

# 2026 MARS Late Model & Modified Championship Rulebook



*Sanctioned By: DIRTcar Racing*



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MARS Late Model & Modified Championship | 600 S 3rd St | Fairbury, IL 61739

[www.marsracingseries.com](http://www.marsracingseries.com)

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### **Website & Social Media Info:**

Website: [www.marsracingseries.com](http://www.marsracingseries.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MARSDirtRacing](http://www.facebook.com/MARSDirtRacing)

X: [www.twitter.com/MARSDirtRacing](http://www.twitter.com/MARSDirtRacing)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/MARSDirtRacing](http://www.instagram.com/MARSDirtRacing)

## SECTION 1: MARS Late Model & Modified Championship Rules & Regulations

### 1. Membership & Competitor Info

- A. Driver must be in good standing with DIRTcar and World Racing Group to participate in all MARS Late Model or Modified Championship events. Any suspensions in any other WRG series will be upheld by the MARS Late Model & Modified Championship.
- B. A DIRTcar membership is mandatory to compete in all series events. DIRTcar Late Model and DIRTcar UMP Modified memberships will be available at each event for the price of \$135. Temporary memberships will not be available.
- C. All drivers competing in on-track activity at any event, including but not limited to practice, qualifying, qualifying races and/or the race, must sign a participant waiver form at the designated registration area prior to any on track participation in any DIRTcar sanctioned event.
- D. Point Fund for each series is as follows.

Position	MARS Late Models	MARS Modifieds
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$25,000	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$12,000	\$4,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$10,000	\$3,000
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$7,500	\$2,500
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$5,000	\$2,000
6 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,500	\$1,800
7 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,000	\$1,600
8 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,500	\$1,400
9 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,000	\$1,200
10 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,500	\$1,000

- E. Point fund for each series is guaranteed. There is no minimum of total series events completed for point fund to be paid out. The top 10 in overall points for each series will be paid out regardless of how many series events the respective driver has competed in. If a driver has perfect attendance and does not finish in the top 10 in

overall points, the driver will be guaranteed 10<sup>th</sup> place point money for the Modifieds and \$1,000 for Late Models. Product and Product Certificates will also be given out at the championship banquet to the top 10 in points and/or perfect attendance drivers.

F. Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie of the Year Point Fund for each series is as follows.

Position	MARS Late Models	MARS Modifieds
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$2,500	\$1,250
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$2,000	\$1,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1,500	\$750
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,000	\$500

G. Driver must run 80% of total events to be eligible for Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie of the Year awards. Driver must fill out and turn in Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie of the Year registration paperwork to the Series Director by the end of the first weekend of competition for each respective series. Driver eligibility criteria is listed in the Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie of the Year Registration packet. Final driver eligibility decision will be made by Series Director. After a driver runs 80% of the series events in a given year, the driver will not be able to run for Rookie of the Year in future seasons.

H. **The MARS Late Model Championship Driver Loyalty Program will continue in 2026. For the first 6 events, status will rollover for eligible drivers from the 2025 season. Driver Loyalty perks will go off 2026 current point standings beginning at the 7<sup>th</sup> event.** To maintain status, the driver must remain a fulltime driver and not miss an event. Perks include:

- The top 5 in championship points standings will receive \$200 per event
- Positions 6-10 in championship points standings will receive \$100 per event
- Positions 11-15 in championship points standings will receive \$50 per event

(If consecutive nights are run at the same facility, a driver will only claim money for 1 night. Example: A 2-night show at LaSalle would earn the current points leader an additional \$200 for the weekend. If we race 3 consecutive nights at 3 different facilities on the same weekend, the series points leader would receive \$600 for the weekend)

The only way a driver can/may maintain their Driver Loyalty Program status and miss an event would be factors such as a significant life event including (but not

limited to) a wedding, a graduation, or a funeral. Series director will get final say-so on what is a permissible event. **This may be subject to vote by other full-time teams.**

## **2. Conduct**

- A. All participants agree to act in a professional manner as determined by MARS Late Model & Modified Championship Officials. The professional manner includes, but not limited to verbal representation, social media, text messages, written representation, any representation that may represent the sport of racing and/or motorsports in general and/or any affiliates.
- B. Unless otherwise authorized, all Members must arrive at races in a timely manner prior to the drivers meeting so that they may participate in the entirety of the racing event. Failure to comply may result in disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by MARS Late Model & Modified Championship Officials.
- C. Participants will not be permitted to compete and/or participate while under the influence of any alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances. If a participant is found to be participating in such a manner an immediate disqualification from the event and immediate removal from the facility.
- D. During an event, any member, a competitor, crew chief, car owner, crew member and/or team representative may be requested to report to the Officials Command Center for consultation with officials. The request may be communicated over the one-way radio and/or verbally. Failure to comply will be subject to fine and/or suspension and/or any other action deemed appropriate by Officials.
- E. As a disciplinary or preventive action, a driver and/or race team may be parked during any MARS Late Model & Modified Championship event. Parking is a directive from a supervisory official to cease competition and may include a set number of laps and/or complete event(s) and/or future events to promote the orderly conduct of the event. This can lead to immediate disqualification and immediate removal from a facility if deemed necessary.

## **3. Series Championship Format**

- A. Points will be awarded to drivers based upon their finish in each feature event per the MARS Late Model & Modified Championship points structure.
- B. All MARS Late Model events will count for points during the season.

- a. Due to the unique format for the Friday, August 14 event at LaSalle Speedway, that night will only award 20 points for drivers transferring to the feature and 10 points for drivers not transferring to the feature.
- C. All MARS Modified events will count for points during the season. A driver will be allowed to drop their two worst finishes at the completion of the season. For example: If 20 races are completed, a driver's best 18 finishes will be counted. If 10 races are completed, a driver's best 8 finishes will be counted. CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND EVENTS CAN NOT BE DROPPED. Those events include:
  - a. MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment – Fairbury Speedway events on October 2 & 3, 2026.
- D. A Championship Celebration will take place after the completion of the season. MARS officials will make known in advance notice of date, time, and location.

#### 4. Penalties & Fines

- A. We are one of the top regional racing series in North America and expect our members to always conduct themselves in a professional manner during any event and/or when representing the series. Team owners are solely responsible for the conduct of their drivers and/or team members and/or anyone connected to or affiliated with that owner's team regardless of their DIRTcar Membership Status.
- B. All fines may be collected from prize money on the day of the infraction. If the competitor has not won appropriate money, the fine must be paid in full before the car and/or driver participates in another sanctioned event.
- C. Any member and/or participant that attempts to and/or does physically abuse any event official, including pushing, punching, touching, grabbing and/or grabbing the official's equipment, etc., will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- D. Any member and/or participant that verbally abuses any event official will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- E. Unsportsmanlike conduct or participating in any action or activity considered detrimental to DIRTcar racing or a DIRTcar sanctioned track, at any sanctioned event

or on social media, by drivers, owners and/or pit crews shall be grounds for disqualification and/or punitive action by officials.

- F. Any member and/or participant that goes into another competitor's pit area and/or to another competitor's car and becomes involved in any type of altercation will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- G. Any member and/or participant involved in an altercation that results in physical contact will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- H. Any member and/or participant who drives or causes to be driven: a race car, pit mule, ATV, 4-Wheeler, personal vehicle, or transporter in a dangerous and aggressive manner will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- I. Any member and/or participant who goes out onto the racing surface without permission under a controlled period will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- J. Any member and/or participant that attempts to push and/or start their racecar from the wrong area and/or does not stop in the designated area as to cause undue confusion and/or delay will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- K. Any member and/or participant who fails to stop for and/or allow post-race inspection will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- L. Any member and/or participant that attempts to drive roughly and/or hits another competitor unnecessarily will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.

- M. Any driver that exits the race vehicle on the race surface without permission under a controlled period will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- N. Any member and/or participant who ignores a flag or official signal will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- O. Unless instructed to do otherwise the top three (3) finishers from the Feature, after being weighed, must proceed directly to victory lane. Failure to do so will result in penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials. Extenuating circumstances may be considered.
- P. Drivers who have qualified for Dash Draws, and /or Redraw Ceremonies, must attend as directed and participate. Failure to attend will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials. Extenuating circumstances may be considered.
- Q. Any member and/or participant that violates any technical rule as presented within the rulebook and/or issued in a written bulletin will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- R. Any member and/or participant that attempts to use illegal fuel will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- S. Any member and/or participant that attempts to or uses an illegal engine will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or legal action and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- T. Any member that attempts and/or is found to be using tires that are found to be illegal in any manner will be subject to disqualification and/or fine and/or suspension and/or loss of points and/or any other action deemed appropriate by officials.
- U. These penalties will be enforced on the droop rule:

- a. Qualifying – The rule is Fifty-one (51) inches maximum. If the driver is found to be exceeding Fifty-one (51) inches, the driver can qualify no better than 50% plus 1 of their respective group. If they are found to be exceeding Fifty-one (51) inches and had qualified worse than 50% plus 1 of their respective group originally, the driver will be credited with last place in their qualifying group.
- b. Heat Races/B-Mains/Feature – The rule is Fifty-one (51) inches maximum. If the driver is found to be exceeding Fifty-one (51) inches, the driver will be credited with last place in their respective Heat, B-Main, or the Feature event.

## **5. Substance Abuse Policy**

- A. The MARS Late Model & Modified Championship has a zero-tolerance policy to the misuse and abuse of alcohol and drugs, legal and illegal.

## **SECTION 2: Race Procedures & Race Day Formats**

### **1. Race Day Procedures**

- A. Pre-Race Inspections
  - a. All cars entered and present at any Series event that are intended to compete in the racing event, must pass pre-race inspection prior to any on-track activity. Pre-race inspection may take place in a specified area and/or in the regards of space directly at the team's transporter. Refusal to present vehicle or preventing officials from completing pre-race inspection will result in disqualification from that event and possible penalty and fines.
- B. Drivers Meeting
  - a. All drivers must attend the Drivers' Meeting. Drivers in violation of not attending the Drivers' Meeting could face a fine, loss of driver's points, owner's points and/or penalty.
  - b. The number of cars starting each event and the number of laps for each event may be announced at the drivers' meeting.
  - c. Any changes in the basic event night program due to car count, track conditions and/or any other circumstances may be announced at the drivers' meeting.
- C. Inspection Procedures

- a. Officials may at their discretion, impound part(s) and/or component(s), engine and/or any other components and/or the complete car for competitive, and/or research data analysis.
  - b. MARS Late Model & Modified Championship is not responsible for any cost incurred as a result of inspection.
  - c. Officials may at their discretion, inspect any car entered for competition in any racing event at any time.
- D. Weighing and Scales
- a. All cars will weigh as directed by announcement, radio message or posted at the designated Scales, per the weight rule, and track layout. All cars must weigh in immediately following their Races as directed. Any detour, redirection, mud puddle meandering, may result in disqualification or penalty.
  - b. The winner must weigh prior to any Winner's Circle Interview or Presentation.
  - c. Any detour to the scale, may result in loss of finish position or qualifying time. Should any car stop on the way to the Scales and be touched by anyone other than a Race Official, the Driver may be disqualified. Any car not meeting the minimum weight, after the designated event will lose its time, and/or finishing position from that event.
  - d. The scales used for the event, provided by the series or the track, will be considered the official scales for the event.
  - e. Scales will be available for any team to verify its car weight as determined by the official scales for that event.
  - f. The number of cars to be scaled nightly will be announced at the drivers meeting, on the pit board and/or instructed via the driver's one-way radio.
  - g. At the scales, the car must present themselves directly on to the scales. The figure shown in the rulebook is the official weight for that car.
  - h. Officials will allow a car to re-scale two times by pulling off scale and pulling back on. Reading of the final attempt will become the entered weight.

- i. If, at the scales, the car fails to meet the minimum weight, the following penalties apply:  
*Qualifying:* The car forfeits the earned qualifying and must start last in a heat race.  
*Heat Race:* Car is penalized for that event but remains eligible for the next qualifying race.  
*Preliminary Mains, B-Main and Feature:* Car and Driver will be scored in the last finishing position of the race.

E. Entry & Pill Draw

- a. All drivers and/or teams entered in any event must draw for a position in qualifying order at the designated location. The drivers and/or teams are responsible for their own pill draw. Only one (1) car may be entered per driver in any event.
- b. All pills will be drawn prior to the driver's meeting. If a driver and/or team entered and present at the event does not draw, that team will be placed at the end of the qualifying order. In the event that there is no qualifying, then the driver and/or team will start at the rear of their specified qualifying race.
- c. All participants must be DIRTcar Members in good standing to participate in any event draw.
- d. An entry fee per event will be charged by the MARS Late Model & Modified Championship at each sanctioned event. Standard entry fees are as follows.
  - i. MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends events will have a \$75 entry fee on standard-purse events plus a \$20 transponder fee if competitor does not have a working RED AMB My Laps Transponder.
  - ii. MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment events will have a \$25 entry fee on standard-purse events plus a \$20 transponder fee if competitor does not have a working RED AMB My Laps Transponder.

F. Hot Laps

- a. All entered cars will hot lap by the qualifying order. If a driver misses their respective group, they will forfeit their opportunity to hot lap.
- b. The Scoring Transponder must be mounted on the racecar prior to hot laps.

- c. If and when track packing is required any car that does not participate will be given only one (1) qualifying lap and/or the best the car may qualify is 50% +1 of the entered cars for that event.

G. Qualifying

- a. Qualifying will determine the lineups for Heat Races.
- b. Drivers must Qualify in the order that they drew. If the driver misses their respective qualifying group in Group A/Group B format, the driver will not receive a time. If a driver misses their qualifying position by more than 3 groups in an overall qualifying format (31 or less cars), the driver will receive 1 lap at the end of qualifying.
- c. It is the drivers/team's responsibility to be in their qualifying position on time. In most cases, qualifying will be immediately following hot laps.
- d. In the event of (31) or fewer entries, heads up qualifying will be used. In the event of (32+) entries, a group qualifying format (Group A/Group B) will be used.
- e. MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends drivers will qualify (2) laps. Once the green flag is given to the driver to start their qualifying run, there will be no wave offs. Drivers exiting the track will not be allowed to return to qualifying.
- f. MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment drivers will hot lap/qualify nightly. They will receive (3) laps in total unless otherwise noted in competitor notes and/or drivers meeting. Driver's will qualify (3) to (6) cars at a time depending on track and group size. Once the green flag is given to the driver to start their qualifying run, there will be no wave offs. Drivers exiting the track will not be allowed to return to qualifying.
- g. Cars will either be weighed before or after their qualifying effort, depending on the layout of the current track, and will be announced at the drivers meeting. All cars that are judged to weighing light crossing the scales after qualifying will lose their time and will start at the tail of a Heat Race. If there is more than one car that has been judged light, those drivers will be lined up at the rear of the Heat Races by the qualifying order.

- h. If a car/driver switch is made, for any reason, that car/driver must start at the rear of the next segment of the racing program in which that car/driver has qualified for.
- i. Once a car is pushed and/or rolls for time-trials, even if it doesn't start, that is considered an attempt to qualify. If the car leaves the track and goes to the pit area or returns to the qualifying line it will be considered late and will only receive one qualifying lap as outlined above.
- j. The cars that are late must be in line before the last scheduled car attempts to qualify. Qualifying will be closed once all cars that are in line have attempted to qualify.
- k. In the event of two or more cars posting the same qualifying times, the tie breaker will be the fastest other lap time of the two consecutive recorded laps. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by the qualifying pill draw. If one (1) lap qualifying is utilized, the tiebreaker will be the qualifying pill draw.
- l. In the event of inclement weather and/or unforeseen circumstances, it is at the discretion of the MARS officials to revise the qualifying procedure.
- m. If, for any reason, a race must be run on a different day after qualifying is completed (except for multiple day events), the driver may start the race in the earned qualifying position even if not in the car originally presented for qualifying.
- n. Any driver attempting an extra qualifying lap during qualifying will not be tolerated. If an extra lap is taken, or the driver misses the exit off the speedway to the designated area, a penalty may incur.

#### H. Heat Races

- a. The heat race lineups will be determined by the results of qualifying.
- b. The number of laps in the heat races and number of cars transferring from the heat race(s) will be announced at the drivers meeting by Series Officials. Standard race procedures for each series are as follows.
  - i. (8) lap Heat Races unless otherwise notified in the drivers meeting.
  - ii. (31) and less cars will be a (3) Heat race program transferring the top (5) cars to the Feature event.

- iii. (32-47) cars will be a (4) Heat race program transferring the top (4) cars to the Feature event.
    - iv. (48-71) cars will be a (6) Heat race program transferring the top (2) cars to the Feature event.
  - c. There will be a redraw for starting position amongst the top finisher(s) in each heat race. Standard redraw procedures for each series are as follows.
    - i. (3) Heat race program – Top (2) finishers in each heat to the redraw. They will redraw 1-6.
    - ii. (4) Heat race program – Winners in each heat to the redraw. They will redraw 1-4.
    - iii. (6) Heat race program – Winners in each heat to the redraw. They will redraw 1-6.
  - d. Any driver transferring from the heat race(s) to the feature race that does not qualify for the redraw will line up for the feature race based upon the driver's finish in the heat race.
  - e. Any driver that does not transfer from the heat race(s) to the feature race will be assigned to compete in a B-Main.
- I. B-Main
  - a. The B-Main(s) line up will be determined by the finishing order of the heat race(s).
  - b. The number of laps of each B-Main will be (10) laps unless otherwise noted. The number of transfer cars are as follows.
    - i. (23-31) car program – (1) 10 lap B-Main with the top (5) finishers transferring to the Feature event.
    - ii. (32-47) car program – (2) 10 lap B-Mains with the top (2) finishers transferring to the Feature event.
    - iii. (48-71) car program – (2) 10 lap B-Mains with the top (4) finishers transferring to the Feature event.
- J. 10-Minute Horn
  - a. An air-horn will sound throughout the pit area prior to the feature event. When the horn sounds, drivers have 10 minutes to make it to the staging area. If a driver fails to make it to the staging area in the allotted time, the driver can/will forfeit their starting position. Cones will/may be placed prior to the staging lane to signify the area the car must make it past before the final horn sounds signifying the 10-Minute call is up.

K. Backup Cars

- a. A backup car may be introduced at any time between qualifying and the start of the Feature due to the original car not operating properly and/or from extensive damage. Such determination will be at the sole discretion of the Series Officials. Any such change will result in the driver starting at the rear of the next race segment in which the driver has qualified for. If a driver changes car(s) after hot laps, that driver will remain in his drawn position for qualifying and will be positioned in subsequent races accordingly.
- b. If a backup car is introduced, the car must pass pre-race technical inspection prior to any competition. A backup car may be obtained from any source and does not have to be part of a team's original equipment.
- c. Once a car has been withdrawn from an event, that car will not be allowed to be resubmitted to competition during that event.

L. Starts

- a. The race will begin immediately once the racing surface is clear, and the cars are properly aligned in their assigned starting positions.
- b. Any driver, team, and/or car, who purposely attempts to hold up the start of any race will be placed at the rear of the lineup and could be disqualified from the event, suspended and/or fined at the discretion of MARS officials.
- c. Once the allotted time (announced at the driver's meeting) allowed for being on the track or in the push off and/or staging area, ready to race, has expired, any late car may be penalized to the rear of the field.
- d. Any car pushed or joining the field after the field has started assembling will start at the rear of the field.
- e. In any race once the one (1) to go signal has been displayed cars will not be allowed to enter the racing surface unless directed by a Series Official.
- f. All starts, and restarts will take place at a consistent speed. Consistent speed will be at the discretion of MARS officials. Original starts will take place within the Allstar Performance Starting Zone that will be identified at the driver's meeting. Any car out of line and/or passing before this point will bring out a caution period and will be penalized two (2) positions on the

ensuing restart. If an offending car is located on the last row of the starting grid, then that car is allowed to restart but will be penalized 2 positions from its finishing position. If the same car commits a second offense it shall be disqualified from that event. The pole sitter sets the pace and starts the race. Failure to do so will result in a two (2) position penalty. Failure to acknowledge and comply with the “move back” signal may result in being parked for that race.

- g. In the event that the race is not properly started by the two (2) front row cars, the responsible car(s) may be moved to the second row. Failure to acknowledge and comply with the “move back” signal may result in being parked for that race.
- h. Alternate starters for any race will not be permitted to start any race after the original start has taken place.
- i. One (1) complete lap must be completed before the race is restarted using a restart lineup.
- j. The pole car sets the pace and starts the race inside of the Allstar Performance Starting Zone. Any passing before the front row accelerates will not be permitted.
- k. In the event that car(s) move to the back of the field or are unable to continue, cars move forward by row and do not ‘cross-over’ to fill in the original starting lineup. In the event that two or more cars are missing from the inside or outside line before the race starts, cars will ‘cross-over.’
- l. If only one (1) car is involved in a caution on the original start or before one (1) lap is completed, the car that brought out the caution will line up at the rear of the field, and the race will be restarted for the remainder of the field. If multiple cars are involved in a caution on the initial start during any race there will be a complete restart.

#### M. Restarts

- a. All restarts will take place with the lead lap cars moved to the front of the field. Lapped cars will pull to the inside and fall in behind the last car on the lead lap in their order of running.
- b. If a car is unable to properly restart the race after the one (1) attempt, the car will be penalized two (2) positions.

- c. When an infraction occurs on a restart, MARS Officials may exercise their discretion and allow the race to continue, not calling for another restart, and then penalize the offending car(s) under yellow flag conditions or at the conclusion of the race. The offending car(s) will be penalized 2 positions plus any positions gained.
- d. The restart area will be at the designated restart area, which will be announced at the Driver's Meeting.
- e. All restarts will take place at a consistent speed. Consistent speed will be at the discretion of Series Officials.
- f. Passing may begin once the leader accelerates.
- g. Any cars that stop in the pit/designated work area, during a caution period will be required to restart from the rear of the field.
- h. Any cars that are involved in a red flag situation will be required to restart at the rear of the field, including cars that go to the pits during a red flag situation.
- i. Under red flag conditions any car that stops because of a blocked track, at the discretion of the Series Officials, will not be considered involved in the red.
- j. Any car that is stopped for consultation during a caution period will retain its position only if the Series Officials deem the car 'clear' and permit it to return directly to competition without adjustment.
- k. If a car is not in a proper nose-to-tail alignment and/or is laying back to create excessive gap between cars, then that car may be penalized. If there are multiple violations, the car may be disqualified from the event.
- l. All restarts will be Delaware double-file style after the completion of the first lap of competition in any race. This method will be used for the duration of the preliminary events and until 5 laps to go in the feature event. (Leader out front, 2nd place chooses, 3rd fills, cars will go opposite position of the car in front of them.)

- m. Restarts are subject to being changed to single file in case of track conditions, weather conditions, excessive cautions, or other extenuating circumstances.

#### N. Racing

- a. Any car that does not race on the designated racing surface in order to better its position will be black flagged and penalized at the discretion of the Series Officials.
- b. The maximum number of event laps will be stated by the Series Race Director during the driver's meeting but may change due to extenuating circumstances.
- c. Any car that spins, is involved in an incident and/or has a problem but does not bring out the yellow flag and/or create a caution period, will blend back into the field where the driver is able to do so. If there is an inadvertent caution period, the Series Officials will determine the placement of the car(s) involved. The placement of the car will be where the car blended back into the field.
- d. At the discretion of the Series Official any car that is involved in two (2) or more unaided spins may be penalized.
- e. All feature races must be completed in a "green-white-checker" finish. This means if the yellow flag is displayed or caution lights illuminated prior to the leader receiving the checkered flag, that race will be restarted and run for two consecutive laps before completion. For preliminary events, a one lap "white – checkered" finish is allowable.
- f. If a race is red flagged due to weather conditions and cars are sent to the pits, all work, including tire changes, is permitted.
- g. If there is an incident resulting in a closed red situation and the determination is made to go to an open red then all the cars that were considered involved, whether they went to the work area or not, will re-align at the rear of the field in their scored position on their last completed lap. Order is lead lap cars, 1 lap down cars, and multiple lap down cars.
- h. A spin or stoppage that requires a car to be restarted during a yellow flag slow down period is considered as being involved and will result in said car or cars re-aligning at the rear of the field along with other cars that were involved in the yellow stoppage.

- i. If it is determined in any race, after the original start, that any competitor deliberately initiates a caution period, by any means, that competitor may be penalized. The determination of what constitutes deliberately initiating a caution period will be at the judgment of the and/or MARS Officials.
- j. Any cars going to the work area and reentering the race together will be positioned in the order of their last scored lap at the rear of the field behind cars that are on the same lap as they are. If a restart green flag is displayed and followed by a yellow or red flag before a lap is scored, then any car(s) that remained in the work area can reenter the race but will be positioned behind any same lap car that took the restart green flag. If a car remains in the work area it can re-enter during any ensuing race stoppage, lining up behind any cars that are on the same lap as said car that is re-entering.
- k. Officials may complete an event, at any completed lap count, at their discretion, if a condition or circumstances create a reasonable inability to continue. The race will be considered complete unless announced otherwise.
- l. If, when officials determine in their sole discretion that unforeseen circumstances prevent the completion of the advertised distance or make it impractical to continue or complete the race within a reasonable time after it has been stopped, the race will be considered officially completed as of the last lap scored by the leader prior to the race halt. The finishing positions will be determined, as they would have held if the race had been restarted.
- m. A pace car may be utilized to pace the field prior to the start of the event and on all restarts. Passing of the pace car, unless otherwise instructed to do so by the Series Race Director will not be permitted.
- n. Hand signals, colored gloves and colored sticks will be permitted during the use of communication with drivers. Flashlights, anything with electricity and/or two-way radio communication or any electronic communication with drivers will not be permitted.
- o. In the event that a race car is inadvertently or purposely hit by a push truck, pace vehicle, or purposely hit by another race car during push-off, or under yellow flag conditions or other non-racing activity and such incident is witnessed by a MARS Series Official, then repairs can be made to the contacted vehicle and that car will resume it's running position. The maximum time allotted for such repairs is two (2) minutes. If repairs cannot

be completed within this time period, then the car will be scored as finishing last in that race. Alternate(s) starters will not be given a starting position in this situation. In the event the damaged car is not able to reenter the race, the car will be scored last on the lap in which that car has completed.

- p. When a car is presented in the designated lineup area or during push-off for any event competition, any tire change is prohibited. Any tire change will result in forfeiting starting position. Penalty will be starting in the last position.
- q. Adding fuel, whether on the track or in the work area, will not be permitted when yellow flag and/or closed red flag conditions exist.

O. Work Area/Hot Pit

- a. When the yellow flag is displayed a two (2) lap period will be permitted for flat tires only. The counting of laps will begin once the lineup is correct. The car will rejoin the field at the tail of the lap it's on once the work has been completed at the direction of Series Officials.
- b. Guaranteed time in the Work Area/Hot Pit will be granted for the Feature event only.

P. Flag Rules & Official Signals

- a. Green Flag
  - i. The green flag signifies the start of any race and/or qualifying run.
- b. Yellow Flag
  - i. When the yellow flag is displayed, and/or the yellow caution lights are illuminated, this signifies a caution period.
  - ii. When the yellow flag is displayed and/or caution lights illuminated no passing is permitted unless instructed to do so by Series Officials.
- c. Red Flag
  - i. All red flags are considered closed red flags unless Series Officials determines it needs to be an open red. In an open red flag, a work area may be designated on the racing surface. All cars will be moved to the designated work area on the racing surface before work begins.
  - ii. When the red flag is displayed all cars on the racing surface and in the pit areas must come to a complete stop in a controlled manner, while not stopping and/or driving through the area of the incident. Cars are not permitted to move for any reason unless instructed by Series Officials.

Any car that moves during the red flag without permission will be penalized and/or parked.

iii. During any red flag situation all drivers, unless involved in the incident must remain in their car unless otherwise instructed by Series Officials.

iv. During any red flag, once the field is stopped, the race director may offer the opportunity for any car to pit by signaling to do so with instruction over the one-way radio. Any car that pits for service during the red flag period will surrender its running position and have to restart at the rear of the field and/or if the race is cancelled due to inclement weather, the car will be scored behind those cars which did not pit.

v. If the race is red flagged due to inclement weather conditions, work and tire changes will be permitted.

vi. CLOSED RED: The track will be closed. Crew members will not be permitted on the racetrack and/or to their race cars.

vii. OPEN RED: The Race Director will determine when the track is open. Any repairs and/or adjustments, except changing a tire or wheel, can be made to the race car. When the Race Director determines that the racing may resume; an air horn designating the start of a 2-minute work period will be sounded. At one-minute remaining, the air horn will be sounded twice. At the end of the 2-minute period the horn will be sounded, officially ending the work period. Crews must be clear of their car when the 2-minute period has expired or be penalized 2 running positions. Last row cars violating this procedure will be penalized 2 positions from their finishing position. Any car still being worked on once the field has started assembling will be disqualified and not allowed to re-enter the race.

viii. FUEL RED: As soon as all the crews have reached their cars an air horn designating a 2-minute work period will be sounded. The 2-minute work period procedure is the same as outlined above. Any repairs and adjustments, except changing a tire or wheel, can be made to the race car as long as they are completed before the 2-minute period has expired.

d. Black Flag

i. If the black flag is displayed, then the driver that the flag is being displayed toward must bring their car to designated pit work area immediately for consultation. The car will not be scored from the point that the black flag has been displayed. If after the car is inspected and it is able to return to competition, the car may only return to the track during a caution and/or red flag period.

e. White Flag

i. When the white flag is displayed this signifies that the leader of the race and/or the car that is qualifying has started the last lap of that event.

f. Checkered Flag

i. The checkered flag signifies the completion of the event. All cars must pass underneath the checkered flag to be scored correctly on the final lap of the event.

ii. Once the leader has crossed under the checkered flag, that race will be considered complete.

g. Officials Signals

i. All drivers must obey signals, communications, blackboard(s) and/or any other Official's communications that assist in the direction and facilitation of creating proper lineups and/or the process of completing the event.

Q. General Racing Equipment, Driver Radios and Scoring Transponders

a. All competitors in each series are required to have, in working condition, an approved one-way radio system to aid in line ups and/or the use of race control to manage the racing event.

b. All cars must have and/or provide adequate hardware for the attachment of the Scoring Transponder.

c. All cars are required to be equipped with a scoring transponder securely mounted on the specified location. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure proper installation and working condition of the scoring transponder. The specified location for each series is as follows.

i. MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends – Left front where the bumper meets the frame.

ii. MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment – Right rear axle tube.

d. If a car is found to have a non-functioning scoring transponder, they will be directed to the pits to have one installed. A penalty may be assessed at the discretion of series officials.

e. MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends & MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment will be using the RED

AMB My Laps Transponders for each event. If a driver does not own their own, they can rent one from the series for \$20 per event.

- R. Standard Race Day Formats – (subject to change)
- a. Qualifying – MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends (2 laps). MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment (3 laps).
    - i. Straight Up Qualifying – (31 cars and less)
    - ii. A & B Group Qualifying – (32+ cars)
    - iii. Late Models will run transponders on the left front where the bumper meets the frame.
    - iv. Modifieds will run transponders on the right rear axle tube.
    - v. Overall Fast Qualifier on front stretch immediately following qualifying. (time permitting)
  - b. Heat Races (8 laps) – Car count determines the number of heats.
    - i. 3 Heat Races – Top 5 transfer to A-Main (Top 5 scale) (31 cars and less)
    - ii. 4 Heat Races – Top 4 transfer to A-Main (Top 4 scale) (32-47 cars)
    - iii. 6 Heat Races – Top 2 transfer to A-Main (Top 2 scale) (48+ cars)
    - iv. Heat Race Winners stop in infield for TV interview.
  - c. Redraw – Will be taken place at the series command center or at the scales. Drivers will be notified at the drivers meeting and over the driver one-way radio on where the location will be for that night.
  - d. B-Mains (10 laps) – Car count determines the number of B-Mains.
    - i. 1 B-Main – Top 5 transfer to A-Main (Top 5 to scale) (31 cars and less)
    - ii. 2 B-Mains – Top 2 transfer to A-Main (Top 2 to scale) (32-47 cars)
    - iii. 2 B-Mains – Top 4 transfer to A-Main (Top 4 to scale) (48+ cars)
  - e. Provisionals
    - i. There will be 2 MARS provisionals for each event. Provisionals will be taken from the (2) highest in 2026 overall driver points not yet qualified for the show.
    - ii. OPENING WEEKEND – On the opening weekend for the MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends, and Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment, provisionals will be taken from 2025 MARS Racing Series driver points.
    - iii. **SECOND WEEKEND – On the second weekend for the MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends, and Modified**

Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment, the first provisional will be taken from 2025 MARS Racing Series driver points and the second provisional will be taken from 2026 MARS Racing Series driver points.

iv. A maximum of (2) provisionals are available to the track at their expense to be added onto the tail of the standard 22 car starting field.

f. Feature Event

- i. Top 3 finishers to front stretch for Victory Lane interviews & pictures.
- ii. Top 5 to scales.
- iii. All cars subject to post race tech at series officials' discretion if needed.

## 2. Scoring Procedures

- A. All races are scored at the designated start/finish line.
- B. A lap will not be scored on the original start unless all cars complete the lap by passing through the start/finish line except for the cars involved in the incident.
- C. After the first completed green flag lap, following the original start or restart, when the caution is displayed all cars that were scored under green flag conditions will hold that scored position with all other cars lining up according to their last completed green flag scored lap. This partial lap will count toward the event's total number of laps. Racing back to the start/finish line will not be permitted. This is also known as split scoring. After the first lap is completed in any event, the leader plus one other car crossing the start/finish line will signify a completed lap.
- D. In the event that a yellow and/or red flag is displayed with the checkered flag simultaneously that race is completed. The cars not crossing the finish line will be scored according to their position in their last completed green flag lap.

## 3. Payoff and Pit Procedures

- A. All paid purses, appearance money and/or other awards and/or funds as outlined in the promoter's contract shall be paid to the car owner and/or designated owner's representative.

## 4. Provisional Starters

- A. 2 provisional starting positions will be determined by the series. This is based on the highest points position driver who has not transferred to the main event in preliminary action. OPENING WEEKEND – On the opening weekend for the MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends, and MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment, provisionals will be taken from 2025 MARS Racing Series driver points. **SECOND WEEKEND - On the second weekend for the MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends, and Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment, the first provisional will be taken from 2025 MARS Racing Series driver points and the second provisional will be taken from 2026 MARS Racing Series driver points.**
- B. All Teams wanting to take a provisional must have attempted to compete in at least one preliminary event leading up to the Feature.
- C. Provisional starters tag the rear of the Feature.
- D. A maximum of (2) provisionals are available to the track at their expense to be added onto the tail of the standard 22 car starting field.

## 5. Point Awarding

- A. Points will be awarded by the schedule of points below.

<b><u>Finish</u></b>	<b><u>Pts</u></b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>70</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>65</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>60</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>57</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>54</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>51</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>48</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>45</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>43</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>41</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>39</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>38</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>37</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>36</b>

<b>16th</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>18th</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>19th</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>21st</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>29</b>

B-Main: 1 point drop per position with minimum of 10 points.

Show Up Points: 10 points rewarded for show up- if do not make qualifying, retire before completion of event, or rain out/event cancelation.

- B. No bonus points are awarded for higher car counts or other circumstances.
- C. Any ties in point standings will be broken in the following order:
  - A.) First by number of wins in events where points were earned.
  - B.) Second by number of second-place finishes in events where points were earned.
  - C.) Third by number of third-place finishes in events where points were earned.
  - D.) Continue by best finishes until the tie is broken.
- D. All MARS Late Model events will count for points during the season.
  - a. Due to the unique format for the Friday, August 14 event at LaSalle Speedway, that night will only award 20 points for drivers transferring to the feature and 10 points for drivers not transferring to the feature.
- E. All MARS Modified events will count for points during the season. A driver will be allowed to drop their two worst finishes at the completion of the season. For example: If 20 races are completed, a driver's best 18 finishes will be counted. If 10 races are completed, a driver's best 8 finishes will be counted. CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND EVENTS CAN NOT BE DROPPED. Those events include:
  - a. MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment – Fairbury Speedway events on October 2 & 3, 2026.

## 6. Contingency Program

- A. A contingency program will take place in a season and will be announced at the start of the season. Sponsors will/may be added as the season progresses.
- B. The program can include fast time awards, hard charger, rookie of the race, etc.

- C. Decal placement will be MANDATORY to claim any of the awards.
- D. A detailed outline of this will be posted by series officials before the season and at all events. A physical copy will be distributed to each team with the contingency packet at track as well.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

- A. Cars will not be permitted to make a qualifying attempt without passing technical inspection. All cars must be available for inspection prior to the time of the driver's meeting. Following the driver's meeting, covers of any-type on the racecar will not be permitted.
- B. All cars may be subject to technical inspection at any time.
- C. It is recommended that all teams have a fire extinguisher in the rear of their transporter. The fire extinguisher is recommended to be a minimum Of 2.5 gallons FFF type chemical and/or equivalent.
- D. All drivers are required to have a one-way radio. The one-way radio must be working and active prior to any 'on-track' activity. Two-way radios, crewmember to driver and/or any other means of electronic communication, other than the one-way radio, will not be permitted.
- E. No cameras and/or video recorders and/or photographic recording equipment may be mounted below the deck.

## **8. Series Decals**

- A. All participants will be required to display decals as provided on the decal verification sheet prior to entering competition. If any required decal is not displayed loss of any awarded money will be the penalty.
- B. The MARS Late Model Championship Powered by FK Rod Ends or MARS Modified Championship Powered by Summit Racing Equipment decal (minimum of 60 square inches) and Contingency decals (minimum of 28 square inches) shall be visible and are required on both sides of the car for all cars participating in the event in order to receive cash awards or product awards, no exceptions. Series decal location is at the base of the front a-post on the door panel (front fender above wheel well). Contingency decals will be located on the lower 3rd of the door panels above the

skirt (12 inches above the skirt). Overflow location being the rear quarter panel lower third. (See Graphic in Chapter 3 Section 16). If incorporating into wraps, No alteration or size adjustments may be made to the decals or logos. Minimum size requirements must be met.

- C. Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie of the Year decals are mandatory for all drivers running for Rookie of the Year. Failure in running the decal throughout the season forfeits the driver's awards.
- D. The series officials may refuse to allow a participant to compete in an event if it is determined at their discretion that any advertising and/or sponsorship or similar agreement is detrimental to the sport, the series, or the event promoter, including the image of the sport.
- E. Unless instructed to do otherwise the top three (3) finishers from the Feature, after being weighed, must proceed directly to victory lane and participate in all victory lane activities, including, but not limited to, top 3 photos, media interviews, victory lane photos, etc. Failure to comply will result in a minimum fine. Any extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- F. Failure to comply with any of the above rules may result in a loss of Point Fund monies, purse monies and/or any other penalty as deemed necessary by the series.