
NHRA STREET LEGAL RACING



From its formation in 1951, the National Hot Rod Association has worked tirelessly to eliminate the illegal and dangerous practice of street racing, and to this day, that continues to be one of the association's primary missions.

Since 1951, NHRA has worked in conjunction with local law-enforcement agencies, city planners, schools, and other parties to educate and persuade would-be racers to participate in organized events held in a controlled environment. Beginning with dry lake beds and abandoned airport runways, the sport of NHRA Drag Racing has since grown to include a worldwide network of nearly 150 member tracks.

NHRA's efforts to combat illegal street racing continue to this day with the NHRA Drags: Street Legal Style program at the forefront of the movement. One of the most effective tools in the fight against illegal street racing is the establishment of Street Legal events held regularly at NHRA member tracks.

The Street Legal category is reserved for foreign and domestic OEM production type automobiles, motorcycles, and trucks. All vehicles must be street driven and drivers must carry a state-issued proof of registration and valid insurance information. All vehicles must also display a valid license plate(s).

Vehicles participating in Street Legal events must be able to pass all state highway safety requirements for the state in which the vehicle is registered and retain all OEM safety features.

For Street Legal motorcycles, 2008 and newer are permitted to run no quicker than 9.00 (*5.65 eighth-mile) and/or no faster than 150 mph. Motorcycles must follow E.T. Motorcycle guidelines for safety requirements.

Additionally, requirements and specifications for Street Legal competitors and other local NHRA member track events are the same as those for the Summit E.T. Racing Series with the following exceptions:

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2008-2013 OEM model-year production cars are permitted to run no quicker than 10.00 (*6.40 eighth-mile) and/or no faster than 135 mph.

2014-Curent OEM model-year production cars are permitted to run no quicker than 9.00 (*5.65 eighth-mile) and/or faster than 150 mph.

Drivers in vehicles running slower than 11.50 (*7.35 eighth-mile) and/or slower than 135 mph are required to wear full-length pants (no shorts); shirt- or long-sleeved shirt (no tank tops); closed shoes (no open-toe or open-heel shoes or sandals); socks and a helmet. See General Regulations 10:7 for helmet requirements.

Drivers in vehicles running quicker than 11.49 (*7.35 eighth-mile) or slower than 9.00 (*5.65 eighth-mile) or faster than 135 mph or slower than 150 mph are required to wear a minimum SFI 3.2A/1 jacket; full-length pants (no shorts); closed shoes (no open-toe or open-heel shoes or sandals); socks and a helmet. See General Regulations 10:7 for helmet requirements.

Unaltered OEM, antilock brakes, airbag functions, stock frame\unibody construction, including floors and firewall, as well as all other OEM safety-related systems, must be functioning as per manufacturer's specifications.

Tires used may be other than OEM, but they must be DOT-approved.

Convertibles quicker than 13.49 (*8.25 eighth-mile) and T-tops quicker than 11.49 (*7.35 eighth-mile) must meet Summit Racing Series roll-bar and roll-cage requirements.

NHRA Level 7C license is available but not required for drivers running slower than 9.99 (*6.39 eighth-mile) or slower than 135 mph.

NHRA Level 6C license is required for drivers running quicker than 9.99 (*6.39 eighth-mile) and slower than 9.00 (*5.65 eighth-mile) or faster than 135 mph or slower than 150 mph).

At designated Street Legal events, only legitimate street-legal machines are permitted to participate. Although the competition structure can vary from track to track, a strong emphasis is placed on fun and providing a welcoming environment for first-time and inexperienced new racers.

Many Street Legal events will feature open time trials and grudge racing only, which typically allows each participant an opportunity to make as many passes down the dragstrip as possible. The Grudge Racing element allows participants to choose their competition as opposed to participating in an organized eliminator.

Win or lose, a grudge racing participant may return to the staging lanes for more time trials or additional grudge runs. Losing a race at a Street Legal event does not typically mean it's time to go home. Street Legal events provide a legal and controlled environment where racers of all skill levels enjoy the sport of NHRA Drag Racing.