



## Your Guide to Driver Assistance at the Runoffs

# Working With The Stewards

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Checkered Flag

# What are the Steward's Roles?

- Stewards have three guiding principles in race management
  - Do everything they can to make the event safe
  - Do everything they can to make the event fair
  - Do everything they can to make the event fun

# What are the Steward's Roles?

- Their real-time tools are limited in the pursuit of those principles
  - Their inherent desire, integrity, and judgement based on experience, to keep your environment safe while facilitating a fair and competitive event
  - A knowledge of the General Competition Rules (GCR)
  - Reports from corner stations describing on-track activity

# Meet The Steward Leadership

# Event Staff

People Good to Know

- Race Director.....*Ken Patterson*
- Assistant Race Director.....*Steve Pence*
- Competitor Service Center.....*Chuck Dobbs, Chief*  
.....*Linda Rogaski, Asst Chief*
- Stewards of the Meet (SOM).....*Ken Blackburn, Chairman*

# Competitor Services

- Competitor Service Center

- One of several information sources for drivers (Information is also available at Information Services and the Driver Welcome Center)
- Where you will file Protests, respond to Request for Action (RFA), seek assistance regarding applicable rules governing the event and report for a SOM Hearing.
- Stewards of the Meeting (SOM) – Multiple courts each led by a Division Executive Steward from throughout the country
- Location – Trailer Town – Adjacent to the Paddock Pond



# People to Seek Out for Assistance

- Driver Advisors

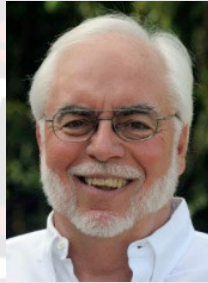
- Earl Hurlbut  
Chief



- Greg Skotnicki



- Fred Brinkel



- Doug Johnson



- AG Robbins





# Driver Advisor

- Driver Advisors

- Roles

- To provide drivers with unbiased assistance and preparation for dealing with steward's actions and protests involving other competitors or officials. Driver advisors are typically Nationally licensed stewards with considerable experience in SCCA's rules and penalty processes.
    - Advisors will do everything they can to ensure you have the appropriate documents; however, they will not complete documents for you, and they will not participate in the hearing with the SOM.

- Advisor Location – In Trailer Town adjacent to the Competitor Services Center

# Driver Advisor

- When to seek Assistance

- Anytime you are the subject of an action (CSA or RFA) by stewards
- If you have a desire to file a formal complaint (Protest) against another competitor or official, or you are the subject of a protest
- Anytime you are summoned to testify before a SOM court.

- All assistance requests are voluntary

# As a Driver - You Should Know

- Selected sections of the GCR
  - Sections most often referenced
    - 2.1. – Participant Conduct
      - 2.1.1. through 2.1.9.

# As a Driver - You Should Know

- Selected sections of the GCR
  - Sections most often referenced (cont'd)
    - 6. – Racing Rules and Procedures 2022
      - 6.1. – Flags
      - 6.5. – Race Starts
      - 6.11. – Rules of the Road

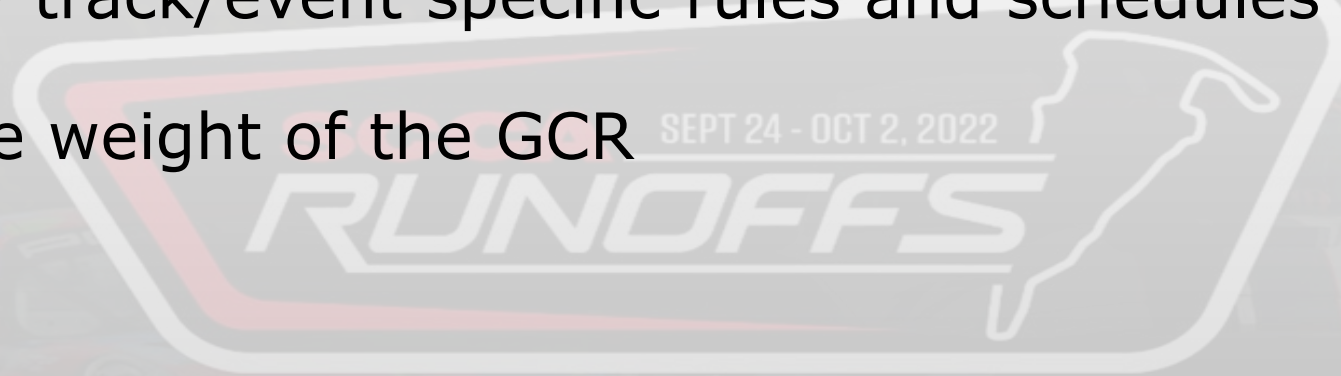
# As a Driver - You Should Know

- Selected sections of the GCR (cont'd)
  - Car Compliance
    - Sections 9 and beyond as they pertain to your class of car
  - Be familiar with Appendix P of the GCR – “Racing Room & Passing Guidelines”
    - Authored by Randy Pobst and Terry Earwood
    - SOMs will use this appendix when evaluating issues of contact on track

# As a Driver - You Should Know

- The Supplemental Regulations

- Typically track/event specific rules and schedules
- Have the weight of the GCR



# When the Paper Flies



Chief Steward's Action (CSA)

Request for Action (RFA)

Protest

Court of Appeals



# The Chief Steward's Action (CSA)

# Chief Steward's Action (CSA)

- Typically initiated by Race Control or the Scrutineers
  - Race Control – Reflects an on-track incident as observed and reported by the flag stations
  - Scrutineers – Reflects the failure of a car to meet compliance following an inspection after a qualification or race session.
- CSAs will have a penalty based on the severity of the incident/infraction

# Chief Steward's Action (CSA)

- CSAs will be reviewed by the Race Director or Assistant Race Director for agreement and approval before being posted to the Final Results
  - You may be asked to come and speak to the RD/ARD to explain the situation – If you have video, bring it
- If you don't agree with the CSA, you have the right to protest unless otherwise noted in the Supplemental Regulations (For example, grid positions for the first qualifying session)

# The Protest



# Protest

When Things don't Go Quite as You Expected

- Initiated by you, the driver or an entrant
  - Communicates your displeasure with another driver over an on-track incident or a belief that someone (a driver or official) is participating or treating you unfairly
- Fees – \$100 – Typically refunded if the protest was considered to be well founded by the SOM
- All forms (Protest and Witness Statements) are available at the Competitor Services Center

# Protest

When Things don't Go Quite as You Expected

- Time limitations – **30** minutes is the magic number
  - For a Grid position dispute – within **30** minutes after the posting of the grid
  - For on track behavior – within **30** minutes after the end of the session
  - For results – within **30** minutes after the posting of provisional results
  - For an appeal to the Court Of Appeals (COA) – within **60** minutes after the rendering of a SOM Decision



# Protest

When Things don't Go as You Expected

- What information do you need to support your protest
  - Videos from your car (both forward and rear facing cameras – rear often shows a better view – particularly in incidents of contact) showing the behavior of others on track.
  - Videos from adjacent cars to support your contention of a violation
  - Testimony/Witness statements from those around the incident
- Protests are heard and adjudicated by the Stewards of the Meeting (SOM)



# Protest

When Things don't Go as You Expected

- Should the SOM decision not be what you expected
  - You can accept the decision
  - You can petition the Court of Appeals (COA).
    - Petition will include a detailed explanation of why you feel the decision was wrong
      - Present evidence (video/testimony) that was not available to the original SOM Court with a reason for the non-availability
  - Decisions by the Court of Appeals are FINAL and cannot be challenged

# The Request for Action (RFA)

# Request for Action (RFA)

- Typically initiated by Race Control following the report of an incident on track where Race Control seeks an in-depth review of activities reported by the flag stations.
- RFAs will be reviewed by the Race Director or Assistant Race Director for agreement and approval before being sent to the SOM for investigation
  - You may be asked to come and speak to the RD/ARD to explain the situation – If you have video, bring it

# SOM RFA Process

- Review is accomplished by the SOM
  - An in-depth review of all relevant information
    - Written reports from the stations (witness statements)
    - Video
    - Testimony of participants involved
    - Testimony of other participants who might have observed the incident in question

# SOM RFA Process

- Tools of the SOM

- Race Control Logs
- Timing and Scoring Reports
- GCR
- Appendix P of the GCR to provide guidance in incidents of contact between cars
- Penalty Guidelines

# SOM RFA Process

- Tools for your defense
  - Videos – From your car as well as other competitors
  - Testimony/Witness statements from others who observed the incident
  - Know the GCR
- What not to do
  - Approach court in an aggressive/belligerent manner

# Court of Appeals



# Court of Appeals

- Any decision by the SOM involving a protest or the outcome of an RFA may be challenged, by either party named in the action, to the Court of Appeals
- Intent to appeal at the Runoffs must be made within **60** minutes of SOM Decision
- Fees - \$200 of which ½ will be kept by SCCA for administrative costs

# Court of Appeals

- The court will evaluate how the decision was reached
  - Were all rules of deliberation appropriately followed by the SOM
  - Was all the relevant information about the incident available and reviewed
  - Were the GCR and/or Supplemental Regulations properly applied

# Court of Appeals

- Decisions by the Court of Appeals are **FINAL** and cannot be challenged.
- All Court of Appeals actions will be completed by the end of the Runoffs

Be Safe and Have Fun!