3/5 and neck brace SFI 3.3. Full face snell rated 00 or newer or equivalent required. Crewmembers that must assist the starting procedures of these cars must wear long pants, a short sleeve t-shirt and closed toe shoes while assisting vehicle.

### **Driveline Loops and Shields:**

All class A vehicles shall have minimum 1/8-inch by 1-inch flat steel or 1" diameter round tube driveline loops on the front joint or each shaft. All drivelines exposed to the driver must have full-length 180-degree shields of 1/8-inch steel or 1/4-inch aluminum.

### **Exhaust Systems:**

All exhaust must be safely directed away from the vehicle and driver. No flex pipe is permitted.

**Eye Protection:**

Mandatory in all open cockpit or class M vehicles.

**Fire Extinguishers:**

Recommended to carry in tow car for 3.20 and faster

**Floorboards & Firewalls:**

Floorboards are mandatory on all vehicles where it is necessary to keep the drivers feet within the frame. Floorboards may be made of securely mounted aluminum, expanded metal, steel or screen. No fabric or netting is allowed. Firewalls must be made of metallic, non-flammable material. Holes must be kept to a minimum where linkages and lines pass through firewall.

**Frames:**

See Roll Bars and Cage:

**Fuel:**

Fuel lines should be made of steel, steel braid or other metallic material. Rubber fuel lines should be avoided in all circumstances. Fuel tanks must be sealed from the driver's compartment with a non flammable material. Fuel tanks must also be protected by frame or chassis cage. If outside frame, it should be protected by a fabricated steel structure to keep the tank from rupturing if impacted.

**Fuel Shut-Off:**

A fuel shut-off is required on all vehicles fitted with an electric fuel pump or pressurized fuel system. This shut off must be plainly marked and easily accessible to the driver or person outside the vehicle.

### **Helmets and Eye Protection:**

NHRA approved helmets are required for all competitors (snell or dot approved). Full-face shield or shatterproof goggles are required for all open vehicles. Sunglasses or eyeglasses are not considered protection.

### **Kill Switch:**

All vehicles must have a plainly marked kill switch that is easily accessible to the driver or person outside the vehicle. All cars started by other than the driver from the driver's position must have a positive ground attached to the coil(s) or mag(s) to prevent accidental starting when not intended. All rider-type vehicles must have positive ignition cut-off switch attached to a lanyard. Switch must be on the low voltage side of the ignition circuit.

### **Roll Bars and Cage:**

Roll bars and cage will be visually inspected. Due to different requirements and designs of the frames, we will not be specific for weight of the vehicle and speed of the vehicle. However, we will not accept anything smaller than 1-inch .095 mild steel for the main frame. Top fuel & Top Alcohol roll cages must be a minimum of 1 ½-inch OD .095 mild steel or 1 ½-inch chromoly .065.

### **Parachutes:**

Mandatory in Top Alcohol, quick 8/16 3.10 and faster Parachutes must be ready for deployment prior to staging. Safety pins must be removed from the pack. All chutes must have red ready for flight pin so staging official can see that it is removed.

**\*PARACHUTES MUST BE PULLED EVERY PASS IF NOT PULLED YOU WILL GET A WARNING NOT PULLED 2 TIMES GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION. GREGG PRICE**

**Scattershields:**

All type A vehicles running faster than 5 seconds must have an NHRA approved 360-degree bell housing or other approved device. All planetary gear-type transmissions must have a sfi approved blanket or shield.

**Seatbelts and Shoulder Harness:**

All vehicles that are driven in a driver's compartment or area are required to have quick release-type safety belts and shoulder harness (5-way belts minimum). Arm restraints are strongly suggested. Belts must be fastened to the frame or roll cage with minimum 5/16-inch hardened steel bolts. All belt fittings must pull in a direct line with predetermined impact. Under no circumstances are the belts to be mounted with a bolt through the webbing. All stock vehicles may use stock seat belts and shoulder straps.

**Starters:**

All vehicles must be self-starting. No pull or push starting allowed. Kick starting is allowed if factory installed. Neutral safety switch is mandatory on all vehicles. No vehicle should be able to start "in gear".

**Staging Devices:**

Any staging device must be rigidly and securely mounted to the vehicle. It must be a minimum 16 inches long and extend from the front of the vehicle rearward to the front wheels. If the vehicle stages with the body panels or undercarriage it could result in a red light foul. It is up to the driver to make this choice. There is no recourse in a staging foul. No electronic staging device, which is keyed to or triggered by the starting or timing system, is allowed. Such a device in the vehicle, working or not, is grounds for disqualification. DELAY BOXES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

**Throttle:**

All throttles must have two return springs attached directly to the carburetor or injector throttle arm and must return to a fully closed position under all circumstances. Toe straps are also required on all vehicles faster than 5 seconds. **NO HYDRALIC THROTTLES ALLOWED.**

**Tires and Wheels:**

Other than stock tires, only approved commercial paddle tires are acceptable. No vehicle may have more than one tire and wheel at each location. **No dual paddle tire vehicles are permitted at any event.**

**Welds:**

All frames and roll cages must be adequately welded. The quality of the weld will be visually inspected. Grinding of welds is not permitted.

**Wheelie Bars:** Any vehicle exhibiting big wheel stands will be required to have a wheelie bar. Excessive wheelies are a rule infraction and are subject to disqualification. The wheelie bar must support the weight of the vehicle and driver when jacked up by the wheelie bar. Four bar construction is highly recommended.

**General Information:**

It is the authority of the ionia sand drags and the Gregg price to make decisions that shall include and cover every facet in connection with the track, conduct of the race and behavior of the participants. It shall also include the right to suspend, bar, expel or disqualify anyone from any event, without liability of any kind or nature. In any dispute involving the interpretation of the rules, the ionia sand drags shall prevail. Any problems not covered by the rules will be ruled upon by the ionia sand drags. Gregg price and officials will make all rulings and all rulings will be final.

**Rule Book Disclaimer:**

No expressed or implied warranty of safety shall result from the publication of or the compliance with these rules and/or regulations. This set of rules and regulations is intended as a guide for conduct of this sport and all contestants participate at their own risk. By paying admission and/or entry fees, the contestant and/or guardian acknowledge and accept full responsibility for any consequences that may arise, and hold harmless the ionia sand drags.

### **Bracket Racing:**

The ionia sand drags run a handicap system of bracket racing. Brackets are broken into time frames and type of vehicles. Vehicles that fall into that time and type will race together. The computer starts the race according to the dial-in selected by the participant. This gives a slower vehicle the same chance to win as the faster vehicle. With this program the ionia sand drags can provide equality for all racers.

### **Suggested Brackets**

**Top Alcohol** Heads up pro tree, these cars can not run in the quick 8/16 class

**Super Pro** Pro staggered tree on dial in, these cars can not run in the top alcohol class

**Pro 1, 2,** Pro staggered tree

**Sportsman** Sportsman tree

**Pro Atv** Pro staggered tree

**Atv** Sportsman tree

**Pro modified Truck** Pro staggered tree

**Pro buggy tentative**

### **Nos:**

Emergency shut offs installed for all nos systems. No heating nos bottle

### **Explanation:**

This is an explanation of several rules that in the past seemed to have several interpretations. We wish to eliminate as many as possible. The following is the ruling and explanations of the rules committee.

### **First or Worst Foul:**

Once the first foul is committed, the opponent will be declared the winner. However, the winner is subject to all the rules and may be disqualified on the same run for a disqualifying procedure after the first foul was committed. First foul would then be reinstated. Example: Competitor in left lane red lights, competitor in right lane goes out of bounds and/or hits the timing equipment. Left lane is re-instated; right lane is disqualified for a worst rule infraction. The red lighting competitor will advance to the next round. One infraction can offset the other. Once a competitor stages, rolls through the beams under its own power, it is considered a run. If both competitors stage, leave the starting line under their own power with one of the competitors "breaking out" while the other breaks after rolling through the beams, the broken car would be the winner.