

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS + STOCK CAR RACING



GRADE LEVEL: MIDDLE SCHOOL

NASCAR Background

Rules and Fair Play

Every year, NASCAR reviews its rules for each different series. Since 1948, NASCAR has established rules that guide both the mechanics (how to build the car and approve changes) as well as how members (including drivers) should conduct themselves. Currently there are 21 sections to the rule book, including membership, licenses, safety, entries, prize money and points. The rule book also outlines the consequences for violations and disciplinary actions.

Rules for how to build the car and what you can/cannot do have developed and changed based on new technologies and innovations that have allowed the cars to improve. Some of these innovations have resulted in new rules or amendments to rules. Rule changes can occur once a week or every race event. One of NASCAR's primary responsibilities is to ensure fair play, outlined within the rules that govern the competition, teams, members and individuals.

NASCAR, like companies or government agencies, has a checks and balances system designed to provide individuals or teams an appeal to a panel of their peers and unbiased officials if they feel the violation or disciplinary action was not fair or within the rules. Situations are reviewed, and the panel can make recommendations based on their review.

Safety is another important part of the rules. Safety of each person – from the driver to the fan – is critical for NASCAR. Responsibilities include ensuring proper use of safety equipment such as helmets, gloves or shoes and the safety in the design of the car. Although NASCAR allows changes to certain parts of the car, the cockpit or greenhouse where the driver sits is the same in every car. The safety of the driver is critical when driving at 200 mph.

