



3-6-9 Rule: ROOKIE STATUS DESIGNATIONS

The **3-6-9 Rule** is a way by which The Vintage Auto Racing Association allows novice and experienced racers to safely and expediently become a part of the challenging and exciting sport of vintage motorsports that VARA provides. Its purpose is to offer guidance and review to incoming drivers of all experience levels. Within the following guideline is the flexibility for any driver to pass through VARA's rookie program quickly and easily while gaining valuable on and off track experience.

This process classifies drivers into one of three classes of experience. Any driver may be advanced to the next level of rookie classification based on both performance and attitude. For many drivers that come to VARA with previous racing experience, the possibility of moving through the program in one or two events is foreseeable. For our less experienced drivers, we provide the opportunity for both classroom and on track instruction that guarantees by the end of the process, they are familiar with all the circuits that VARA races at with a full understanding of the expectations of safety and attitude that is integral to future participation. In addition, rookie drivers off all class levels are provided with 50% more seat time at any given VARA sanctioned event.

This qualification process exemplifies our commitment providing the safest and most enjoyable introduction to racing within the vintage auto racing community. Welcome to VARA. Have fun and be safe.

Article I. THREE: (total race weekends) Rookie - Class 3

Section 1.01 Each incoming participant considered a Rookie Class 3 driver must compete for 3 race weekends including attendance at the each event Ground School and obtain the signed approval from the Chief Driving Instructor, prior to achieving rookie Class 2 status.

Section 1.02 Rookie Class 3 status may be waived and the driver advanced to Class 2 status upon request and documentation by any driver with prior racing experience. This written request shall prompt a review and ruling by the Chief Driving Instructor and the driver's Class Representative.

Section 1.03 Rookie probation restrictions and on track performance.

- (a) The 'four off' rule for drivers with full competition status does not require a mandatory trip to the black flag. This is not an option for rookie drivers of any level. Four wheels off the paved track surface and / or spins which place the drivers racecar in a position contrary to the direction of race traffic on or off the track surface, require rookies to report to the Black Flag Station immediately, without exception.
- (b) Any rookie reporting to the Black Flag station for any reason including those of a mechanical nature, must also report to the Chief Driving Instructor prior to gridding for their next session, without exception. Non-compliance with this requirement will result in an additional on track black flag notification and termination of the current track session for the rookie.

Section 1.04 Grid position for all Class 3 rookies shall be in the back of the field their respective Class for the entire race event weekend.

- (a) This requirement may be waived by request of the driver to the Chief Driving Instructor. A ruling will be made upon review in conjunction with the driver's Class Representative.

Section 1.05 All Class 3 rookies must display Rookie stripes on four locations of their racecar as prescribed and approved by the Chief Driving Instructor. Rookie stripes shall be provided to the drivers during their first

Ground School.

Section 1.06 Rookie Class 3 point awards structure

- (a) Points awarded for Class 3 rookies shall only apply to the overall rookie point's championship. Points accumulated during the first three races for any rookie will not carry over to their respective class and will not be considered for determination of Class Champions or Overall Points Champion.
- (b) First place finishes in their respective race classification shall result in the award of a checkered flag solely for their performance as a rookie.
- (c) Finishing positions, championship points and checkered flag awards for veteran drivers will not be affected by the presence of any Class 3 rookie competing in the same race or qualifying session.

Article II. **SIX:** (total race weekends including Class 3 events) **Rookie - Class 2**

Section 2.01 All VARA Drivers, including those with full competition status, moving between racecar classes shall be subject reinstatement of Class 2 rookie status. This determination shall be made as a result of a review by the drivers current and future Class Reps, the Class Rep Chairman and the Chief Driving Instructor under the following criteria.

- (a) Driver's performance to date.
- (b) Differential of driving technique required between the drivers previous and new racecar.
- (c) Differential of track speed between the driver's current and future Car Classification.

Section 2.02 Class 2 rookies compete under standard rookie probation restrictions as stated in article 1, section 1.03.

Section 2.03 Class 2 rookies are entitled to all other the rights and benefits of those drivers with full competition status.

- (a) Class 2 rookies are allowed to run all their specific class sessions in addition to rookie sessions scheduled for any event weekend.
- (b) Class 2 rookies compete for grid position as established for each event, just as any other driver with full competition status.
- (c) Class 2 rookies with one or more black flag infraction(s), other than mechanical black flag notifications, during sessions in which track times determine a drivers subsequent grid position, shall be gridded at the back of the field of their respective class for their next competitive session.
- (d) Class 2 points awards shall be credited toward Class championship(s) and the Overall Points championship.
- (e) Class 2 rookies are welcome and encouraged to participate in both rookie practices as well as the rookie races in addition to their respective class practices and qualifying events.

Section 2.04 Class 2 rookies are required to participate in rookie track tours for each of their first six competitive events. This must be completed prior to a rookies first practice grid for within their respective car class.

Section 2.05 All Class 2 rookies must display Rookie stripes on four locations of their racecar as prescribed and approved by the Chief Driving Instructor.

- (a) Rookie Class 2 may be advanced to Class 1 status upon request of the rookie driver initiating a review of the drivers performance and experience followed by a ruling from the Chief Driving Instructor and the driver's Class Representative.

Article III. **NINE:** (total race weekends including Class 2 & 3 events) **Rookie - Class 1**

Section 3.01 Class 1 rookies compete under standard rookie probation restrictions as stated in article 1, section 1.03.

Section 3.02 Rookies Class 1 drivers are required to display Rookie stripes on four locations of their

racecar as prescribed and approved by the Chief Driving Instructor.

Section 3.03 Class 1 rookies are entitled to all other the rights and benefits of those drivers with full competition status.

- (a) Class 1 rookies are allowed to run all their specific class sessions in addition to rookie sessions scheduled for any event weekend.
- (b) Class 1 rookies compete for grid position as established for each event, just as any other driver with full competition status.
- (c) Class 1 rookies with 2 or more black flag infraction(s), other than mechanical black flag notifications, during sessions in which track times determine a drivers subsequent grid position, shall be gridded at the back of the field of their respective class for their next competitive session.
- (d) Class 1 point awards shall be credited toward Class championship(s) and the Overall Points championship.
- (e) Class 1 rookies are welcome and encouraged to participate in both rookie practices as well as the rookie race in addition to their respective class practice and qualifying event.

Section 3.04 The nine race probationary requirements may be waived by the following.

- (a) Upon request of the rookie driver initiating a review of the drivers performance and experience followed by a ruling from the Chief Driving Instructor and the driver's Class Representative.
- (b) Rookie drivers may shorten their rookie probation period by one race by volunteering to work an entire race weekend at the Black Flag Station during an event in which they are not competing.