



This 2026-01 Competition Directive was initiated the H1 Board of Directors with input from the H1 Rules and Competition Committee to establish a new race format for the 2026 racing season.

It was agreed that because the new format was untested, the changes would be implemented in the form of Competition Directives rather than a complete re-write of the rule book. This way the changes are more segmented and can be more readily identified than being buried within the rulebook itself.

RACING RULES

A • STARTS

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)**.

Narrative: To remove the requirement to have physical contact with the hull at the five minute mark.

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 **Lane Establishment** 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.
- (i) Before the start of the race, and after the one minute gun, boats must take their chosen lanes at the mid-course buoy on the back stretch and maintain their lane until the start of the race. Racing Overlap rules will apply afterwards.

(ii) If a boat is not in its lane due to a race incident on the course (e.g getting washed down), it shall not be penalized as long as they make an attempt to re-establish their chosen lane until the start of the race. Racing Overlap rules will apply afterwards.

(iii) If a boat is unable to take a start, the empty lane may be taken by the boat on the outside of the empty lane.

(iv) Overlap/Encroachment rules as defined in Rule D.5 will apply

Narrative: (1) To remove the reference to the Score-up buoy. (2) Define rules as to where and when boats need to establish their chosen lane. (3) Establish rule to clarify what a boat is to do if an on course incident occurs. (4) Establish rule covering what can be done in the event of an empty lane.

(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.

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.

Narrative: Remove entire paragraph referring to the Score-up procedure.
Any penalties associated with paragraph 5 were transferred to section E.

D. NAVIGATING THE COURSE / RIGHT OF WAY

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 mid-course buoy on the backstretch** 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**).

Narrative: To remove reference to the Score-up buoy and define where and when boats must occupy their chosen lane.

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).
- (d) A boat that is not in its assigned lane per Rule A.5.(i) above, will be assessed a one minute penalty.
- (e) Any boat that changes lanes in violation of Rule A.5.(i) will be assessed a one minute penalty, or however defined in overlap Rule D.5

Narrative: To establish penalties during the pre-start period

Approved by:

Darrell Strong

Darrell Strong - H1 Board Chair

Date Approved: February 25, 2026

Expiration Date: Dec. 31, 2026