



Bulletin 2026-1

2026 ARA National and Regional Championships

2026 ARA NA4 Cup

The 2026 ARA Championships have been structured so that:

- The 2026 ARA regions include the East, West, and Central regions.
- 2026 National Overall Champions have competed nationally across all regions.
- LN4 remains combined to promote competition.
- Participation is encouraged in events throughout the year.
- Each National Event will have a Power Stage.

Championship Highlights

There are three different types of event sanctions in 2026:

National sanction – There are eight events and all award points towards the ARA National Championship.

Super Regional sanction – These events award points that may be counted in the corresponding East, West, or Central Championships.

Basic Regional sanction – These events, of 30 or more stage miles, award points that may be counted in the corresponding East, West, or Central Championship.

National events each include a concurrent Super Regional event. Teams may enter one or the other. Teams accrue a finishing position and points based on the event they enter, either the National or the Super Regional, which are scored separately.

ARA National Championship

- Includes all events sanctioned as Nationals
- All events score points identically
- Championships awarded for Overall, RC2, combined L4WD/NA4WD (LN4), O2WD, and L2WD categories.
- Overall count a competitor's best 6 National Overall event points plus all Overall Power Stage points.
- The other categories count a competitor's best 6 National non-Overall category points and all non-Overall Power Stage points.
- To be eligible for Overall National Championship awards and prizes a competitor must start at least one National event in each region (East, West, and Central).
- To be eligible for other National Category Championship awards and prizes a competitor must start at least one National event in that category in two out of three regions (East, West, and Central).
- Any category averaging less than 4 entries per event will be reviewed at the end of the year for inclusion as a National Category.

National Championship Categories

- Overall
- RC2
- "LN4" – Combined Limited 4WD and Naturally Aspirated 4WD
- Open 2WD
- Limited 2WD

National Events and Region

- Sno*Drift Rally – East
- Rally in the 100 Acre Wood – Central
- Olympus Rally – West
- Southern Ohio Forest Rally – East
- Rally Colorado - West
- Ojibwe Forests Rally – Central
- Overmountain Rally Tennessee – East
- Lake Superior Performance Rally – Central

West Championship - Regional

- All West Region Super and Basic Regional events.
- Championships awarded for Overall and the L4WD, NA4WD, O2WD and L2WD categories.
- Overall count a competitor's best 5 West Regional Overall event points.
- The other categories count a competitor's best 5 West Regional non-Overall category points.
- The single highest overall championship points awarding event earned outside of the region may be included in the 5 qualifying events. Both overall and category points will be awarded based on the same event.

East Championship - Regional

- All East Region Super and Basic Regional events
- Championships awarded for Overall and the L4WD, NA4WD, O2WD and L2WD categories.
- Overall count a competitor's best 5 East Regional Overall event points.
- The other categories count a competitor's best 5 East Regional non-Overall category points.
- The single highest overall championship points awarding event earned outside of the region may be included in the 5 qualifying events. Both overall and category points will be awarded based on the same event.

Central Championship - Regional

- All Central Region Super and Basic Regional events.
- Championships awarded for Overall and the L4WD, NA4WD, O2WD and L2WD categories.
- Overall count a competitor's best 5 Central Regional Overall event points.
- The other categories count a competitor's best 5 Central Regional non-Overall category points.
- The single highest overall championship points awarding event earned outside of the region may be included in the 5 qualifying events. Both overall and category points will be awarded based on the same event.

Regional Championship Categories

- Overall
- Limited 4WD
- Naturally Aspirated 4WD
- Open 2WD
- Limited 2WD

Championship Points Scoring

A competitor scoring National Championship points in two or more National events including two of the regions becomes ineligible for the Regional Championships.

Event Points

Finishing Position	National Points	Super Regional Points	Basic Regional Points
1	22	17	12
2	17	14	10
3	14	12	8
4	12	10	6
5	10	8	5
6	8	6	4
7	6	5	3
8	5	4	2
9	4	3	1
10	3	2	1
11	2	2	1
12 or lower	2	2	1

Championship Determination in Event of a Tie for Position

First Tie-Breaker:

- For the National Championship, total all points from all National events.
- For the Regional Championships, total all points from regional events in that region that meet the minimum length standard.

Second Tie-Breaker:

- Rank the first tie-breaker individual event results from longest to shortest scheduled stage mileage at the beginning of the event. Drop the shortest event points. Repeat the process until the tie is resolved.

ARA National Event Power Stages

The ARA National Championship events will include a stage designated by the events as the “Power Stage”. The Power Stage will be named in the event supplementary regulations or event bulletin. They shall be in the final leg of the rally, typically in the final section.

For the competitors entered in the National Championship, Overall championship points will be awarded per the following table based on the classification of the Power Stage.

Overall Classification	Points Awarded
1 st	5
2 nd	4
3 rd	3
4 th	2
5 th	1

In addition, the fastest time in each category (other than Overall) will be awarded three (3) category points toward the other category Championships.

In event of a tie, equal positions and championship points are to be awarded.

For the purpose of allocating points, the Power Stage Classification shall be calculated using the stage time plus any other time penalty accrued on that stage, such as false start or time control penalties.

To score points, a driver must be classified in the Final Results of the rally.

- If a driver appears in the Power Stage classification but is not classified in the Final Official Results of the rally, Power Stage points will not be awarded for that position.

If the Power Stage is stopped and/or cancelled before all drivers eligible for points start the stage, the Stewards may decide that no points are awarded for that Power Stage.

Provisional and Final Power Stage Results will be released in conjunction with Event Results.

ARA NA4 Cup

The ARA will award year-end the NA4 Cup to the best performing national-entered driver and co-driver using NA4 vehicles in the ARA National Championship.

National Events

- Sno*Drift Rally
- Rally in the 100 Acre Wood
- Olympus Rally
- Southern Ohio Forest Rally
- Rally Colorado
- Ojibwe Forests Rally
- Overmountain Rally Tennessee
- Lake Superior Performance Rally

The Cup is an additional award to be recognized at the end of the 2026 season for the NA4 class of vehicles.

There will be no special recognition for NA4 national entries at the individual events. Instead, NA4 national entries compete in the ARA LN4 championship category. As such they are also eligible for Overall individual event and year-end placing awards.

The Cup will be scored as follows:

Drivers and Co-Drivers earn points as indicated below based on their finish position. Drivers and Co-Drivers will be ranked based on total points accumulated from all the ARA National Championship events and those with the highest totals will be declared the 2026 winners of the ARA NA4 Cup.

The points schedule:

Points for Finishing

Starters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th on
10 or more	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	2
9	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2		
8	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2			
7	8	7	6	5	4	3	2				
6	7	6	5	4	3	2					
5	6	5	4	3	2						
4	5	4	3	2							
3	4	3	2								
2	3	2									
1	2										

Determination in Event of a Tie for Position

Tie-Breaker:

- Rank the individual event results from longest to shortest scheduled stage mileage at the beginning of the event. Drop the shortest event points. Repeat the process until the tie is resolved.

J.B. Niday



ARA Competition Director