



THE THERMAL CLUB

\$1 MILLION CHALLENGE

The **NTT INDYCAR SERIES** takes its pulsating, wheel-to-wheel action to The Thermal Club for a two-day Open Test and qualifications, **Friday-Saturday March 22-23**, followed by a unique, nationally televised exhibition **Sunday, March 24**. The special event on the 17-turn, 3.067-mile layout in sunny Southern California has a purse of \$1.756 million, the highest total for an event in INDYCAR SERIES history outside of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge.

QUALIFYING

Saturday, March 23, 8:00 PM ET

[Peacock, INDYCAR Radio Network]

- Based on a random draw, Thursday, March 21, dividing the field into two groups. Each group receives a 12-minute qualifying session (timing to start at declaration of green flag) to determine the starting order of their respective heat race the following day.
- Group One qualifying will set the starting lineup for Heat Race One. Group Two qualifying will set the starting lineup for Heat Race Two.
- The starting lineup for The Thermal Club \$1 Million Challenge will consist of the top six advancing cars from each heat race. The pole position and odd number starting positions will be determined by the heat race winner with the fastest time from qualifications occupying the pole and the remainder of that heat race lining up in positions 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.
- Timing of the session shall stop at the declaration of the first red flag condition for each group. Timing will not stop for subsequent red conditions.
- Standard INDYCAR qualifying rules apply.
- Each team shall only receive one set of tires for qualifying.
- Adjustments and changes are permitted during qualifying.
- Push-to-pass will be available [40 seconds per group].



The Thermal Club \$1 Million Challenge

Sunday, March 24, 12:30 PM ET

(NBC, Peacock, INDYCAR Radio Network)

Two NTT INDYCAR SERIES heat races will decide the 12-car field for the \$1 Million Challenge. Laps under Full Course Yellow will not count. Pit stops for emergency service only will be allowed.

Two NTT INDYCAR SERIES heat races (10 laps or 20 minutes each) will decide the 12-car field for the \$1 Million Challenge:

- Laps occurring during a Full Course Yellow (FCY) condition shall not count toward the total, however, the race clock will continue to wind.
- A lap is deemed complete when the leader crosses the start-finish line.
- Should a FCY occur after the leader has begun the final lap, the race shall be deemed complete the next time the leader crosses the start-finish line.
- The cars' position on track will be determined by the last timeline crossed on track at the moment of the FCY condition, except for a FCY condition occurring on the final lap of the race.
- Cars that enter their pit box may only receive emergency service (repairing damage, items producing a safety issue and addressing driver comforts such as removing tearoffs).
- Cars that enter their pit box during a FCY period and perform emergency service, according to the above, will be placed at the rear of the restart lineup according to the order they entered pit lane or at INDYCAR discretion.
- A car making an adjustment not deemed emergency in nature shall be disqualified.
- For all restarts, cars not on the lead lap will be moved to the rear of the restart lineup.
- Push-to-pass: 40 seconds for each heat race.
- A new set of tires will be allotted for the heat races. Tires used during qualifying will be the only approved replacement tire(s) for the heat races and must be approved by INDYCAR. Only damaged tires may be replaced.

Final (20 laps – divided into two, 10-lap segments with a 10-minute “halftime” break following the completion of Lap 10)

During the halftime break, all cars shall return to their pit boxes and only the following adjustments are permitted:

- Add fuel
- Adjust front and rear wing angles and wickers
- Adjust tire pressure
- Attend to the driver

All rules from the heat races shall apply with the following exceptions:

- A time limit shall not apply
- During the second 10-lap segment, should a FCY occur, the cars' actual position on-track will determine the restart lineup.
- A new set of tires will be allowed for the final. Tires used during the heat race will be the replacement tire for the final, if needed, and approved by INDYCAR. Only damaged tires may be replaced.
- Push-to-pass: 40 seconds for each race segment. Amount resets after Segment One (does not carry over).

The Thermal Club \$1 Million Challenge Driver Purse Breakdown (Total: \$1.756 million)

1st Place \$500,000

2nd Place \$350,000

3rd Place \$250,000

4th Place \$100,000

5th Place \$50,000

Sixth through 27th place receive \$23,000 each

