



IHRA AND SPEED SPORT ANNOUNCE 2026 BROADCAST PLANS AND SCHEDULE FOR OUTLAW NITRO SERIES

MOORESVILLE, NC — In its inaugural year under the new ownership of Darryl Cuttel last year, the IHRA recorded explosive growth of its audience across multiple broadcast platforms. With a multi-year agreement with SPEED SPORT and world-class production, the IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series set a high bar for engaging fans both at the track, at home and on the go — and is raising the bar even higher in 2026.

IHRA IS ON THE MOVE — The IHRA has been on the move during the off-season, acquiring and investing in multiple racetracks including Virginia Motorsports Park, Maple Grove Raceway, Atlanta Dragway, Memphis Motorsports Park, Heartland Park, and more. In all, IHRA sanctions more than 110 drag racing facilities in the U.S. and around the globe.



IHRA has expanded beyond drag racing as well, launching the IHRA Off Shore Powerboat Series, the IHRA F1 Powerboat Series, the IHRA Stock Car Series, the IHRA Outlaw Drag Boat Series, the IHRA Pro Watercraft Series and IHRA Fendt Pro Pulling League. Broadcast schedules for each series will be announced soon.

The 2026 IHRA Outlaw Series will feature eight events, beginning with the season-opening round March 19-21 at Darana Motorsports Park in Benson, NC (formerly Galot Motorsports Park), and concluding October 22-24 at Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, Ga. The series features a record \$9 million purse and generous support for both sportsman and professional racers. See full printable schedule below.

“For 2026, the IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series is pulling out all the stops,” said Doug Foley, Jr., IHRA COO of Drag Racing. “With huge purses, industry-leading benefits for racers, and a fan-friendly experience at the track, IHRA will build on our success last year and set the bar for all forms of professional racing.” Foley continued, “Our partnerships with SPEED SPORT and Windy City have already been instrumental in showcasing our racers and events. We are excited to build on that success as we continue our partnership this season.”

TRIPLE CROWN — All-new for 2026 is the IHRA Triple Crown Series. This big money, three-event series features a \$1 million bonus for any driver who sweeps either Top Fuel, Funny Car,

Pro Mod and Mountain Motor Pro Stock classes at all three events. Held at historic venues including Darana Raceway - Maple Grove, Darana Raceway -National Trail and Darana Motorsports Park - Memphis. In addition to the \$1 million bonus, the IHRA Triple Crown Series boasts a \$4.36 million purse. Broadcast and schedule details for the stand-alone series will be released soon.

WORLD CLASS PRODUCTIONS — Every IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series event will be broadcast live — with preliminary rounds streamed on SPEED SPORT 2 and IHRA.TV. Pro class qualifying and eliminations will air live on SPEED SPORT 1, with tape-delayed encores typically airing the next day. Full replays will be also available on demand on both SPEED SPORT 2 and IHRA.TV. Highly produced one-hour highlight shows will air every Thursday at 7 p.m. ET in the coveted primetime slot on SPEED SPORT 1.

Windy City Creative Group is orchestrating all IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series productions. Windy City is owned and led by Steve Grein, an Emmy award-winning veteran producer and creative director whose national motorsports broadcast portfolio includes Lucas Oil On The Edge, Red Bull Crandon World Cup, Lucas Oil Off-Road, IHRA Drag Racing, ADRL, Lucas Oil Drag Boats, Pulling, Late Model, Sprint Cars and the Chili Bowl.

“Of all the Motorsports events that I’ve had the privilege of producing, being part of the IHRA has been the most exciting, hands down,” said Grein. “The tools and resources that Darryl, Leah (Martin, IHRA President) and the IHRA team is giving us has allowed me to compile a second to none team that is rich in Motorsports history and TV talent.”

Windy City is also producing other IHRA series including IHRA Stock Car Series, IHRA Fendt Pro Pulling League, IHRA Professional Watercraft Series, Poker Run, IHRA Snowmobile Series, IHRA Outlaw Drag Boats, IHRA F1 Powerboats and more.

NATIONAL BROADCAST TEAM — Ken Stout returns as on-air host for IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series in 2026. A veteran motorsports broadcaster and former racing driver known for his extensive work as a lead announcer for Monster Jam, Lucas Oil Off-Road, Lucas Oil On The Edge and multiple racing series on networks like SPEED, CBS Sports and MAV TV and more.



Joining Ken in the booth again this year is legendary drag racer Tommy Johnson, Jr. as color analyst. “TJ” is a veteran professional drag racer with more than 25 national event wins, distinguished as one of the few drivers to ever win in both the Top Fuel and Funny Car categories and a widely recognized on-air announcer and analyst on television, radio and digital media.

Returning to handle pit reporting duties are “The Kristens”. Kristen Beat is an Emmy-nominated motorsports reporter and broadcast journalist who has covered premier racing series including NASCAR, Supercross, and American Flat Track for major networks like NBC Sports and FOX Sports. At the other end of the track will be Kristin Banks. Banks is a dynamic motorsports reporter and content creator known for her on-air reporting for Arenacross, Bagger Racing League, Moto X Fight Club and more across multiple national networks.



A PROGRAMMING STRATEGY DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE REACH — The SPEED SPORT 1 programming strategy is integral to growing IHRA’s reach. Live sports is leading the rapid growth of streaming television and crucial to both IHRA and SPEED SPORT 1’s strategy. The emphasis on presenting live racing will consistently position IHRA on platform landing pages alongside the biggest and best live sporting events. Furthermore, IHRA events will often follow

other major live events on the network - creating a carry-over boost to an already strong following audience. Furthermore, consistent prime-time placement of “best of” IHRA programming will create ongoing appointment viewing and a consistent platform for promotion and messaging.

The “IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series came off the line in 2025 with very strong audience numbers — driven by the nitro-fueled excitement and world-class production quality,” said Dan Teitscheid, SPEED SPORT 1 President. “With a full schedule in 2026, huge purses and exciting fan-and-racer-friendly approach to the events, these events will resonate with a wide variety of fans - from hard-core adrenaline junkies to casual motorsports fans discovering the excitement of Top Fuel drag racing for the first time.”

WORLD CLASS NETWORK — In addition to its extensive IHRA broadcast portfolio, SPEED SPORT 1 also features broadcast partnerships with other major series and events including Trans Am, Ferrari Challenge, IMCA, Hunt the Front Super Dirt Series, WISSOTA, The Mint 400, Open Wheel Showdown and more.

SPEED SPORT 1 is the leading free ad-supported streaming television network for live racing in the U.S. and Canada...with over 500 hours of live broadcasts scheduled for 2026. Now reaching more than 200 million homes via popular streaming tv platforms such as Amazon Prime, The Roku Channel, Fubo, Plex, STIRR and more.

FREE TO WATCH — Thanks to the tremendous support of sponsors and advertisers, IHRA and SPEED SPORT remain committed to making all broadcasts free to view on all platforms.

About IHRA

The International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) is a motorsports sanctioning body based in the United States, supporting professional and grassroots racing programs across multiple disciplines. With a racer-first approach, IHRA focuses on safety, innovation, and strong partnerships with racers, tracks, and communities.

Media Contact
International Hot Rod Association
media@ihra.com
Website: www.ihra.com

About SPEED SPORT 1

SPEED SPORT 1 is the Great American Motorsports Network. It is a 24/7 free ad supported television destination dedicated to presenting the best live and on-demand motorsports content from North America and around the globe.

Founded by passionate motorsports professionals with backgrounds at ESPN, Speedvision, Speed Channel, FS1, NASCAR, MTV, Disney, and MAVTV, and backed by SPEED SPORT, America’s original motorsports authority - SPEED SPORT 1 is The Great American Motorsports Network.

Visit SPEEDSPORT1.com for more information and how to watch.
Send media inquiries to: info@speedsport.com.



2026 IHRA Outlaw Nitro Series Broadcast Schedule (all times Eastern)

Round 1 | Darana Motorsports Park Benson, NC | March 19 - 21

Thursday March 19	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	10 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday March 20	Pro Am Eliminations	8:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday March 20	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	4:00 PM	SS1
Saturday March 21	Pro Am Eliminations	10:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday March 21	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	12:00 PM	SS1

Tune-in Note: SS1 will break away at 6:00 PM for IHRA Stock Car Series. Tape-delayed coverage of final rounds will continue at 10:00 PM

Saturday March 21	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	10:00 PM	SS1 (tape delayed)
----------------------	--	----------	--------------------

Round 2 | Virginia Motorsports Park Dinwiddie, VA | April 9 - 11

Thursday April 9	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	10 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday April 10	Pro Am Eliminations	8:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday April 10	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	4:00 PM	SS1
Saturday April 11	Pro Am Eliminations	10:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday April 11	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	3:30 PM	SS1

Round 3 | Montgomery Int'l Dragway - Montgomery, AL | May 7 - 9

Thursday May 7	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	11 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday May 8	Pro Am Eliminations	9:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday May 8	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	5:00 PM	SS1

Saturday May 9	Pro Am Eliminations	11:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday May 9	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	1:00 PM	SS1
Round 4 Milan-Darana Dragway - Milan, MI July 9 - 11			
Thursday July 9	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	10 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday July 10	Pro Am Eliminations	8:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday July 10	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	4:00 PM	SS1
Saturday July 11	Pro Am Eliminations	10:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday July 11	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	12:00 PM	SS1
Round 5 Empire Dragway - Leicester, NY July 23 - 25			
Thursday July 23	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	10 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday July 24	Pro Am Eliminations	8:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday July 24	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	4:00 PM	SS1
Saturday July 25	Pro Am Eliminations	10:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday July 25	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	12:00 PM	SS1
Round 6 Darana Dragway 42 - West Salem, OH Aug 13 - 15			
Thursday Aug 13	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	10 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday Aug 14	Pro Am Eliminations	8:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday Aug 14	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	4:00 PM	SS1
Saturday Aug 15	Pro Am Eliminations	10:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday Aug 15	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	12:00 PM	SS1
Round 7 Darana-Heartland Park Motorsports Park - Topeka, KS Oct 8 - 10			
Thursday Oct 8	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	11 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday Oct 9	Pro Am Eliminations	9:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV

Friday Oct 9	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	5:00 PM	SS1
Saturday Oct 10	Pro Am Eliminations	11:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday Oct 10	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	11:00 PM	SS1
Round 8 IHRA WORLD FINALS - Atlanta Dragway - Commerce, GA Oct 22 - 24			
Thursday Oct 22	Pro Am Time Trials & Qualifying	11 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday Oct 23	Pro Am Eliminations	9:30 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Friday Oct 24	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Qualifying	5:00 PM	SS1
Saturday Oct 25	Pro Am Eliminations	11:00 AM	SS2, IHRA.TV
Saturday Oct 10	Pro Mod & Top Fuel Eliminations & Finals	4:30 PM	SS1

All dates/times subject to change. Visit IHRA.com for more information.

— ends —

