

HPI Baja Endurance Challenge Rules

Welcome to the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge

Thank you for participating in the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge! For several years, the HPI Challenge has been a way for new and experienced racers from around the world to get together and just have fun racing and competing in an organized, friendly way. We know that many people enjoy running their Baja buggy with friends, and we decided to provide a competitive format for racers to meet, have fun and race with other Baja buggy fanatics!

These rules are provided as a way to provide a fair and equal racing opportunity for racers across many countries and languages.

While these rules are provided specifically for the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge Series Final race, they may be used by any country participating in the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge Series, either as a guide or the actual set of rules used by that country.

Where these rules do not specifically state, the EFRA rules will be used as a guideline or specific clarification, please see the EFRA rule handbook: <http://www.efra.se/pages/rules/rules.html>

All the staff at HPI Racing hope that you will have a fun and fulfilling racing experience with your Baja buggy!

Sincerely,
Frank McKinney
HPI Marketing

Official Language

English will be the official language of the event. Please make sure that at least one person on your team can understand instructions and converse in English.

Weekend schedule

Friday: Registration, booking in, track setup

- 09:00-12:00 registration and booking-in
- 12:00-13:00 reception at town hall
- 13:00-15:00 technical inspection
- 15:00-19:00 free practice
- 20:00 official team reception banquet at the hotel.

Saturday: Qualifying and Race

- 10:00-10:30 qualifying
- 11:30 team presentation
- 12:00-00:00 race.

Sunday: Prizes, Raffle and Party

- 00:30 prize presentation and raffle draw
- driver party after presentation.

Car

HPI Baja car only. No other make/brand/car allowed.

Options and Modifications

Unless otherwise allowed elsewhere in these rules, only HPI, HB or Edit parts specifically made for the Baja 5B buggy are allowed. To provide fairness for all racers, the official options must be announced on the HPI EU website on or before 1 July 2008. New parts are only announced when they are in stock at HPI EU, so distributors will have a chance to order the parts in time for the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge Finals.

No non-HPI, non-HB, or non-Edit options or hand-made modifications are allowed that affect suspension geometry, provide substantial weight changes, etc. If in doubt, please contact HPI staff before the event or before racing starts to verify the legality of the part/modification. Have a supply of spare parts to return your car to stock form in case your modification is not allowed.

Some simple modifications will be allowed to improve durability or maintenance, however they must be *simple* modifications *any* team can do and not consist of extensive modifications. Examples of these modifications will be on the HPI EU website. Racers and teams can check the official Baja Endurance Challenge Finals web page for allowed modifications:

<http://www.hpi-europe.com/bajaecsf.php>

Non-HPI parts

In general, using non-HPI ball bearings, screws, air filters, washers, shims, nylon ties, shock covers, etc., are allowed within the 'spirit' of the rules. However, any attempts to modify any component, system or part of the car using these parts will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

Technical Inspection

HPI reserve the right to require any race team to disassemble any parts of the car (engine, tyres, brake, diff, etc.) while under inspection.

Dimensions

The length and width of the standard Baja 5B or SS buggy is not to be altered.

Engine

Only standard HPI 23cc and 26S engines are allowed. Any spark plug may be used. Any air filter or cover may be used. Filter or cover of pullstart is allowed. Modification of any internal or external engine part is not allowed whatsoever.

Fuel Tank & Fuel

Only the standard HPI Baja fuel tank is allowed. No modifications are allowed. Only standard-size fuel tubing is allowed. Excessive lengths of fuel tubing will not be permitted. A single in-line fuel filter is allowed. Fuel will be from normal 'pump' sources (i.e., a car petrol station) and supplied in the fuelling area at the race track. Custom mixed or race fuels are not allowed. No additives are allowed. HPI reserve the right to check any race team's car for fuel capacity.

Drivetrain

Clutch, spur gear and all other parts of the drivetrain must be as standard, except for HPI or Edit option parts. Any diff oil or grease may be used.

Suspension

HPI shocks must be used. Altering suspension geometry in any way is not allowed. Any shock oil may be used. Shock 'socks' may be used.

Brakes

Rear wheel brake must be as standard. HPI options are allowed. No front brakes of any type are allowed.

Tyres

Race teams will be supplied with soft compound Dirt Buster front and rear tyres (#4737 & #4736) for the race. Tyres may not be cut, narrowed, widened, glued together or modified in any way. Glue may be used only to attach tyres to wheels.

Bodyshell & Wing

Only HPI Baja polycarbonate upper and lower bodyshells are allowed. Windows are allowed on the roll cage to keep rain & dirt off the air filter.

Only standard HPI Baja rear wings are allowed, no additional material to be added other than decals, etc. No other wings, fins, etc. are allowed anywhere on the car.

Race teams are encouraged to paint the bodyshell with their national flags or colours!

Electronics

Only radio frequencies allowed in Spain are allowed. This includes 40 MHz frequencies. Three sets of frequency crystals are required. For a complete list of frequencies allowed, please see this link: http://www.rc-network.de/magazin/artikel_05/art_05-027/laender/ESP.pdf It is up to the race teams to supply their own legal frequencies. If a team does not use a legal frequency, race officials will not be able to help in the case of radio problems.

2.4GHz frequencies are also allowed, we recommend this type of radio system to prevent radio conflicts and frequency changes. However, if a high frequency radio system is used, race officials will not be able to help in case of radio interference.

Data devices are allowed. If these devices transmit information to the race team while the car is on the track, these devices are not allowed to interfere with any teams' radio equipment. HPI reserve the right to require the removal of data devices from team cars if they are thought to interfere with radio equipment.

Optional receiver batteries are allowed in the Baja cars, however the weight of the race car must not be below the weight of a standard Baja 5B. If using

lithium-polymer or lithium-ion batteries, reasonable protection is suggested to prevent any problems. Only Li-Po or Li-Ion chargers are to be used, at a proper charging rate. If in doubt about the safety of the batteries we suggest a charging 'sack' or pouch type container to prevent any damage to the pit area or car. HPI reserve the right to require fireproof charging sacks or pouches for Li-Po or Li-Ion batteries.

Transponders must be 'personal' type transponders with a serial number. One transponder per car must be provided by the race team.

Race Team

A race team will consist of a minimum of four racers from the same country. Any team may have a maximum of six racers.

For insurance purposes, **all** team members must be members of their country's RC racing organization (BRCA, AECAR, DMC, etc.). Team managers will be required to provide proof of membership for each team member at the time of registration.

Race teams are encouraged to bring their national flag, and wear their national colours during the team presentations on Saturday!

One member of the race team must be the 'manager' – the team manager is required to speak English as this is the official language of the HPI Baja Endurance Challenge Finals. *Only* the team manager may discuss penalties, infringements, complaints and/or grievances with HPI staff. If any member of a team causes a disruption to the race, impedes or harasses race officials, track staff or HPI staff members, that driver or their team may be subject to disqualification, dismissal, banning, etc., from the track and race weekend.

The team manager is required to attend the team manager meeting to be held at the start of the race weekend (Saturday morning). If any issues make themselves known that could affect the race weekend, further team manager meetings may be announced. These meetings cannot begin without all team managers being present, so prompt attendance is required. Reference EFRA rule 8.8

Race Rules

Penalties and Flags

Reference EFRA rule 8.9 and 8.10. Race officials and HPI staff will discuss penalties with team managers ONLY.

Race Format

All practice, qualifying and race times will be run regardless of the weather or lighting conditions.

Marshals

- Race teams must provide at least one marshal at all times. Each marshal must pick up any damaged or crashed cars in their area of the track. Depending on the number of teams, some teams may not have to marshal for the duration of each track period.
- Marshals must be members of a race team.
- Teams may alternate who is marshalling for their team at any time, taking care not to cross the track at a dangerous area.
- Marshals must carefully watch their area of the track.
- Only marshals are allowed to be on the track. Mechanics or pit crew are not allowed to be on the track and must stay in the pit area or pit lane.
- In the case of a car engine stopping, only three attempts are allowed to restart the car. After this time, the car must be brought to the edge of the track. A mechanic may retrieve the car from the edge of the track.
- Any team member that is not a marshal who goes onto the track or racing surface and impedes or damages another car will earn a 10-lap penalty for their race team.

Pit Lane

- Up to 2 mechanics or pit crew are allowed into the pit area per team at any time.
- For safety reasons, pit crew are not allowed to step on the pit lane surface.
- Mechanical work such as changing tyres, cleaning, etc., must take place at the front area of the pit lane (the first area approached by the car as it enters pit lane). This area will be approximately the first half of pit lane. Up to 2 mechanics are allowed per car. Mechanics will be positioned under their driver.
- One team member in the pit area must be designated the fuel handler. All fuelling activities (removing fuel cap, adding fuel, securing fuel cap) must take place in the designated fuelling area. The fuel handler must inform the fuel crew when their car is coming in for fuel to allow time to fill a fuel bottle for the car.

Qualification

Qualification will take place Saturday afternoon from 10:00 to 11:00. All cars must have transponders fitted. Teams running a car without a transponder will be subject to a 10-lap penalty in the Final race. Cars will be ranked in order of

the fastest single lap time achieved during qualification. In the case of an identical lap time, the second fastest lap time will be the tie-breaker, and so on. Cars not completing a lap during qualification will start at the back of the starting grid.

At any time, race officials and HPI staff will discuss penalties or infractions with team managers ONLY.

Final Race

The Final race will take place Saturday from 12:00 to 00:00 (noon to midnight). Cars not able to join the grid on time must start from pit lane and will not be allowed to exit pit lane until all cars have passed the pit exit after the official start.

All team members must drive the car approximately the same amount of time. Drivers must sign in and out of the driver stand as they begin and end their driving stint. The times will be noted by a race official and compared at the end of the race. Teams with a 10% or more variance in driving times for their drivers will be penalized 10 laps.

At any time, race officials and HPI staff will discuss penalties or infractions with team managers ONLY.

Parc Ferme'

All finishing cars must go into a parc ferme' for a complete inspection by race officials and HPI staff. After the car is brought into the pit lane and shut off, the team manager must bring the car into the inspection area. No race team members are allowed in Parc Ferme'. Parc Ferme' will not open until at least 30 minutes after the end of the race. Race officials and HPI staff will discuss cars or infractions with team managers ONLY.

Prize Ceremony

The official prize-giving ceremony will be held within 30 minutes of the race finish.