

Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by Sterling Doc - 15 Nov 2014 11:15

Since we have everyone's attention now on the board, it seems, I'll open up the rules change proposal thread for this year.

As always, a proposal must include justification on how it

- A) Improves competition for all (not just "for me/my situation")
- B) Decreases, or at least manages cost
- C) Stays true to the intent of the class
- D) Is worth disrupting rules stability (which is important in Spec classes).

The more points it hits, the better chance it has. Remember the burden of proof is on the new rule, not shooting it down.

The proposal and review time will have to be compressed a bit due to the late start from the late Championships.

Re: Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by Sterling Doc - 27 Nov 2014 18:40

A couple of last things.

I received a query about cryo treating engine parts. The rules allow cryogenic treatment to rotors, but make no mention of this elsewhere. As a practical measure, there is no way to enforce disallowing this. Anyone have issues with specifically allowing this for equal access?

It has also been brought to my attention that the allowance to add oil before dyno runs could be used to overfill the motor, increase windage, and decrease HP after the race. This must be done under the observation of a NASA official (if rules are followed), but controlling this by rule is tricky. We could add a line about overfilling the oil sump not being allowed, or be more specific about the oil level - i.e. no more than 1/8" above the full mark. Thoughts?

Finally, we need to get this wrapped up, so I am going to take it back to the series director forum, and getting the rules draft going. So I will be shutting this down in a couple of days. Speak now, or...

Re: Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by cbuzzetti - 27 Nov 2014 21:58

I think the cryo treatment is an open ended problem. We dont know what the end effect could be and no way to monitor it. Cant see any reason to make it legal. This is a great example of rules creep that we should avoid.

As much as I dislike new rules there is something that came up from the SpecE30 WSC tech that we need to consider. You can make the car test lower on HP and TQ by allowing the car to be tested to heat soak before getting on the dyno. That is done by letting the car run to the almost over heating point of say 230 degrees or so. A competitor did this at WSC and his car tested quite low. It was not disallowed by the rules so they had to let it stand. This was a car that finished on the podium.

The solution to this is to define a minimum (we have) and a maximum operating temp of the engine coolant and oil.

I agree that we may need to define the oil level for dyno testing too. Maybe only change the wording to allow oil to be added to the full mark if low.

Re: Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by Timwold - 28 Nov 2014 10:28

I am onboard with Joeblow's request for allowing the stock turbo trans-axle cooler set up. There costs are minimal, they are available, and the engineering is most likely better than the homemade set ups currently allowed by the rules.

To echo Jason Stanley in a previous post, different racing environments create different failures. Stating no failures at a national event does not mean others in different parts of the country wouldn't benefit from a rule change which does not increase performance but does help to preserve the equipment. This is a national class which is run by multiple sanctioning bodies throughout the calendar year. The demands on the equipment are different based on location, sanctioning body (other sanctioning bodies tend to run longer duration races which result in significantly more wear on the cars during the weekend), as well as the time of year (it gets pretty hot here in Texas). I have seen several trans-axle failures here in Texas in the past few years.

Based on the prescribed requirements laid out in the original post- it seems the use of a factory set up to help cool the trans-axle meets each of the four.

Re: Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by Sterling Doc - 28 Nov 2014 20:13

Charlie, I do like the wording on the oil fill. If you raced it overfull, then you can dyno it the same way, but if you add oil, only to the full mark. Next we'll be adding dipsticks to tech...

As far as the high temp parameter, I haven't seen 944's lose power as they get hot on the dyno, but then we are almost always running very thick oil. If someone takes the risk of running thin oil, maybe it could be a problem? We already have the most detailed procedure in NASA for dynos, so I am a bit loath to add more parameters. Any other opinions on this?

Re: Official Rules Change Proposal Thread

Posted by rd7839 - 29 Nov 2014 12:10

So I made a call to a well known porsche junkyard asking about turbo trans coolers and costs. They said they don't have the parts separated from the trans and don't sell them that way because most trans are in working condition. They would however sell a complete unit with the cooler for \$1500! Those transmissions are very popular with kit car builders so demand is relatively high. Not sure how that's considered affordable.

It gets hot here in Cali as well being a desert and all, in fact I average two pumps a year for my Coolshirt. It gets hot everywhere in this country. I believe someone earlier said that every car in his region is on their original engine but have had several trans failures which doesn't ring true. Also the person proposing rule changes for reliability doesn't race with us yet and has yet to break parts but the current western states champ and former national champ(and I believe he's finished on the podium at every nationals he's attended) has never had a single failure. Who's opinion would you listen to?

I just don't want to have to keep spending money to keep up with the Jones(and b4 you say I don't have to remember the old racers saying,"the guys in front of me are cheating or have better parts and the guys behind are slow");.

Having said all this, isn't it legal already to have any cooler you want? The other part of Joes proposal is shift linkage. Again not sure how he knows what doesn't work on a spec car but there you go. You're allowed to modify the shifter to remove slop and this can be done for free with parts in your garage

already or go the fancy way like I did and order needle bearing washers from McMasters Carr for a few bucks. I'm telling you it works great! Now if I miss a shift its cause I'm in a hurry. His proposal said "any" shifter. That just opens up clever interpretations. Can someone build a sequential shifter or hydraulic? I know of a car that has a short shifter using all the factory parts legally and still shortens the throw. Is it legal?
