

What is a Drag Race?

In basic terms, a drag race is an acceleration contest from a standing start between two vehicles over a measured distance on a drag strip. These races are started by an electronic device known as a “Christmas Tree”. Upon leaving the starting line, each racer activates a timer that is, in turn, stopped when the same vehicle reaches the finish-line. The start-to-finish clocking is the vehicle’s E.T. (elapsed time).

What is Bracket Racing?

NHRDA uses Bracket Racing (Handicap Racing) for its Sportsman Diesel Category. This type of racing enables vehicles of varying E.T.s to compete on an equal basis. Each racer is allowed to give an anticipated E.T. which is called a “Dial-in”. The vehicle with the slower Dial-in will receive a head start on the starting-line.

Here is how it works. If truck A chooses a dial of 16.00 and truck B chooses a dial of 14.50, truck A will get 1.5 second head start. If both trucks cover the quarter-mile in exactly the same time as their dial-ins, then the win will go to the driver with the best reaction time, or to which driver reacts quickest to the green light on the Christmas Tree.

If a driver runs quicker than his or hers dial-in, he or she is said to “break out” and is disqualified. If both drivers run quicker than their dial-ins, the win goes to the driver who breaks out by the least. A red-light or foul start, takes precedent over a breakout, so a driver who red-lights is automatically disqualified even if his or her opponent breaks out.

What is a Breakout?

If a racer goes quicker than his or her dial-in, it is a breakout and grounds for disqualification. If both racers go quicker than their dial-ins, the win goes to the racer that goes under their dial-in by the least amount.

What is a Red-light?

A red-light is when a racer leaves the starting line before the green light has come on, this is a disqualification during eliminations. If both drivers have red lights, it is a case of the first racer to go red is disqualified

Pre-Stage Indicator Lights:

Yellow bulbs warn drivers that they are approaching the starting line and the “staged” position.

Stage Indicator Lights:

Signals drivers that they are on the starting line and ready to make a run. These yellow bulbs come on when the front wheels of the race car interrupt the beam from a light source to the photo cells. These same photo cells start the timing equipment.

Three Amber Start System:

When all three amber floodlights in a driver’s lane flash simultaneously before the green light comes on, this is called a “ProTree” system (ie. Top Diesel, Pro Stock, Pro Street, Super Street and Super Diesel). Racers running in Sportsman Diesel get a countdown of one amber light at a time until the green light comes on, this is called a “sportsman tree” system. The “pro tree” system runs with a .4 second difference between the amber and green lights. The “sportsman tree” system runs a .5 second difference between bulbs.

Green Light:

Once the green light is flashed, the driver in that lane is free to make a run down the track. Any time the green light is shown in a driver’s lane it indicates that a fair start was accomplished.

Red Light:

When a car leaves the starting line before the green light comes on the red light will flash in that lane. It indicates the driver in that lane has been disqualified. During time trials red lights are ok, but in eliminations red lights will disqualify a driver.

