



Racing Rules 2025

SPIRIT AND INTENT / DISCLAIMER

The H1 Race Rules and Regulations, including these Racing Rules are intended to be guidelines for establishing fair competition and to promote H1 in a most positive light, all in accordance with the H1 Mission Statement. It is expected that all Participants (Drivers, Pit Crew, Race Officials, Owners and Promoters) and their respective directors, officers, agents, employees and volunteers will adhere to the “spirit and intent” of these Rules. Participants should not “read-between-the-lines” in order to circumvent a Rule’s intent.

It is also the intent of H1 that Race Officials make decisions and resolve disputes regarding these Racing Rules in a timely manner.

If you are contemplating an undertaking that is not directly addressed herein, please contact H1 to make sure it will be allowed.

The Racing Rules stated herein shall govern all H1 sanctioned or promoted events and, by participation in these events (or with respect to an Owner or Owner’s Representative by registration of a Boat), all Participants are: (A) deemed to have understood and agree to comply with these Rules; (B) that no express or implied warranty of safety shall result from publication of, or compliance with, these Rules; (C) that the Rules are intended as a guide for the conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury or death to Participants, spectators, or others. Further, all Participants recognize and understand that H1 events have risks and hazards which include potential illness, potential injury, including but not limited to bodily injury, paralysis, or death, and potential for property damage. All Participants, by their participation expressly and voluntarily agree to assume those risks and hazards however caused; and understand that such injury may be permanent or temporary in nature and may be compounded by negligent rescue operations of H1, other Participants or first responders.

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NOTE: REFER TO THE GENERAL RULES SECTION FOR DEFINED TERMS

H1 2025 Racing Rules

A. STARTS

1. A digital starting clock shall be in place and operational for all Gold Cup and World Championship Races; and at all other Races unless conditions (in the sole determination of the Chief Referee) warrant.
2. There shall be an announcement over the Pit public address system (preceded by a 10-second countdown) ten minutes before the official start of each Heat (five-to-the-five).
3. There shall be a second announcement over the Pit public address system (preceded by a 10-second countdown) five minutes before the official start of each Heat (five-minute-gun). Concurrent with such announcement the starting clock shall begin and then continue to indicate the time remaining until the official start of the race and a Green flag shall be displayed as set forth in **Racing Rule F1** below. No Boat shall leave the Pit dock prior to the five-minute announcement and a team member must have physical contact with any portion of the hull at the five-minute mark unless special circumstances have been previously announced by Race Officials. If there is no physical contact at the five-minute mark, or under the special circumstances referenced above, a penalty will be assessed per rule **Racing Rule E.1.(a)**.
4. There shall be a third announcement over the Pit public address system (preceded by a 10-second countdown) one minute prior to the official start of each Heat (*one-minute-gun*). At this time a White flag shall be displayed as set forth in **Racing Rule F1** below. No Boat shall be allowed to leave its Pit dock after the one-minute announcement.
5. After leaving the Pit dock, each Boat shall enter the race course and remain on the race course, excluding defined safety zones, until the start of the race.
 - (a) Score up and Start procedure:
 - (i) The Score up buoy will be the Start/Finish line.
 - (ii) All boats will score up at the Start/Finish buoy at the predetermined time announced at the drivers meeting.
 - (iii) Final approach to the score up buoy shall include successfully navigating all buoys prior to the start/finish line, beginning with the entrance buoy to turn two.
 - (iv) No course cutting is allowed after the predetermined score up time.
 - (v) All boats will establish their lane at the entrance buoy of turn two (Commitment buoy). After passing the Commitment buoy, drivers must hold their lane until the start/finish line.
 - (vi) Overlap/Encroachment rules as defined in Rule D.5 will apply
 - (b) *Enforcement.* If a boat, or boats, misses a buoy, or crosses ("jumps") the Score Up Buoy prior to the predetermined time, the Referee will advise the driver via radio notification by way of the Corral, and will be told to decelerate and move to an outside lane. If there are multiple violators, the Referee will communicate which lanes the violators are to occupy.
 - (i) If a boat does not comply with the Referee's instructions, as in (b) above, by the entrance buoy of turn two (Commitment buoy), a one minute penalty will be assessed.
6. A Boat shall not cross ("jump") the Start/Finish Line until the official start of a Heat (0.00 which is represented as four dashes (- - - -) on the official starting clock). Any boat crossing the Start/Finish line with 15.0 or more seconds remaining shall be required to run a complete lap before making a legal start. Any boat crossing the Start/finish line between 14.9 and 3.0 seconds remaining shall be disqualified and will be instructed to leave the course and return to the pit dock. Any boat crossing the Start/Finish line between 2.9 and .1 seconds remaining, will have "jumped the gun", AND will be assessed a one-minute penalty. The Start/Finish line is crossed when the tip of either sponson completely passes the Start/Finish Line buoy as shown in **Appendix A** attached hereto. Video of the Start/Finish Line may be used by the Race Officials in making such decisions. Such video shall be (a) shown to the Drivers' Representative, if requested, and/or (b) released to the public (at the discretion of the Chief Referee) after the day of racing is complete.

B. HEAT STOPPAGES

1. A Heat shall be immediately stopped if and when:
 - (a) a Driver enters the water;
 - (b) any Boat has encountered a flip, rollover, or severe impact with the water surface, even though it remains upright and/or is able to continue (a Boat rotating more than 90 degrees on any axis constitutes a flip); or
 - (c) in the opinion of Race Officials, an occurrence, or situation on the racecourse makes competition hazardous to participants, beyond the usual risks and hazards of competition.
2. Race Officials shall stop a Heat by displaying a Red flag as described in **Racing Rule F1** below. Drivers shall receive radio notification by way of the Corral and shall immediately stop their Boats on the racecourse until directed otherwise by Race Officials.
3. The rescue and recovery operations shall be under the direction and control of the Director of Rescue and under the supervision of the Chief Referee.
4. The following signals shall be used by a Driver when their Boat comes to a stop at any time while on the racecourse:
 - (a) **Clasped Hands Above Head or Strobe Light On** – The Boat or Driver needs routine assistance, otherwise everything is okay.
 - (b) **No Signal or Waving Both Hands Continuously Above the Drivers Head** – The Driver needs immediate emergency assistance and is injured or in danger and the Heat is to be stopped to render aid.

If (A) a canopy has not been opened and appropriate signals given, or (B) if the Driver has not otherwise conveyed their status (including by radio), each within sixty (60) seconds after the boat comes to a stop, Race Officials shall stop the Heat. *Note: It is recommended that the canopy should be kept closed until completion of the Heat and/or when other Boats are in the vicinity and that radio communication is used.*

C. COMPLETED HEATS & RESTARTS.

1. Except as set forth in the remainder of this **Rule C**, the Checkered Flag shall be displayed as set forth in **Racing Rule F1** to signify each Boat's completion of a Heat.
2. Should a Heat be stopped, it shall be considered complete if at least half the number of laps specified have been completed by the lead Boat; otherwise, the Heat shall be restarted. *Example: At least 2 laps of a 3 or 4-lap heat and at least 3 laps of a 5 or 6-lap heat shall be considered half the number of laps.*
3. The position of all Boats running at the completion of the lap *prior* to the stoppage shall be used to determine the order of finish of a Heat deemed complete under **Paragraph 2** immediately above and points awarded accordingly; *provided, however*, a Boat must be "running" at the time of the Heat stoppage (or have otherwise completed the Heat under **Paragraph 1** above) to be declared the winner, and any Boat causing a Heat stoppage under **Racing Rule B1 or B4** or that was penalized in connection with causing a Heat stoppage shall not be scored (position or points). For the purposes of this rule: "running" shall mean: a Boat must be a legitimate competitor and not have been disqualified at the time the Heat was stopped and not in distress, suffering a mechanical issue that prevents maintaining position should the Heat not have stopped, or was not running in a planning attitude at the time of the stoppage.

4. In the event of a stoppage during the final Heat, where the Heat is not considered complete (in accordance with **Paragraph 2** above) and a restart of such Heat is not possible, the final order of finish for the Race shall be determined by total cumulative points for the Race (including Time Trial points). In the event of a tie in points, Time Trial speed shall determine the Race winner. Neither a Boat for which the final Heat was stopped under **Racing Rule B1 or B4** or a Boat that was disqualified for causing a stoppage of the final Heat can be declared the Race winner.
5. A Boat that was otherwise eligible but (i) failed to start the stopped Heat or (ii) that was not running at the time of the Heat stoppage, shall be eligible for any restart.
6. Race Officials shall select additional Boats to participate in any restart of a final Heat to fill the positions of any Boat a) that is not eligible for or b) has officially withdrawn from the restart of the final Heat, using General Rule 6.
7. **Racing Rule E2** identifies Boats that are ineligible to participate in the restart of a Heat.

8. **ROUND ROBIN RACE FORMAT**

A random ball draw for round robin position will be made, top qualifier will draw first, 2nd will draw second, and so forth

In the event the race is shortened due to weather or racing conditions, and after at least 2 heats have been run, any boat that has run more heats than the others will drop their points from the last heat ran.

Format for 5 Boats: (Note:) Draw 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5=E

- (Heat 1) A, B, C, D
- (Heat 2) B, C, D, E - All boats 1x, B, C, D = 2x
- (Heat 3) A, B, C, E - All boats 2x, B, C = 3x
- (Heat 4) A, C, D, E - All boats 3x, C = 4x
- (Heat 5) A, B, D, E - All boats 4x

Format for 6 Boats: (Note:) Draw 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5=E, 6=F

- (Heat 1) A, B, C, D
- (Heat 2) C, D, E, F - All boats 1x, 2 have run = 2x
- (Heat 3) A, B, E, F - All boats 2x
- (Heat 4) A, C, D, E - All boats 2x, 2 have run = 3x
- (Heat 5) B, F, E, C - All boats 3x, 2 have run 4x
- (Heat 6) A, B, F, D - All boats have run 4x

D. NAVIGATING THE COURSE / RIGHT OF WAY

1. All course, patrol, rescue, tow, stake, safety, fire or escort boat (including any Race Official, Course Judge or Echo Boat) located inside the racecourse shall be positioned in a Safety Zone from the five-minute gun until the start of the Heat. All boats assigned within the Safety Zone of a turn shall remain within 150 feet of the "pivot point" of such turn until directed otherwise by the Director of Rescue or Race Officials. (For clarification: The "pivot point" is the mid-point of an imaginary line, drawn between the entrance and exit buoys.)
2. A Boat shall not enter a Safety Zone at any time during a Heat (including during testing or Time Trials or during any Warm-up Period). Following the official start of a Heat the Safety Zone shall not include the area (a radius) measured to thirty feet inside the radius established by the turn buoys from entrance to exit.

Note: Boats entering such excluded 30-foot area remain subject to penalties for missing, damaging, destroying, or dislodging a Buoy. See Racing Rule E.3.(d)
3. Each Boat shall establish its lane at the Commitment Buoy (a) after the one-minute announcement and (b) prior to the official start of the Heat and shall maintain that lane (running parallel to the buoy line) until the Start/Finish line, except that any Boat that has selected Lane #1 shall maintain Lane #1 from the Commitment Buoy until the entrance buoy of Turn #1 following the start of the Heat. For the

purpose of this rule only, Lane #1 (only) shall be defined as anywhere from 0 to 20 feet from the buoy line and any Boat which - in its entirety – is 20 feet or more off the buoy line during this period shall be deemed to have vacated Lane 1.

4. After the official start of a Heat (0:00 which is represented by four dashes (- - -) on the starting clock), all Boats shall continue counterclockwise around the racecourse, passing all inner course buoys on left/port side of the Boat. A Boat that misses a buoy after the start shall **not** continue into the infield and attempt to pick up any missed buoy(s). Such Boat shall safely and legally re-enter the course in order to continue to race.
 - (a) A dislodged buoy or debris from a destroyed buoy ceases to be a marker and may be disregarded.
 - (b) Times recorded for a lap during which a buoy or buoys are damaged, dislodged, or destroyed shall be null and void for the Boat striking the buoy.
5. As between two or more Boats:
 - (a) When converging, the Boat to starboard shall maintain 10 feet of separation on a course parallel to that of the Boat to its port.
 - (b) A leading or overtaking Boat has the right-of-way to alter course or change its lane of travel once an Overlap exists, otherwise any such Boat altering course or changing its lane of travel shall be deemed to be **“Encroaching.”**
 - (c) **“Overlap”** means:
 - (i) A rooster tail length, or a minimum of 5 Boat lengths, whichever is greater at the time of the overtake during any Warm-up Period until the Commitment buoy, thereafter a rooster tail length, or a minimum of 7 Boat lengths, whichever is greater at the time of the overtake until the Boats are back to the dock after the end of the heat.
 - (ii) A rooster tail length, or a minimum of 7 Boat lengths when entering the racecourse.
 - (d) A leading or overtaking Boat must establish Overlap over **all Boats** in lanes between itself and its chosen lane before it has the right-of-way to alter course or change its lane of travel.
 - (e) Once an Overlap is established, the trailing or overtaken Boat(s) loses any right-of-way with respect to, and must give way to, the leading or overtaking Boat and, if necessary, shall slacken speed to avoid risk of collision. The trailing or overtaken Boat may reduce and extinguish an Overlap only if a lane is and remains available, and such Boat adheres to **Paragraph (d)** (immediately above) with respect to other Boats.
 - (f) The leading Boat may choose its racing lane; *provided, however*, (i) such Boat is obligated to hold a consistent course, and (ii) such Boat leaves a lane (to port or starboard, as applicable) for every Boat for which Overlap has not been established.
 - (g) If an Overlap has not been established at the entrance pin of a turn, the leading or overtaking Boat shall be required to maintain the same approximate lane throughout the entire turn and shall exit the turn in the same lane as it entered.
6. Overlap rules apply to Boats lapping and being lapped; *provided, however*, Race Officials have the authority to order any Boat being lapped to assume a specific lane that allows faster Boats to pass unimpeded.
7. Any Boat leaving the racing lanes, or that loses power, drops off plane, is no longer making continuous forward progress or is coasting to a stop shall relinquish any right-of-way; except that, as between two or more Boats having departed the racing lanes, the standard Overlap rules (above) shall continue to apply (including as between such departed Boats when re-entering the racing lanes).
8. Any Boat entering the racecourse, or racing lanes, – at any time - must have a rooster tail length, or a minimum of 7 boat lengths when entering, crossing or overtaking a lane that is already occupied by a boat on the racecourse. Current overlap rules shall apply.

9. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in the Race Rules and Regulations, **UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY RACE OFFICIALS**, a Trailer Boat shall adhere to all Racing Rules specified above and must also:

- (a) not interfere with a Boat maneuvering for a front row starting lane;
- (b) not be on the front row at the start of the Heat;
- (c) not occupy Lane #1 at any time prior to the start of the Heat;
- (d) follow all non-Trailer Boats past the Commitment/Score-up Buoy after the one-minute announcement;
- (e) cross the Start/Finish Line in the outermost lane; and
- (f) with respect to **Racing Rule A6**, not cross the Start/Finish line less than **ten (<10)** seconds after the official start of a Heat (0:00 on the starting clock).

(i.e., a Trailer Boat is not to cross the Start/Finish line between fifteen (**15**) seconds remaining (like all other Boats per **Racing Rule A6**) until (ten) 10 seconds after the official start of a Heat (0:00 on the starting clock).)

Note: Alternate Boats may/may not be allowed to make a start as determined under **General Rule A.6.d**).

10. Race Officials may (at their sole discretion) use any tools at their disposal to make decisions regarding this **Rule D**. Any recorded H1 video, excluding on-board video, so used shall be:

- a) shown to the Drivers' Representative, if requested, and/or
- b) released to the public by Race Officials (at their sole discretion) after the day of racing is complete.

E. PENALTIES

1. Starts (**Racing Rule A**).

- (a) A Boat leaving the Pit dock prior to the five-minute announcement (absent special circumstances announced by Race Officials as set forth in **Racing Rule A3**) shall be required to start in an outside lane as instructed by the Referee.
- (b) A Boat leaving the Pit dock after the one-minute announcement (as set forth in **Racing Rule A4**) shall be **disqualified** and receive no points or placing in such Heat.
- (c) Any Boat "jumping" the Start/Finish line under **Racing Rule A6** (or a Trailer Boat under **Racing Rule D9(f)**) will be assessed a one-minute penalty (and be placed and scored accordingly).

2. Restarts (**Racing Rule C**). The following Boats shall be **ineligible** for the restart of a Heat:

- (a) Any Boat for which the Heat was stopped under **Racing Rule B1** or **B4**;
- (b) Any Boat that was disqualified during the stopped Heat;
- (c) Any Boat that was penalized in connection with causing the stoppage; or
- (d) Any Boat that failed to stop on the racecourse as directed under **Racing Rule B2**.

3. Navigating the Course (**Racing Rule D**).

- (a) A Boat that misses a buoy during a Heat (including after establishing its lane at the Commitment Buoy per **Racing Rule D3**) will be assessed a one minute penalty, (and be placed and scored accordingly).
- (b) A Boat that strikes and thereby damages, dislodges or destroys, a buoy, during a Heat (including during any Warm-up Period) will be assessed a one minute penalty (and be placed and scored accordingly).
- (c) A Boat that enters a Safety Zone at any time shall be disqualified and receive no points or placing in such Heat.

damage, dislodge or destroy, the buoy, or (iii) enter a Safety Zone, the offending Boat shall instead receive any such penalty.

- (e) The responsible Boat under (b) or (d) (immediately above) shall also pay **\$1,000** for replacement of any damaged or destroyed buoy (also including during testing or Time Trials).
 - (f) An Encroaching Boat or any Boat that fails to maintain its required lane under **Racing Rule D**, including any Boat interfering with another under **Racing Rules D8** will be assessed a one minute penalty (and be placed and scored accordingly); Trailer Boats (**Racing Rule D9**). Any Trailer Boat violating any provision of **Racing Rule D9** (a) – (e) will be assessed a one minute penalty (and be placed and scored accordingly).
- 4. Any boat penalized two (2) or more minutes under **Paragraph 3**, immediately above, shall be **disqualified** and receive no points or placing in such Heat.
 - 5. Any Boat that failed to stop on the racecourse as directed under **Racing Rule B2** shall be **disqualified** and receive no points or placing in such Heat.
 - 6. **RACING RULES AND PENALTIES ARE DETERMINED IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE RACE OFFICIALS AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO PROTEST (BY ANY OTHER BOAT/RACE TEAM) AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL (BY THE PENALIZED BOAT/RACE TEAM).** Any action by a Participant contrary to the spirit and intent of this rule may be subject to discipline under the H1 Rules and Regulations (including **General Rule R** as may be amended by Competition Directive).
 - 7. Infractions by Qualifying Drivers are subject to additional penalties under General Rule L.

F. VISUAL SIGNALS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. During each Heat, the following flag signals shall be displayed at the Judges Stand, on the Echo Boat(s) and in the Course Judge boats stationed at the apex of each turn.

RED: shall be displayed when a Heat has been stopped or postponed and may be supplemented with the discharge of red or orange aerial flares, or similar devices.

YELLOW: shall be displayed when there is a hazardous condition on the racecourse (such as a stopped Boat in the racing lanes).

GREEN (with 2" Yellow fluorescent outside border): shall be displayed both (a) during the five-minute period prior to the official start of a Heat (until the one-minute period) and (b) during all laps when a Heat is underway (except the final lap). The green flag has a two (2") inch yellow fluorescent border. The Green flag may be supplemented with the discharge of a cannon at the beginning of the five-minute period and/or at the official start of the Heat.

WHITE: shall be displayed both (a) during the one-minute period and (b) as the lead Boat commences its final lap. The White flag may be supplemented with the discharge of a cannon at the beginning of the one-minute period.

CHECKERED: shall be displayed (at only the Judges Stand and Echo Boat(s)) as each Boat passes the Judges Stand at the completion of the Heat.

BLACK (with a 2" x 24" Yellow florescent X): shall be displayed when (a) all Boats are directed to leave the course immediately and return to the Pits either following completion of a Heat or after a Heat stoppage (Red Flag) or, (b) in certain cases, may be directed at a specific Boat (along with radio notification by way of the Corral) to safely leave the racing lanes and stop until completion of the Heat.

BLUE (with a Yellow fluorescent stripe from top pole side to lower outside): may be displayed if a possible penalty may be assessed on a Boat or Boats in that Heat.

- 2. Flags shall be provided by H1 and shall be at least 4' x 5' for the Echo Boats and Course Judge boats, and at

least 4' x 6' feet at the Judges Stand.

3. Beginning at the five-minute announcement (during the Warm-up Period) and continuing until all boats are returned to the Pit Dock, only Race Officials (and H1 staff responsible for inspections and Pit operations) shall transmit on the H1 frequencies. During this time period:
 - (a) The **Team Radio Operator (TRO)** shall be present in the Corral and shall have a working two-way radio capable of communicating with directly with the Driver (via the radio described in **Technical Rule A10**). The TRO shall maintain radio communications with the Driver during the entire period.
 - (b) The **Pit Radio Official (PRO)** shall be the only source of official H1 information to the TRO (flags, starts, infractions, disqualifications, race stoppages, etc.) during this period.

A separate frequency (or frequencies) shall be established for transmissions by and between H1 Media & Communications Teams, H1 Video Production and H1 sUAS Operations.

4. Similarly, the TRO shall also be present in the Corral and maintain communications with the Driver during any Time Trial and at any time two or more Boats are testing simultaneously.

REVISION LOG:

Approved by the H1 Board of Directors on May 17, 2020
Amended and Supplemented for 2021 on May 8, 2021
Amended and Supplemented for 2022 on February 23, 2022
Amended and Supplemented for 2023 on January 30, 2023 (R2)
Amended and Supplemented for 2024 on April 9, 2024
Amended and Supplemented for 2025 on May 7, 2025

Appendix A

Starting Line Example

