



MUSTANG
CHALLENGE
NORTH AMERICA



2026 SERIES OVERVIEW

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OUR HISTORY

Few brands can match the racing heritage of Ford Motor Company. Whether competing in single-seaters or stockcars, the famous blue oval emblem carries a rich history of innovation and success. Ford Racing, the brand's high-performance arm, oversees the development of Ford racing engines and vehicles competing in series such as Dakar, NASCAR, WEC, IMSA, Supercars Championship and Formula Drift. Ford Racing will also spearhead the much-anticipated return to Formula One competition with Red Bull Ford Powertrains from 2026.

Perhaps the most famous name in Ford's racing armory is the Mustang, a model that has enjoyed huge success in racing over the decades. That fine tradition continues in the modern era with the new Mustang Dark Horse R, offering the most demanding track enthusiasts a turn-key race car ready to compete in the single-make Mustang Challenge North America series, sanctioned by the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA).



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THE CAR

MUSTANG DARK HORSE R

THE CAR

POWERTRAIN

- 500+ horsepower 5.0-liter Coyote V8
- Tremec® 3160 manual transmission
- Torsen limited slip differential with 3.73 final drive ratio
- Upgraded transmission cooling
- Upgraded engine cooling system
- Upgraded oil system with Ford Racing oil pan
- Upgraded differential cooling
- Borla racing exhaust system
- Upgraded radiator and revised grill

CHASSIS

- FIA compliant roll cage
- Multimatic DSSV dampers
- Adjustable front camber plates
- Select seam welding
- FIA compliant fuel cell

EXTERIOR

- Front and rear tow hooks
- Underbody tie downs
- Front splitter supports
- Delivered in a white paint finish
- Track width, front (mm) 1,611
- Track width, rear (mm) 1,621
- Overall width (mm) 1,914
- Wheelbase (mm) 2,718

INTERIOR

- FIA compliant racing seat
- FIA compliant safety harness
- Quick-release steering wheel
- FIA compliant fire suppression system
- FIA compliant safety nets
- MoTeC data display and logging system

BRAKES/ WHEELS/ TIRES

- Bosch Motorsport ABS
- Brembo® race calipers – front
- Brembo® race rotors – front
- Brembo® race pads
- Race brake cooling ducts
- Apex VS-5RE Forged Enduro Wheel (18x11)
- Car delivered on transport tires (not for competition use)
- MSI wheel studs and open lug nuts

TREMEC® is a registered trademark of Transmisiones Y Equipos Mecanicos, S.A. de C.V. TORSEN is a registered trademark of JTEKT Corporation.

FORD MUSTANG DARK HORSE R

\$159,000

+ TAXES

Your Mustang Dark Horse R will be completed in a white paint finish, ready for livery and decals*
Sales will be through Multimatic.

Current Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for base vehicle. Excludes destination/delivery fee plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Optional equipment not included. Starting A, Z and X Plan price is for qualified, eligible customers and excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Not all vehicles qualify for A, Z or X Plan.

Not street legal. Sales and service for this vehicle will be managed by Multimatic.
Ownership inquiries may be directed to them below.
Very limited availability. Inquiry does not guarantee ability to purchase.

*Series required decal guidelines and brand standards will be provided separately.





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THE SERIES

MUSTANG CHALLENGE

SPORTS CAR PYRAMID

Ford Racing has created a pathway for Mustang enthusiasts (and established drivers) to reach the upper echelons of global sports car racing:

5. The pinnacle of sports car racing, the track-built Mustang GT3 features more power, more aero, more adjustable components and less overall weight. This is a V8 beast like no other and the car you will see competing in the 24 Hours at Daytona and 24 Hours of Le Mans.

GT3

4. The Mustang GT4 is a step up from the Dark Horse R, with an increased number of racing-specific components competing against a field of other OEMs and hungry drivers vying to progress their careers.

GT4

3. The Mustang Challenge is the natural progression for drivers competing in the Mustang Cup (or the already seasoned racer) as it provides close, competitive racing in front of large crowds and streamed to a global audience. Series champions can accept a cash prize or a test in a Mustang GT4 car.

MUSTANG CHALLENGE

2. From there, a driver can enter the cost-effective Mustang Cup USA and develop their race craft within a field of Mustang Dark Horse Rs.

MUSTANG CUP

1. Starting in a Mustang Dark Horse at a Ford Racing driving experience, budding drivers are taught the fundamental techniques to drive a performance vehicle on the limit, within a safe environment.

FORD RACING DRIVING EXPERIENCES

DRIVER DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Ford Racing Driver Development Team is an exciting initiative designed to discover and nurture the future stars of sports car racing. This dynamic program identifies promising young drivers and equips them with the tools and support they need to unlock their potential and continue their progression through the Ford Racing sports car pyramid.

“At Ford Racing, we are always on the lookout for fresh racing talent. This program is all about creating opportunities for the next generation of Mustang racers. We want to give these drivers the tools and support they need to reach their full potential, and we’re excited to see what they can achieve.”

- Mark Rushbrook, Global Director, Ford Racing Motorsport

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON:

- Performance in Ford series such as Mustang Cup, Mustang Challenge, and Mustang GT4 globally
- Driver stats
- On-track improvement
- Feedback from industry bodies

DRIVERS SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF:

- Expert mentoring from factory Mustang GT3 drivers
- Hands-on coaching during select race weekends
- Access to simulator sessions supported by Ford Racing engineers
- Physical and mental conditioning required for racing
- Sponsorship and social media strategies to navigate a professional motorsport career



The 2025 class consisted of Marco Signoretti (Canada), Erik Evans (USA), Nathan Vanspringel (Belgium), Robert Noaker (USA), Sam Paley (USA), and Jenson Altzman (USA). The ultimate goal is to develop these young racers into future factory drivers—the pinnacle of Ford Racing. For more information, visit [HERE](#).

MUSTANG CUP

VS.

MUSTANG CHALLENGE

ENTRY-LEVEL

Newcomers to racing



EXPERIENCED

Established drivers progressing their career

SEASON

6 Weekends

12 Races

2 Championships (Miles cup & Parnelli cup)



SEASON

6 weekends

12 races

1 championship

FORMAT

3x 30 minute practice

2x 15 minute qualifying (Miles & Parnelli cups)

2x 40 minute races (Miles & Parnelli cups)



FORMAT

2x 30 minute practice

1x 15 minute qualifying

2x 45 minute races

DRIVERS

Optional 2-driver format:

Driver 1 - Miles Cup (option to run Parnelli Cup also)

Driver 2 - Parnelli cup



DRIVERS

Single driver format

PRIZES

No prize money

Free Mustang Cup or Challenge 2027

entry for champion



PRIZES

Race prize money

Championship prize money

GT4 test



SERIES OVERVIEW

Racing enthusiasts who want to experience the thrill of sportscar competition should look no further than the Mustang Challenge North America.

Sanctioned by the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA), the Mustang Challenge North America allows drivers up to FIA silver ratings to compete on a level playing field against other Mustang Dark Horse R cars.

Mustang Challenge North America will host a full field of up to 40 Mustang Dark Horse R race cars.

Running on bespoke race tires from official series partner Michelin, the series will compete at some of the most iconic tracks in North America, including Sebring, Laguna Seca, Watkins Glen and COTA..

Click **HERE** for the Mustang Challenge site.

2026 CALENDAR

1. SEBRING INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

Sebring, Florida (IMSA)

March 18 - 20

2. WEATHERTECH RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Monterey, California (IMSA)

May 1 - 3

3. MID-OHIO SPORTS CAR COURSE

Lexington, Ohio (IMSA)

June 5 - 7

4. WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL

Watkins Glen, New York (IMSA)

June 25 - 27

5. VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

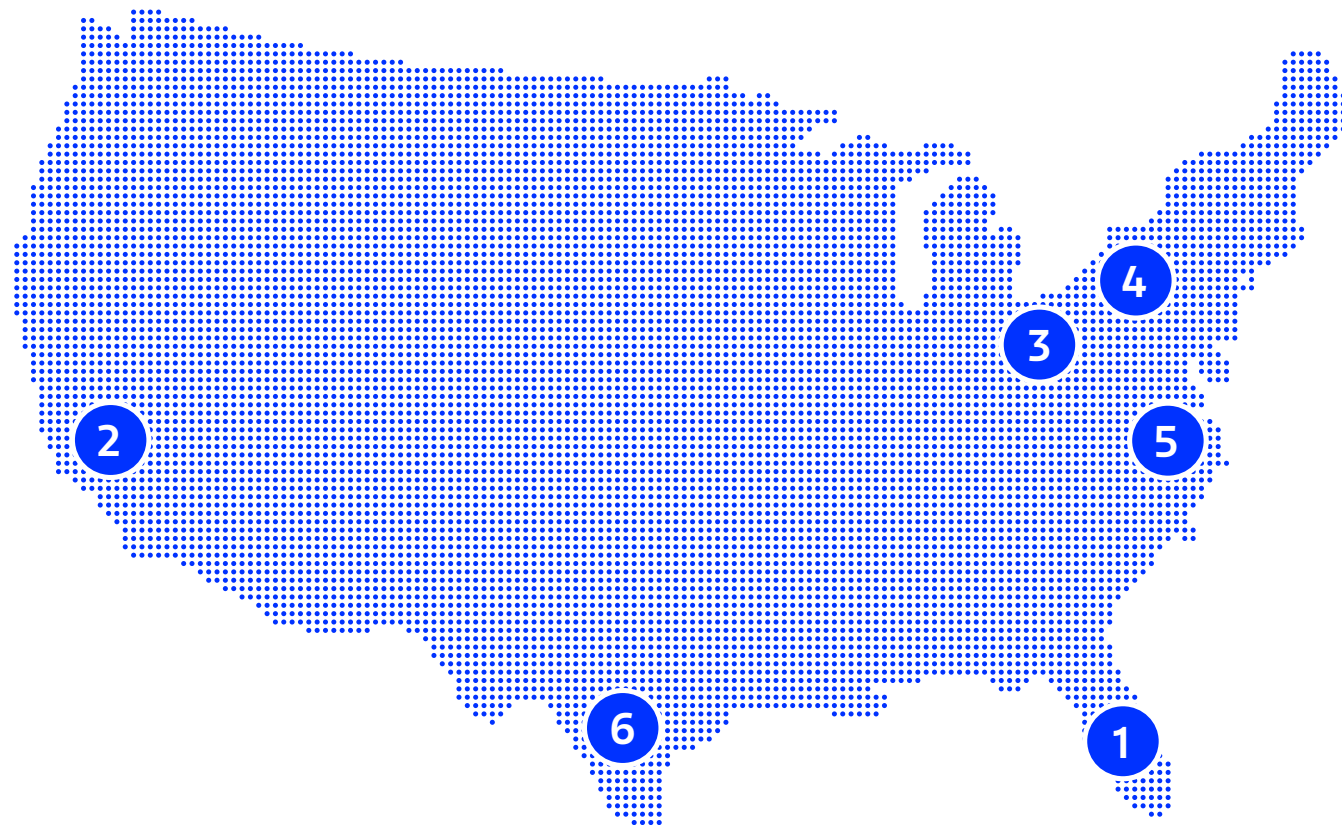
Alton, Virginia (IMSA)

August 21 - 23

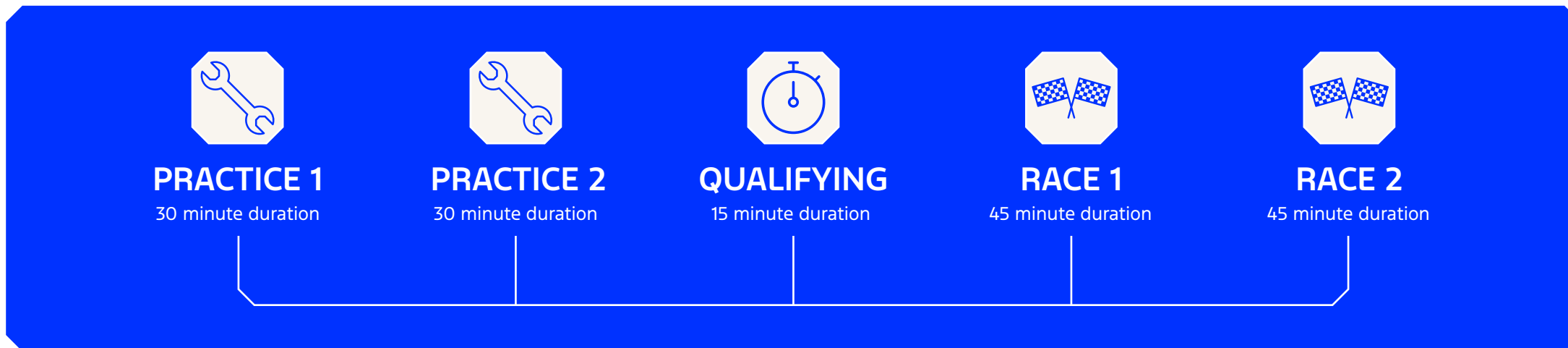
6. CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

Austin, Texas (WEC)

September 4 - 6



FORMAT



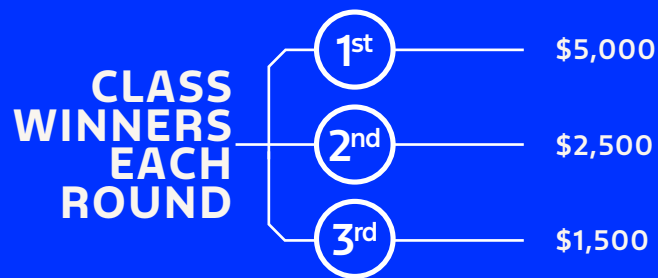
CLASS STRUCTURE

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
Dark Horse (DH)	All Drivers
Dark Horse Legends (DHL)	40 years and above

TIRE ALLOCATION

A maximum of 3 new sets of tires per round, with a carry over set permitted.

PODIUMS & PRIZES



Race podium ceremony will recognize 1st – 3rd in both Dark Horse and Legends classes with a trophy.

All prize options will be processed by the series organizer.

*Details to be confirmed prior to the Mustang Challenge season starting.

**Eligible for those racing a Ford product in a Michelin series.

DARK HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st

- \$100,000 towards a Mustang GT3/GT4 seat or the following season of Mustang Challenge*
- Mustang GT4 test*
- 1 set/event tire credit for 2026 redemption (Michelin)**

2nd

\$20,000

3rd

\$10,000

LEGENDS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st

\$50,000

2nd

\$20,000

3rd

\$10,000

SERVICES INCLUDED

ENGINEERING SUPPORT

Ford Racing engineering personnel on site to support all teams and drivers (non-primary*).

TIRE SUPPLY

Official tire supplier, Michelin, will be present throughout the race weekend to service all teams and drivers.

SPARE PARTS

A supply of parts will be available trackside at each round.

HOSPITALITY

The Mustang Challenge North America lounge area will be at the heart of the racing action and will provide a hub for drivers to welcome guests to the paddock. With refreshments, soft seating and a live stream of the on-track action, it's the perfect place to relax in-between sessions.

PR & MEDIA

- Live coverage on IMSA.tv and via subscription to Peacock streaming channel
- Ford Racing media support
- YouTube live coverage
- Social media, race reports, press releases and website content
- Content portal for drivers and teams accessible via the Ford Racing website

*Ford Racing engineering will be on-site to support teams and drivers for technical issues or questions that require escalation beyond the capabilities of the team or driver supporting the vehicle. Ford Racing engineering will not be dedicated as a primary resource for servicing the vehicles for teams or drivers.

CUSTOMER BROCHURE



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ENTRY & CONTACTS

MUSTANG CHALLENGE

ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY PACKAGE: \$23,700 FULL SEASON OR \$4,550 PER EVENT

Each full season entry fee provides:

- Entry into Mustang Challenge North America IMSA sanctioned events
- Eligibility for Championship points and prize program
- Official Ford Racing one-make-series firesuit, supplied by Sparco
- Access to Mustang Challenge North America series lounge, meal services provided throughout each race weekend
- Ford Racing trackside engineering support
- Trackside spare parts service
- Car decals - Ford Racing, Mustang Challenge North America, IMSA, series sponsors
- Welcome kit
- End of season awards banquet





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CONTACT

For Mustang Challenge related enquiries, please contact:
Chris Ward - Global Customer Racing Manager
cward109@ford.com

For queries and sales of the Ford Mustang Dark Horse R, please contact:
MustangDH-R@multimatic.com

For Ford Racing related enquiries, please contact:
fordperf@ford.com
Click **HERE** for the IMSA site.