Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?

Posted by Sterling Doc - 15 Oct 2013 11:35

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Guys,

I have ben following the GTS rule change threads, and the following proposal struck me as interesting. This is something we could pursue if there is interest:

NOTE: The suggestion below is to add a rule to the GTS rules which expands on an existing NASA CCR rule.

Type

Modification to an existing rule

Existing rule section (if applicable)

25.4.2 Punting

[DELETED] In most cases, "racing room" is defined as "at least three quarters of one car width. [DELETED]

Proposed change

Change 3/4 car width rule to 1 car width.

Reason

Numerous incidents in NASA plus other organizations have shown misuse and misunderstanding of this rule. Drivers assume they can crowd other cars two wheels off (3/4) and have caused loss of control that results in crashes, damage, or injury. "3/4" is too ambiguous (and could result in a lot of arguing, ex. you needed to move over 6 more inches) and the definition is being interpreted in different manners by drivers. The intent is not to allow drivers to crowd others into the dirt. Hence change references to 3/4 width referred to in section 25.4.2 (and any other areas) from 3/4 car width to 1 car width. Prototyping this in GTS and then will propose to Nationals if successful.

Proposed new wording

In most cases, "racing room" is defined as "at least one car width." (and other references in Notes and illustrations.

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by Timwold - 21 Nov 2014 13:38

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I agree with changing the rule to 1 car width. At 3/4th of a car it seems to imply you can track out and run a competitor off the racing surface.

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by tcomeau - 21 Nov 2014 13:54

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We need to control the amount of contact and punish those who make contact.

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by JerryW - 21 Nov 2014 13:55

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This is only effective if it is a NASA wide change. Otherwise we end up with one set of rules for us and a different set for the other classes in our run group.

I'm not in favor of rules that affect only us on the track - class rules for the cars is one thing.

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by spec944#74 - 21 Nov 2014 14:37

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There are lots of NASA rules that are class-specif and modify a general CCR rule. For example, Section 2 of the GTS rules is labled "GTS-specific rules." The first rule addressed under paragraph 2.1 is "Modified 13/13 rule" and reads "GTS reserves the right to administer penalties on a regional level above and beyond those outlined in NASA's CCR."

The second rule addressed, under paragraph 2.2, is "Modified "racing room"

definition" which consists entirely of one paragraph that reads "In the NASA CCR, under section 25.4.2 "Punting," the rules define "racing room" as: "at least three-quarters of one car width." For racing between two or more GTS cars, "racing room" is hereby defined as: "at least one car width plus 6 inches."

So, as you can see, the class is free to adopt rules specific to that class, and I think this rule is one that should be adopted. There have been numerous instances where this rule has been used to blatantly force other cars to go 2 wheels off or to justify contact, and there's no reason we have can't address it. I also know for a fact this rule is one of the reasons cited by racers from groups like SCCA/PCA/POC as the main reason they won't race with NASA and it is a change I would dearly love to see NASA make.

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by JerryW - 21 Nov 2014 14:59

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Steve - I like that approach of limiting the rule change between in class cars. I'd just be worried when the other classes ran by their rules and our drivers by our rules.

(I had the same concern when GTS started running their modified contact rules)

(Edited - Oh and I'd love to see the rule change NASA wide)

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Re: Change 3/4 car width rule to full car width?
Posted by tcomeau - 21 Nov 2014 15:32

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The idea of the rule is to limit contact between our class cars. We shouldn't be racing other classes so I'd run conservatively around other classes.

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