



## Spec MX-5 2020 Update

### Major News: New Mazda Spec Class In 2020

Mazda, together with supporting technology and service partners, is announcing additional details of a new spec road racing class for 2020. The Spec MX-5 cars will be based on the NC generation 2006-2015 Mazda MX-5 platform, the same platform as the 2019 cars. These new class will leverage learnings by Mazda, especially from Spec Miata, the most successful road racing class in history.

### How the New Class Addresses Racer Needs

Mazda and its partners set out to achieve key goals with this new class:

- *Affordability:* Mazda is pricing its parts (non-safety related) near its cost to create an infusion of cars into the marketplace. Due to the Mazda Team Support Program, operation cost for the NC will be very reasonable. The goal is that the new Spec MX-5 can be built starting at approximately \$25,000 (donor car and options will vary). The intent is that the cost to operate the Mazda will further exemplify the value of the race car.
- *Fun to Drive:* The new Spec MX-5 will be a nimble and quick race car, designed to build on those attributes of the Spec Miata. Pace is expected to be place the car in SCCA T4 or T3, and NASA ST5, though more development and testing is in the works.
- *Parity:* Perhaps the most important pillar, Mazda has focused on partner selection, product development and more to ensure the race cars enable parity in the series (e.g., close attention has been paid to the engine where multiple techniques have been used to ensure engine-engine consistency). In addition to the spec development, Mazda is working closely with the sanctioning bodies to guide them in a successful tech process.
- *Easy Conversion:* The new Spec MX-5 will have a simple migration path for T3/T4 MX-5s, NASA ST5 MX-5s, NC MX-5 Cup cars, former Skip Barber MX-5s and first-generation Spec MX-5s.
- *Car Count:* There are approximately 200 NC MX-5 race cars available for conversion. Owners have expressed a strong interest in an upgrade path, unified rules and pro racing options.

### Designed For SCCA/NASA Crossover Use, and for Spec MX-5 Challenge Pro Series

Crossover between NASA and SCCA events has been a key feature of Spec Miata, and the new Spec MX-5 builds on this philosophy as well. The new Spec MX-5 is being designed to run competitively in SCCA Touring, NASA ST5, and Spec MX-5 Challenge classes. The end goal is to build critical mass to create a spec national class in NASA and SCCA with Spec MX-5 Challenge

remaining as the halo series. Mazda is working with SCCA, NASA, and Spec MX-5 Challenge to allow racers flexibility in choosing race tracks and events sanctioned races with simple changes (e.g., tires).

The Spec MX-5 Challenge, which has been the pro series in support of NC MX-5 racing since 2018, will transition to running the new Spec MX-5 in 2020. The Spec MX-5 Challenge will be designed to allow both independent drivers and shop-supported racers to leverage some or all of their regular season races to compete nationally for scholarships, recognition and test invitations.

### **The New Car Specifications**

The new car is based on the current SCCA T3/T4 & NC MX-5 Cup rules, but with these changes:

- A new spec engine and ECU are currently in development with the focus on Touring rules, higher output, fun to drive, reliability, and parity.
- NC MX-5 OEM 6-speed transmission, with upgrades for reliability.
- Non-adjustable Penske Racing Shocks (in development)
- Many more updates to be announced in the coming months.

### **Costs for the New Race Car**

The target introductory price for the purchase of a Spec MX-5 kit of parts with donor is approximately \$25,000. While labor rates and street donor car price will vary, the complete kit of parts to convert a street car donor to a full new Spec MX-5 is expected to cost less than \$20,000. The estimate for appropriate street car donors is approximately \$6,000. In addition, Mazda is working with major shops to ensure that they are ready to build customer cars in time for the 2020 season. Those owning existing NC MX-5 race cars will be able to convert their cars at the same time. Like the build kits, the conversion kits will be launched with significant savings in an effort to aid in building critical mass and supporting current customers.

### **Timing of Parts Availability**

The goal is to have all new Spec MX-5 parts available to order by October 1, 2019. Some parts will be available before then, so builders can get a head start on 2020 cars and add the final pieces in the fall of 2019.

### **Shop and Trackside Support**

Mazda is briefing major shops on this new program with the intent of having support for car builds and testing nationally. Trackside support teams and shops, most of who also build cars, are also being briefed so that everything from parts supply to full arrive & drive services should be available in all regions and for many events in 2020.

### **Additional Information**

We have created an email list for racers and shops who would like to receive periodic updates. Go to <https://mailchi.mp/specmx-5.com/2020> to sign up.