

All-Time Indy Car Season Champions 1909-2014

Key: AAA = American Automobile Association (1946-1955); USAC = United States Auto Club (1956-1995); CART = Championship Auto Racing Teams (1979-2003); CC = Champ Car (2004-2008); IRL = Indy Racing League (1996-2010); IC = INDYCAR (2011 to present) Note: CART was renamed Champ Car in 2004, and consolidated into IRL in 2008. IRL was renamed INDYCAR in 2011.

1909-George Robertson *(AAA)*	1960-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1910-Ray Harroun (AAA)*	1961-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1911-Ralph Mulford (AAA)*	1962-Rodger Ward (USAC)
1912-Ralph DePalma (AAA)*	1963-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1913-Earl Cooper (AAA)*	1964-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1914-Ralph DePalma (AAA)*	1965-Mario Andretti (USAC)
1915-Earl Cooper (AAA)*	1966-Mario Andretti (USAC)
1916-Dario Resta (AAA)	1967-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1917-Earl Cooper (AAA)*	1968-Bobby Unser (USAC)
1918-Ralph Mulford (AAA)*	1969-Mario Andretti (USAC)
1919-Howard Wilcox (AAA)*	1970-Al Unser (USAC)
1920- Gaston Chevrolet (AAA) **	1971-Joe Leonard (USAC)
1921-Tommy Milton (AAA)	1972-Joe Leonard (USAC)
1922-Jimmy Murphy (AAA)	1973-Roger McCluskey (USAC)
1923-Eddie Hearne (AAA)	1974-Bobby Unser (USAC)
1924-Jimmy Murphy (AAA)	1975-A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1925-Peter DePaolo (AAA)	1976-Gordon Johncock (USAC)
1926-Harry Hartz (AAA)	1977-Tom Sneva (USAC)
1927-Peter DePaolo (AAA)	1978-Tom Sneva (USAC)
1928-Louis Meyer (AAA)	1979-Rick Mears (CART), A.J. Foyt (USAC)
1929-Louis Meyer (AAA)	1980-Johnny Rutherford (CART & USAC) ****
1930-Billy Arnold (AAA)	1981-Rick Mears (CART)
1931-Louis Schneider (AAA)	1981-82-George Snider (USAC) *****
1932-Bob Carey (AAA)	1982-Rick Mears (CART)
1933-Louis Meyer (AAA)	1982-83-Tom Sneva (USAC) *****
1934-Bill Cummings (AAA)	1983-Al Unser (CART)
1935-Kelly Petillo (AAA)	1983-84-Rick Mears (USAC) *****
1936-Mauri Rose (AAA)	1984-Mario Andretti (CART)
1937-Wilbur Shaw (AAA)	1984-85-Danny Sullivan (USAC) *****
1938-Floyd Roberts (AAA)	1985-Al Unser (CART)
1939-Wilbur Shaw (AAA)	1985-86-Bobby Rahal (USAC) *****
1940-Rex Mays (AAA)	1986-Bobby Rahal (CART)
1941-Rex Mays (AAA)	1986-87-Al Unser (USAC) *****
1942-45-No Racing: World War II	1987-Bobby Rahal (CART)
1946-Ted Horn (AAA) ***	1987-88-Rick Mears (USAC) *****
1947-Ted Horn (AAA)	1988-Danny Sullivan (CART)
1948-Ted Horn (AAA)	1988-89-Emerson Fittipaldi (USAC) *****
1949-Johnnie Parsons (AAA)	1989-Emerson Fittipaldi (CART)
1950-Henry Banks (AAA)	1989-90-Arie Luyendyk (USAC) *****
1951-Tony Bettenhausen (AAA)	1990-Al Unser Jr. (CART)
1952-Chuck Stevenson (AAA)	1990-91-Rick Mears (USAC) *****
1953-Sam Hanks (AAA)	1991-Michael Andretti (CART)
1954-Jimmy Bryan (AAA)	1991-92-Al Unser Jr. (USAC) *****
1955-Bob Sweikert (AAA)	1992-Bobby Rahal (CART)
1956-Jimmy Bryan (USAC)	1992-93-Emerson Fittipaldi (USAC) *****
1957-Jimmy Bryan (USAC)	1993-Nigel Mansell (CART)
1958-Tony Bettenhausen (USAC)	1993-94-Al Unser Jr. (USAC) *****
1959-Rodger Ward (USAC)	1994-Al Unser Jr. (CART)

1994-95-Jacques Villeneuve (USAC) *****
1995-Jacques Villeneuve (CART)
1996-Buzz Calkins/Scott Sharp (IRL), Jimmy Vasser (CART)
1996-97-Tony Stewart (IRL)
1997-Alex Zanardi (CART)
1998-Kenny Brack (IRL), Alex Zanardi (CART)
1999-Greg Ray (IRL), Juan Pablo Montoya (CART)
2000-Buddy Lazier (IRL), Gil de Ferran (CART)
2001-Sam Hornish Jr. (IRL); Gil de Ferran (CART)
2002-Sam Hornish Jr. (IRL), Cristiano da Matta (CART)
2003-Scott Dixon (IRL), Paul Tracy (CART)

2004-Tony Kanaan (IRL), Sebastien Bourdais (CC)
2005-Dan Wheldon (IRL), Sebastien Bourdais (CC)
2006-Sam Hornish Jr. (IRL), Sebastien Bourdais (CC)
2007-Dario Franchitti (IRL), Sebastien Bourdais (CC)
2008-Scott Dixon (IRL)
2009-Dario Franchitti (IRL)
2010-Dario Franchitti (IRL)
2011-Dario Franchitti (IC)
2012-Ryan Hunter-Reay (IC)
2013-Scott Dixon (IC)
2014-Will Power (IC)

* The American Automobile Association (AAA) first created a National Motor Car Championship in 1905, points being awarded to the first three finishers in a series of short events generally ranging from five to 10 miles in length. Although Barney Oldfield won most of the races and was declared the champion, AAA evidently discontinued the procedure inasmuch as neither the 1905 season, or Oldfield's title were referenced in subsequent years.

Several publications during the years prior to AAA establishing an official points championship in 1916 did make efforts to determine a driver of the year/champion. Some even developed their own points system for that determination. The AAA championship was discontinued after 1916 during war years and not revived again until 1920. Sometime in 1926 or 1927, Arthur Means and Val Haresnape, at the time the secretary of the AAA Contest Board, used existing AAA records to reconstruct a championship for the years of 1909 to 1915 and from 1917 to 1919. Unfortunately, records from those early years were sketchy and any points applied by Means and Haresnape had no validity from the original time period. AAA accepted these computations as official from 1927-28 and 1952-55. In 1951, racing historian Russ Catlin convinced AAA to change the 1909 champion from Bert Dingley to George Robertson.

** The 1920 championship was for five races and won by Gaston Chevrolet. These results were considered official by AAA from 1920-26 and 1929-51. An 11-race championship was first recognized in 1926 with Tommy Milton as champion and was considered official for 1927 and from 1952 to 1955, the final year that AAA sanctioned auto racing.

*** AAA in 1946 had an original schedule which included not only the six traditional championship races as listed by recent historians but numerous other sprint car races on tracks of short length (less than 1-mile) and duration (mostly 15-20 laps). Ted Horn won the championship based not only on based on the six races that have been traditionally listed but also the one with all of the races. Sometime following the 1946 season, AAA abandoned the counting of the sprint car races in the championship for 1947. The following is the 1946 top-ten in points as listed in an AAA bulletin as of December 31, 1946:

1. Ted Horn – 2,448	6. Walt Ader - 850
2. George Robson – 1,544	7. Jimmy Jackson - 800
3. Emil Andres – 1,348	8. Joie Chitwood - 693
4. Bill Holland – 1,280.6	9. Rex Mays - 613
5. Tommy Hinnershitz – 896.8	10. Duke Dismore - 454

**** The USAC champion was based on the points earned in the five races under the Championship Racing League (CRL) banner which USAC sanctioned. The CART champion was based on a 12-race season which included the five races that were run under the CRL banner sanctioned by USAC.

***** United States Auto Club created the Gold Crown Series in 1981. This championship was designed with the Indianapolis 500 being the final race of the season. The first season (1981-1982) included both the 1981 and 1982 Indianapolis 500 as well as Pocono and selected dirt races that were a part of the USAC Silver Crown Series. The 1983-1984 season was the last in which there was more than just the Indianapolis 500 on the USAC Gold Crown schedule.

Most Season Championships (1946-2014)

Championships	Driver	Years	Sanctioning Organization
7	A.J. Foyt	1960,1961,1963, 1964, 1967, 1975, 1979	USAC
4	Mario Andretti	1965, 1966, 1969, 1984	USAC (3), CART (1)
	Sebastien Bourdais	2004, 2005, 2006, 2007	CC
	Dario Franchitti	2007, 2009, 2010, 2011	IRL (3), IC (1)
3	Rick Mears*	1979, 1981, 1982	CART
	Al Unser**	1970, 1983, 1985	USAC(1), CART (2)
	Ted Horn	1946, 1947, 1948	AAA
	Jimmy Bryan	1954, 1956, 1957	AAA (1), USAC (2)
	Bobby Rahal***	1986, 1987, 1992	CART
	Sam Hornish Jr.	2001, 2002, 2006	IRL (3)
	Scott Dixon	2003, 2008, 2013	IRL (2), IC (1)

* Rick Mears also won 3 USAC Gold Crown championships (1983-84, 1987-88 and 1990-91)

** Al Unser also won the 1986-87 USAC Gold Crown championship.

*** Bobby Rahal also won the 1985-86 USAC Gold Crown championship.

Most Consecutive Season Championships (1946-2014)

Championships	Driver	Years	Sanctioning Organization
4	Sebastien Bourdais	2004-2007	CC
3	Ted Horn	1946-1948	AAA
	Dario Franchitti	2009-2011	IRL(2), IC (1)
2	Jimmy Bryan	1956-1957	USAC
	A.J. Foyt	1960-61, 1963-64	USAC
	Mario Andretti	1965-1966	USAC
	Joe Leonard	1971-1972	USAC
	Tom Sneva	1977-1978	USAC
	Rick Mears	1981-1982	CART
	Bobby Rahal	1986-1987	CART
	Alex Zanardi	1997-1998	CART
	Gil de Ferran	2000-2001	CART
	Sam Hornish Jr.	2001-2002	IRL

Most Victories by a Champion in a Championship Year (1946-2014)

Wins	Driver	Year (s)	Sanctioning Organization
10	A.J. Foyt	1964	USAC
	Al Unser	1970	USAC
9	Mario Andretti	1969	USAC
8	Tony Bettenhausen	1951	AAA
	Mario Andretti	1966, 1967	USAC
	Michael Andretti	1991	CART
	Al Unser Jr.	1994	CART
	Sebastien Bourdais	2007	CC
7	Jimmy Murphy	1922	AAA
	A.J. Foyt	1975	USAC
	Alex Zanardi	1998	CART
	Juan Pablo Montoya	1999	CART
	Cristiano da Matta	2002	CART
	Paul Tracy	2003	CART
	Sebastien Bourdais	2004, 2006	CC
6	Rick Mears	1981	CART
	Mario Andretti	1984	CART
	Bobby Rahal	1986	CART
	Dan Wheldon	2005	IRL
	Sebastien Bourdais	2005	CC
	Scott Dixon	2008	IRL
5	Johnnie Parsons	1949	AAA
	Sam Hornish Jr.	2002	IRL
	Dario Franchitti	2009	IRL
4	Sam Hornish Jr.	2006	IRL
	Dario Franchitti	2007, 2011	IRL, IC
	Ryan Hunter-Reay	2012	IC
	Scott Dixon	2013	IC

Fewest Victories by a Champion in a Championship Year (1946-2014)

Wins	Driver	Year (s)	Sanctioning Organization
0	Ted Horn	1946	AAA
	Tony Bettenhausen	1958	USAC
	Tom Sneva	1978	USAC
	Scott Sharp	1996	IRL
1	Henry Banks	1950	AAA
	Mario Andretti	1965	USAC
	Joe Leonard	1971	USAC
	Roger McCluskey	1973	USAC
	Al Unser	1983, 1985	CART
	Buzz Calkins	1996	IRL
	Tony Stewart	1996-97	IRL
2	Ted Horn	1948	AAA
	Chuck Stevenson	1952	AAA
	Sam Hanks	1953	AAA
	Bob Sweikert	1955	AAA
	Gordon Johncock	1976	USAC
	Tom Sneva	1977	USAC
	Buddy Lazier	2000	IRL
	Gil de Ferran	2000, 2001	CART