

New **Versus Battle format** Ladder for Mitsubishi vs. World Competition

The IDRC's Mitsubishi vs. World program has reenergized The SHOOTOUT while providing a foundation for the event to continue its growth for generations to come. The program's unique format was previously based on a system that had Team Mitsu and Team World qualify independently and then get "hand laddered", where the top Team Mitsu qualifier would face the slowest Team World qualifier in round one and vice versa. While this system guaranteed the maximum number of Mitsu vs. World pairings in round one, it inadvertently benefited the Team Mitsu qualifiers that fill in the open Team World positions. As a result, the full advantages of being a top qualifier didn't provide the expected results.

During our racer rules meetings a few weeks ago, several possible solutions were proposed. Ultimately, this conversation led to an excellent solution that will benefit the Mitsu vs. World program, the racers and the fans of the SHOOTOUT.

For SHOOTOUT 2026, a Versus Battle format will be employed for both the Quick 32 and Street 32 classes of our Mitsubishi vs. World challenge. The new two-phase ladder system will provide an opportunity for equally sized teams, while not giving a benefit to any slower qualifiers.

Phase one of the qualifying process will be conducted as it was in the past with Team Mitsubishi and Team World qualifying independently. After all qualifying sessions are completed, announcements will be made to remove any non-running vehicles from the qualifying groups. If either team doesn't have all 16 spots filled and the other team has a surplus of running vehicles that qualified slower than the group's quickest 16, these racers will be able to fill the openings to make a full group of 32 racers. For example, if Team World has only 10 running vehicles qualified and ready for elimination, an additional six spots would be made available to the Team Mitsubishi qualifiers that were in the 17 through 22 qualifying positions.

In phase two all the qualified racers from phase one will be put into a merged group. This merged group will re-rank the qualifying positions based on each competitor's elapsed time. The qualifying positions will be set from the quickest to slowest elapsed times. As a result, the World number one qualifier with a 7.250-second elapsed time may only be the number four qualifier on the elimination ladder if three of the Team Mitsubishi cars qualified quicker than 7.250 seconds.