

# THUNDER VALLEY 2024 Back to the Beginning Rules

Please note changes to the 2024 Rules. Please read carefully. If car does not pass inspection or driver is unwilling to change car to pass inspection, absolutely no refunds!!! All rules will be followed or you will not run! **IF IT DOES NOT SAY IT IN THE RULES IT IS ILLEAGLE - DON'T JUST ASSUME YOU CAN DO IT. CALL FIRST!!!!**

1. **THUNDER VALLEY HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY AND SPECTATOR ADMITTANCE.**
2. All cars should be signed in two hours before race time and inspected one hour before race time. Late fee will apply, drivers \$100. This is to ensure the race starts on time.
3. Top five in feature must actively compete at end, no driving yourself on barriers or dirt berms. Failure to comply could result in complete restart with all feature qualifiers actively competing again.
4. No reinforcements allowed other than specified below. Any metal added to reinforce the car is illegal.
5. **NO PAINTING, UNDERCOATING, OILING OR GREASING OF FRAMES. YOU WILL NOT BE INSPECTED.**
6. **NO HITTING IN DRIVERS DOOR, but no using driver door as a shield.** If the hit is deemed by the official to be careless or intentional, you will be disqualified. If you use your driver's door as a defense, we will not enforce the rules. If you use the door defense repeatedly you will be disqualified. **This will be at the judges' discretion.**
7. Any open door or second fire will cause disqualification. If in a heat, you may fix it and come back in the consolation. In the feature, you will be disqualified.
8. You must make AGGRESSIVE contact every 60 seconds.
9. Sandbagging is not tolerated and will be strictly enforced. Locking up the brakes prior to a hit for anything other than a driver's door will be cause for disqualification. The fans pay to see a show, put one on for them!
10. **IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS SANDBAGGING, HIT THEIR CAR WITH YOUR CAR ON THE TRACK.**
11. Winning cars plus three out of the money must remain on track until released by officials, or will not be paid prize money. Cars are subject to re-inspection before any prize money is handed out. Cars found illegal will be striped of all prize money for that event.
12. Any questions or controversies will be discussed at the drivers meeting.
13. **YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST A 15" X 15" ROOF SIGN WITH YOUR CAR NUMBER ON IT.**
14. An entry fee of \$40 will be charged for each car entered. \$30 for passenger. Fees must be paid prior to inspection. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE DUE TO FAILURE TO MEET REGULATIONS!**
15. All drivers must pick up trophies and earnings at the completion of the event, or forfeit. They will not be available after that date.
16. All persons **MUST** sign entry form, insurance waiver, release form, pay entry fees, and purchase pit pass before entering pit area.
17. **THERE IS NO ALCOHOL IN THE PITS.** This includes pit crews. If you or ANY of your crew is caught with alcohol, you will be disqualified.
18. No harassing of the judges will be allowed at any time by drivers, passengers, crewmembers or spectators. Failure to abide by this rule, the driver will forfeit all money and all involved will be escorted from premises.
19. All drivers & Riders **MUST** be 18 years or older. **MUST** be able to provide proof of age at the request of officials. Persons under 18 years old **MUST** have parents or guardian sign minor waiver and release form. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## AUTOMOBILE BODY REGULATIONS

## **ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

1. Passenger cars or station wagons only. No trucks, jeeps, hearses, or limousines. **NO CHRYSLER IMPERIALS 73 & OLDER AND NO IMPERIAL SUB-FRAMES. NO 61 – 69 LINCOLNS.** Cars previously run in Demolition Derby may install new front clip. Any clip may be used on any car, **MUST** be installed in stock manner. Officials **MUST** approve installation.
2. All glass, side windows, rear windows, headlights and taillights, must be removed before reaching racetrack. Rolling down windows is not permitted.
3. Rear seat of sedan must be removed, top and bottom. On station wagons all seats and decking must be removed. Station wagons must be emptied to floorboards. All cars must be swept clean, both drivers compartment and trunk. No spare tires, broken glass, or trash, etc., allowed in cars.
4. Cars must have a seatbelt and working brakes. **MANDATORY!!**
5. You can carry a fire extinguisher, but it must be mounted securely and free of movement.
6. Battery may be moved, but must be securely fastened and covered in passenger compartment. **MAXIMUM OF TWO AUTOMOBILE TYPE BATTERIES ALLOWED.**
7. Any type automotive radiator may be used but must be mounted in stock position. **NO RESERVE TANKS.** One electric fan may be used. **NO REINFORCEMENT OR ADDED METAL ON RADIATOR SUPPORT.**
8. **Fasten door in 6 places, 4 strands of #9 wire or chain per seam or three straps front and rear on each door, straps should not be larger than ¼" thick, 2 inches wide, or 5 inches long, NO EXCEPTIONS .**
9. **No doubling of body panels allowed, no added metal allowed.**
10. Patching floorboards, if you have to patch rusty floorboards you must cut out all the rust, overlap no more than 1" with same thickness as body material and sheet metal screws – no more than one every 4". **No Welding to floorboards or firewall.**
11. **NO OTHER BODY WELDS OTHER THAN WHAT IS LISTED ABOVE.**

# THUNDER VALLEY 2024 Back to the Beginning Rules

## HOODS, TRUNKS, AND BODY BOLTS

## **ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

1. Hoods must have two (2) holes, at least four (4) inches in diameter on each side of carburetor – Not directly on top of carburetor. IF HOOD IS REMOVED, EITHER FAN BLADE MUST BE REMOVED OR FAN BELT MUST BE CUT.
2. On all cars, hoods, trunks, and tailgates may be secured with the following method: on front of car, two pieces of 3/4 inch all thread, with a washer no larger than four (4) inches O.D. and 1/4 inch thick, all threads MUST be mounted outboard of the radiator. **ALL THREAD CAN NOT BE WELDED TO FRAME. CAN NOT HAVE ROUND OR SQUARE TUBING WELDED VERTICAL ON FRAME.** In addition to all threads, six (6) 1/2 inch O.D. bolts with a stamped washer. On deck lid of car, two pieces of 3/4 inch all thread, with a washer no larger than four (4) inches O.D. and 1/4 inch thick, all threads may be mounted through deck lid and frame anywhere in trunk, cannot be welded to the frame. In addition to all threads, six (6) 1/2 inch O.D. bolts with a stamped washer. On station wagons two pieces of 3/4 inch all thread, with a washer no larger than four (4) inches O.D. and 1/4 inch thick, all threads may be used in the rear through roof and stock body mount replacing existing bolt. In addition to all threads, six (6) 1/2 inch O.D. bolts with a stamped washer.
3. **Body mounts and spacers may be replaced with 1/2" bolts, body spacer must be minimum 1" thick, maximum 3" diameter. You may use one (1) bolt, up to two (2) nuts, and three (3) washers no larger than three (3) inches and 1/4 inch thick. All bolts, nuts, and washers must be in factory location.**
4. A minimum of one chain or wire running from the outside (top) of roof down to the cowl or **BAR DOWN TO DASH BAR OF CAGE** on the front window is MANDATORY for safety. Maximum of two. **REAR WINDOW BARS ARE NOT ALLOWED!**
5. **Body shaping or creasing on rear quarter panels only. Nothing in front of rear door seam.**

## CAGE AND HALO BARS

## **ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

1. All driver and passenger doors may be reinforced. You should have a six (6)-point cage, cross bars may be ran as follows, one across dash, one behind front seats, and one in rear seat area. **You can run four (4) down tubes, two (2) per side welded to top side of frame only. ALL DOWN TUBES MUST BE BEHIND DASH BAR, STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN AND ON FLAT PART OF FRAME. 2" X 4" Max Tube. CAN NOT GO TO BODY MOUNT BOXES.** Lower door bars are allowed between down tubes must be 6 inches or more above floor. **NOTHING OUT OF DRIVERS' COMPARTMENT.** You can have steel plate between cage and front doors. Must be securely fastened to cage. **No grater blades, metal plates or tubing on exterior of body (driver & passenger doors). DOOR BARS CAN NOT BE INSIDE OF DOORS. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY INFORCED!!!**
2. Halo bars are allowed. Can be attached to door bar. Could be run to the floor but it would be counted as one of your down tubes.

## FRAME

## **ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

1. **NO welding on frames allowed...**
2. No suspension modifications allowed. Must remain strictly stock. All trailer hitches **MUST** be totally removed.
3. **FRAME may be cold bent to pitch frame, or you may cut the flaps, top, and back to tilt the frame in 1 place in 1 direction. Single pass welds only! CORE SUPPORT MOUNTS CAN NOT BE REMOVED, RELOCATED, OR REWELDED. Core support spacers may be no more than SIX (6) INCHES TALL!!!**
4. **FULL SIZE CARS ONLY** may have hump plates. Hump plates can be no longer than 22" long; 11" each way from the center of the hump; 1/4" or less thickness; on the outside of the frame only, and must contour to the shape of the frame and **have a 3/8" inspection hole drilled through plate and frame for inspection.**
5. **You cannot alter frame in any way other than specified in rules. Do not crease or reshape frame.**
6. **You cannot add or replace engine cross members.**
7. If you use **FACTORY UPPER TRAY ORIGINAL MUST BE LEFT IN**, non watts tray must be 1" or more from frame rails. It can be bolted or welded. No welds, gussets, or bracing to frame rails. If you use factory lower brackets they must be mounted in factory position. They may be welded with welds no more than the **FACTORY WELDS** would be. **DO NOT OVER WELD!!!** If you use aftermarket or homemade upper or lower brackets they may be bolted only! **Lower brackets may be no longer than 8 inches. NO WELDING AFTERMARKET OR HOMEMADE BRACKETS TO FRAME!!!**
8. You may run one (1) wire or chain from frame rail to frame rail underneath back of car behind rear end.
9. You may notch the frame for minimal pre-bending, but do NOT weld the cut.
10. Buick, Olds or Pontiacs **MAY NOT** fill the large hole in the frame behind the radiator support.
11. If changing front stub, cut 3 inches behind second cross member bolt hole. When replacing, can over lap 2 1/2", able to weld both sides, but no adding extra metal. **MUST BE FROM SAME MAKE AND MODEL.**

# THUNDER VALLEY 2024 Back to the Beginning Rules

- If restubbing one side of the frame, you are allowed to cut and fit the new frame flush and weld one pass all the way around (butt – fit – weld).
- FULL SIZE CARS ONLY** All cars may use 4 – 4” x 4” -1/4” band-aid plates. You may bend them. If you cut them, the piece you cut you throw away. **AFTER INSPECTION, NO PLATES CAN BE WELDED ON. If additional plates are found after inspection you will be disqualified for the rest of the event. 4” x 4” ONLY, any manipulation and YOU WILL TOTALLY REMOVR THEM!**

## BUMPERS

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

- Any OEM stock automobile bumper may be bolted and/or welded to the shock canister or stock bumper brackets. Amounts of bolts or welds may not exceed typical stock installation. **Bumper can also be “hardnosed” to frame if competitor chooses to NOT use shock canisters, you may use one price the width of frame no more than 6” from back of bumper 1/4” thick for this, no welding further than 6 inches from the back of bumper, single pass only. COMPLETE CORE SUPPORT MOUNTS MUST REMAIN IN FACTORY LOCATION!**
- READ FRAME RULES!!!**
- Shocks may be collapsed and welded, single pass only or you may chain, one piece of chain per side BOLTED from the mount to mount to hold on the bumper.
- Must start with stock OEM bumper. Front bumper may be reinforced inside or outside no wider than the bumper shocks. You may weld outer chrome of bumper to inner skin of bumper. Nothing else can be welded to outer chrome. You cannot alter angle of bumper. Anything coming out of bumper during race will be cause for disqualification. No homemade pointy bumpers.
- May have 1/4” X 2” wide strap from bumper to radiator support or body, two on front and two on rear. Only a 2”X2” area on each end of strap may be welded or bolted to bumper and frame or body.

## SUSPENSION

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

- Stiffness of suspension will be left up to the discretion of the driver. **A-Arms may be welded down by using 2 pieces of 2”x 2” x 1/4” per arm (1 front & 1 Rear). IF YOU WELD ANYWHERE ELSE ON A-ARM, OR USE BIGGER STRAP THAN ALLOWED, YOU WILL CUT IT ALL OFF AND RUN WORKING SUSPENSION.**
- Homemade tie rods and homemade steering shaft are permitted.
- Factory spindle swaps are ok. **No fabricated spindles or aftermarket hubs.**

## ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

- Any engine or transmission may be used in any car, but must be mounted in a stock position. **ON A V-BLOCK MOTOR, FRONT SPARK PLUGS MUST BE EVEN OR IN FRONT OF UPPER BALL JOINT; ON IN-LINE MOTORS, NUMBER TWO (2) SPARK PLUG MUST BE EVEN OR IN FRONT OF UPPER BALL JOINT. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY INFORCED!!!**
- Chained, welded, or homemade motor mounts will be permitted, but must meet approval of officials.
- Any type of header is allowed, but must be directed away from driver compartment.
- Transmission oil coolers and engines oil coolers are permitted. All tranny lines must be wrapped or run through PVC. Inspection personnel must approve all mountings, lines, and fittings.
- Skid plates are allowed. Must be separate oil/transmission plates. No full-length skid plates. No bolting or welding to frame.
- Distributor protectors are allowed. Cannot be any wider than 12” and must not protrude more than 2” from transmission mounting surface on back of engine block. Must be attached to engine or transmission mounting bolts. **FIREWALL CAN NOT CONTACT THE CAGE AT ANY TIME. Dash bar must remain 4 “ from firewall at all times, BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DERBY!**
- Transmission protectors are allowed. **MUST HAVE 2” BETWEEN PROTECTOR AND CROSS MEMBER. CAN NOT CONTACT CROSSBER AT ANY TIME IN ANY WAY. PROTECTOR CAN NOT BE WELDED OR BOLTED SOLID TO CROSS MEMBER. MUST FLOAT OVER CROSS MEMBER.**
- IF ORIGINAL CROSS MEMBER IS REPLACED, YOU MAY USE 2” ANGLE IRON OR 2” CHANNEL MAX.** No thicker than 1/4 inch. **NO PIPE OR SQUARE TUBE ALLOWED.**
- IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO HAVE A DISTRIBUTOR AND TRANSMISSION PROTECTOR you may have 2” x 2” pipe or tube, kickers from the front dash bar to the top side of frame, behind a-arms, CAN NOT CONTACT A-ARMS! NO OTHER MATERIAL MAY BE USED. YOU MAY RUN A LOWER CRADLE AND FRONT ENGINE PLATE NOTHING MORE.**

# THUNDER VALLEY 2024 Back to the Beginning Rules

## GAS TANKS

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

1. Stock gas tank MUST be removed. **A METAL BOAT TANK OR HOMEMADE METAL TANK** must be mounted in rear seat area and bolted down with metal straps. **NO PLASTIC TANKS!!!** Other types of installations will not be allowed. **NO GAS CANS** with hoses duct taped. A Marine (boat) tank or an official approved homemade tank is mandatory. All tanks MUST be covered with a rubber cover. All tanks MUST have secure cap. All lines and fittings MUST be leak proof and meet approval of Officials. Electric fuel pumps are permitted but MUST have shut-off within reach of driver. **NO MORE THAN ten (10) GALLONS OF GAS IN TANK.**

## REAR END

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

1. Any automobile rear end can be used in any car. TRUCK OR FLOATER REAR ENDS can be used in any car. **You cannot transform a coil spring to leaf spring or vice versa.** On models originally equipped with leaf springs, stock leaf springs and hangers MUST be used. Leaf packs on all cars may have no more than 8 leaves per pack **Must be OEM stock.** Homemade spring perches or homemade trailing arm brackets may be welded to rear end.
2. Rear end spider gears may be welded solid. You may tilt rear end by shortening or lengthening rear end control arms. Trailing arms may be reinforced. Rear end housing may be reinforced. **No dually wheels allowed.**
3. Any drive shaft or U joint may be used. Welding of drive shaft is permitted.
4. No extra metal added. Any bracket that shows reinforcement to the frame will not be allowed. **JUDGES HAVE FINAL DECISION.**
5. You may have two (2) spring clamps per spring. You pick if you want them in front of or behind axle, or split them between the front and back.

## TIRES

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

1. Only sixteen (16) inch or smaller tires and wheels will be allowed. **NO SPLIT RIMS ALLOWED.**
2. Valve stem protectors, liquid in tires permitted or screws in rims to hold tires in place permitted.

## RACING REGULATIONS

### ALL JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

1. All drivers must wear approved helmets, eye protection, long pants, and shirt.
2. A driver that receives a black flag for an intentional door hit will be disqualified from all competition for that night. A driver that receives a black flag for sandbagging or two fires will be disqualified, if in heat you may go to consolation. **This will be at the judges' discretion.**
3. All drivers must attend drivers' meeting prior to derby.
4. All cars must be removed from derby site by 12:00 noon the following day unless otherwise stated at drivers meeting. Failure to do this will result in cars being removed by and becoming property of local salvage operator.

### MINI CAR RULES

Same rules as full size derby except as follows:

1. Must be powered by four or six cylinder engine.
2. Rear wheel drive wheelbase must be 108 inches or less. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. **Full Size Front wheel drive wheelbase must be 108 inches or less. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
4. **Mid Size Front wheel drive wheelbase must be 112 inches or less. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
5. **All Mini's Over 108 Inches Check Classification of your car Before You Enter.**
6. No four-wheel drive vehicles.
7. MANDATORY! All four/six cylinder cars must have a cage. Four point minimum.
8. **MINI CARS may be cold bent to pitch frame. CORE SUPPORT SPACERS MAY BE NO MORE THAN SIX (6) INCHES TALL!!!**
9. **NO REINFORCEMENT OR ADDED METAL ON RADIATOR SUPPORT. Radiator support must remain strictly stock. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
10. Stock gas tank MUST be removed. **A METAL BOAT TANK OR HOMEMADE METAL TANK** must be mounted in rear seat area and bolted down with metal straps. **NO PLASTIC TANKS!!!**
11. All lines under car must be steel lines or if running rubber lines they must be inside of the car.
12. If OEM bumper had no bumper bolts, homemade bumper brackets may go six (6) inches from back side of bumper.
13. No pipe over struts.

Any questions contact: Troy Rubenacker 618-841-1388