



## **2021 RULES**

### **1. DRIVER SPECIFICATION**

1. Driver must be in the Instructor or Advanced group. Drivers not meeting this criteria may petition the Chief Instructor for approval.

### **2. VEHICLE SPECIFICATION**

#### **1. *Chassis***

1. 1992 or newer Ford Crown Victoria
2. 1992 or newer Mercury Grand Marquis
3. 1991 or newer Lincoln Town Car

2. Vehicle must weigh 4150 pounds with driver directly after a race.

1. A stock vehicle will qualify

3. Vehicle must have the following factory equipment intact (if any or all of these items are not in place, a 200lb weight penalty will be incurred PER item):

- Vehicle must have the following equipment intact:

1. Carpet or vinyl/rubber floor
2. Functional radio
3. Passenger seat
4. AC/heat (does not have to be working, but entire system must be intact)
5. Horn

1. Sirens may be substituted in place of horn

- Vehicle must have the following OEM components intact, no exceptions:

1. Dash

2. Door panels
  3. Headliner
- Ballast must be secured in the trunk. Trunk bulk head must remain in place.

### 3. **Engine**

0. Engine must be OEM 4.6L 2V configuration.
  1. This includes but is not limited to all internals, heads, cam, intake manifold.
  2. The only exception is an aftermarket cold air intake.
1. Engine parts from later model years are permitted.
2. Exhaust manifold(s) must be stock 4.6L. All other exhaust components may be modified.
3. Factory stock OEM ECU is mandatory.
4. Larger radiators along with additional engine, transmission, and/or differential coolers are permitted to promote ruggedness and reliability.
5. All vehicles may be subject to dyno evaluation if they are seen as suspect from the Competition Director.

### 4. **Drive Train**

0. OEM drive train configuration must be maintained.
  1. Ford Model AODE, 4R70W, 4R75 transmissions are the only model of transmission allowed.
    1. Modifications to improve reliability such as shift kits and improved cooling are allowed.
  2. Any OEM limited slip differential is permitted.

### 5. **Chassis**

0. Aftermarket A arms, trailing arms, control arms, etc. are prohibited.
  1. Any OEM spring is permitted.
  2. Adjustable coilovers are prohibited.
  3. Any OE equivalent non-adjustable damper is allowed.
  4. Aftermarket performance sway bars are prohibited.

5. Any OEM sway bar is permitted.
6. No exposed holes are allowed in the firewall.
7. Battery must remain in the stock location.
  1. Lead acid or gel batteries only.

#### 6. **Brakes**

0. Any factory OE Panther brake caliper required.
1. One piece stock-size rotors are mandatory.
2. Any brake pad compound is permitted.

#### 7. **Wheels**

0. Wheel adapters are prohibited.
1. Spacers are prohibited.

#### 8. **Tires**

0. We are working with a partner for a possible spec tire – TBD.
1. Must not exceed 275mm in width.
2. Minimum treadwear rating of 350.

#### 9. **Body**

0. All body panels must be in place.
  1. Missing body panel will constitute a last place start.
1. All factory glass must be in place.
2. Aerodynamic modifications are prohibited.

#### 10. **Safety**

0. The same level of safety equipment must be in place for all occupants of the vehicle.
1. All factory seat belts must function and be of serviceable quality.
  1. Properly installed harnesses may be substituted for factory seat belts.
2. Tow points must be present in both the front and rear of the vehicle and must be clearly labeled.
3. Headlights, taillights, blinkers and wipers must all be in place and functional.

4. Fire extinguisher is mandatory.
  1. 2lb minimum for standard extinguisher or 22oz FireAde.
  2. Must be mounted within reach of the driver
5. Personal Safety Equipment
  1. Helmet – SA2010 minimum
  2. Seat belts (2019 rules, will change for 2020):
    1. 3 point belt – recommended Simpson Hybrid S type neck restraint.
    2. 5/6 point belt – Simpson Hybrid S type or HANS style neck restraint required.
    3. 4 point belt – prohibited.
  3. SFI 3.2A/1 rated fire suit (Nomex underwear or equivalent, or SFI 3.2A/5 rated suit recommended).
  4. Nomex fire retardant gloves.
  5. SFI rated racing shoe or full coverage leather shoes.

#### **11. *Specifically Prohibited***

0. Any modifications not specifically approved above are prohibited and will result in likely disqualification, so do not try to get away with unapproved modifications.
1. Any Mercury Marauder specific components are prohibited.
2. Superchargers, turbos and nitrous are prohibited.

#### **12. EVENTS**

0. Events will be conducted “Time Attack” style with competition based on lap times. This is not “wheel to wheel” racing, but race against the clock.
1. Lap times will be based on a best flying lap with times recorded by event officials via transponder.
2. Laps can be run during any or all of the three designated 20-minute sessions held throughout the day’s event.
3. A daily winner will be determined for each event.
4. There will be 6 regular season events and a Championship

5. Teams must participate in a minimum of 3 regular season races and the Championship
6. Points will be accumulated at each event to determine a season winner.
7. The number of points available for a given event is based on finishing position. Points awarded will be based on the following formula:  
Primary Earned Points =  $100 - (\text{finishing position} - 1)$   
As an example, 1st place finish  
 $= 100 - (1 - 1)$   
 $= 100 - (0)$   
 $= 100$  points  
As an example, 6th place finish  
 $= 100 - (6 - 1)$   
 $= 100 - (5)$   
 $= 95$  points
8. Awards and prizes will be given for top 3 finishing positions at each event.
9. The mandatory series sponsor sticker pack must be displayed on each competing vehicle in accordance with livery guidelines.
10. Each participant is responsible for any and all cleanup and/or damages, including legal fees, caused by themselves or their vehicle during any and all portions of the event. Entrants will not be permitted to compete in subsequent events until damages are paid in full.
11. Participants that drive unsafely or exhibit unsafe behavior, at the sole discretion of Spec Panther officials, will be immediately disqualified and removed from the event without the refund of any entry fees.
12. Any vehicle that spins, loops or leaves the track surface (4 wheels off) for any reason will be black flagged and required to report directly to the Spec Panther event steward as soon as safely possible. Multiple black flags issued to a participant will result in the loss of championship points or immediate dismissal from the event.
13. Protest – any participant may file a rule protest against any other participant by submitting a written inquiry directly and in-person to the SPEC PANTHER event/competition director, along with a \$200 protest fee. Protests may only happen during the actual event wherein the car or driver in question is participating. SPEC PANTHER officials will immediately review the request and make a determination on the inquiry. If a participant is deemed to be in

violation of the rules, a championship points penalty, to be determined by the competition director, will be assessed or they will be immediately placed in the exhibition class and the protest fee will be returned to the protester. If the inquiry is found to be within the confines of the rules, the protest fees will not be returned and both participants will be returned to the event. Protests must be filed during the event and at least 30 minutes before the scheduled awards ceremony. This is supposed to be a friendly competition; our preference is that competitors talk to each other about misunderstandings before filing a formal protest.

14. Conduct detrimental to the series/sponsors/competitors: All competitors of Spec Panther Series shall uphold the Basic Event Rules in order to promote, elevate and enhance the name, brand and reputation of the organization, including its staff, directors, sponsors, volunteers and all those affiliated in any way with the Spec Panther Series. ANY act that is ruled to be detrimental to the event, series, sponsors or staff may result in a championship points penalty or removal from the event and/or series. The competition director will have complete discretion to implement penalties for any reason. Rules, infraction level, or "spirit of the event" interpretation will be at the sole discretion of the SPEC PANTHER competition director, steering committee or event organizers, and all decisions are final.

*This is the second season so the rules will probably change as we figure things out. Be cool, contribute, and have fun!*