



Spec MX-5 Challenge Sporting Regulations

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### **Spec MX-5 Challenge**

Sporting Regulations for the Spec MX-5 Challenge are a combination of the rules set forth by Spec MX-5 Challenge and the hosting sanctioning body for each Event Weekend (NASA CCR, SCCA GCR, IndyCar, etc.). The rules below are specific Spec MX-5 Challenge rules. If a rule doesn't appear below, refer to the hosting sanctioning body's rule book for clarification. If there is a conflict between Spec MX-5 Challenge rules and sanctioning body rules, the Spec MX-5 Challenge specific rules will be the default for the purposes of awarding points.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

*Social media* includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort via digital applications or on the Internet, including any social network, blog, podcast, journal or diary, personal web site, web bulletin board or a chat room, whether or not associated or affiliated with Spec MX-5 Challenge, as well as any other form of electronic communication. The most common forms of social media are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat and YouTube. Even though these forums may seem informal, as a Competitor or Official of Spec MX-5 Challenge you are still expected to act professionally always. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for what is posted online. Always be fair and courteous to others. Nevertheless, if you decide to post complaints or criticism, avoid using statements, photographs, video or audio that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, that disparage others or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone's reputation or posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment based on race, sex, disability, religion or any other status protected by law, rule or policy. Inappropriate postings that may include discriminatory remarks, harassment, and threats of violence or similar inappropriate or unlawful conduct will not be tolerated and may subject you to disciplinary action up to and including suspension. Make sure you are always honest and accurate when posting information or news, and if you make a mistake, correct it quickly. Remember that the Internet archives almost everything; therefore, even deleted postings can be searched. Posts are "on the record" and available to the media, public, sponsors, and other business partners and subject to discovery in litigation matters. Express only your personal opinions. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for Spec MX-5 Challenge.

### **Spec MX-5 Challenge Executive Committee**

The Spec MX-5 Challenge Executive Committee has total executive authority over all regions, officials, and all matters of any nature pertaining to Spec MX-5 Challenge issues, except as otherwise stated in this subsection. The Executive Committee will make judgments, definitions, determinations, clarifications, and settle all presented appeals. The decisions of the Executive Committee are the final rulings and cannot be appealed.

### **Spec MX-5 Challenge Series Director**

The Spec MX-5 Challenge Series Director assigned to the Event Weekend has total executive authority over the Event Weekend, for all matters of any nature pertaining to Spec MX-5 Challenge points issues. The Series Director will make judgments, definitions, determinations,

and clarifications. The decisions of the Series Director can be appealed to the Executive Committee.

### **Event Race Director/Stewards**

The Race Director/Stewards will be set in place by the hosting sanctioning body pertaining to that race event. The Race Director/Stewards will make judgments, definitions, determinations, and clarifications. The decisions of the Race Director/Stewards can be appealed to the Spec MX-5 Challenge Series Director. However, in some cases the Spec MX-5 Challenge Series Director does not have the authority to overrule the host sanctioning body (e.g. a ban on a driver for sanctioning body rules infractions or a ban on a driver based on health considerations).

### **Suit Patches**

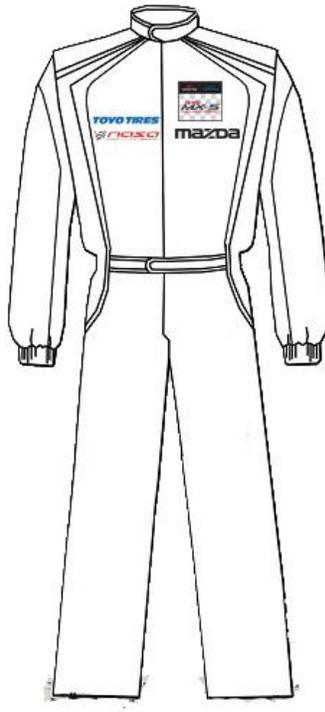
All competitors are required to have the following logos displayed on their suit for the duration of each event. Patches will be provided by the series; embroidery is also acceptable in the correct size.

#### Left Chest

- Spec MX-5 Challenge - upper left chest
- Mazda

#### Right Chest

- Space for team name
- Toyo Tires
- Sanctioning Body (NASA/SCCA)



## **Car Livery**

TBD

## **Testing**

The series allows testing pre-season at tracks the Series will run (assuming any necessary cars). During the Spec MX-5 Challenge season, drivers may test at tracks, either in-series or outside-of-series.

## **Drivers**

Spec MX-5 Challenge reserves the right to add more drivers to the series at any given time. Drivers joining the series mid-season, and who have paid the adjusted full-season fees for their service level, will be assigned last place points for each race they have missed. Note that to compete for the overall championship, driver must participate in a specify number regular season events. This number varies depending on driver's choice of National Series, Regional Series or Invitational.

## **Car Specifications**

Cars running in the Spec MX-5 Challenge must basically meet the requirements for the NC-generation Mazda Spec MX-5 as described in the SCCA rules for STL class cars, when running with SCCA. When running with NASA, cars must meet the ST5 rules published from time to time by NASA.

In addition, cars must meet the minimum technical specification set by Mazda and Spec MX-5 Challenge. These supplementary rules are available on [specmx-5.com](http://specmx-5.com) under Competitor Info/Rules.

Cars running in the Spec MX-5 Challenge must have video recording capability and it must be functional during qualifying and race sessions. Non-functioning video will be grounds for disqualification or penalty by the Series Director.

A tech evaluation process for cars is available from the series. All judgements about compliance or non-compliance with series rules are under the sole discretion of the Spec MX-5 Series Director.

## **Car Set-Up & Adjustments**

Except for ride height, adjustments to set-up are free.

## **Car Weight**

Cars will have a minimum weight with driver to equalize driver weight. This weight is 2500 lb. -- with driver and empty fuel.

## **Spirit of Spec Racing**

Any driver found tampering with a car during tech or after tech to gain an advantage will be suspended immediately from the series.

## **Tire Rules**

Cars in the Spec MX-5 Challenge are limited to running two new (sticker) sets of tires per race weekend. In the event that a driver damages a tire or wheel, and there is a safety concern, the

Series Director may allocate a used replacement tire. The Series Director will have final say in if a tire may be replaced or not.

### **Rain Tire Rules**

The Series Director will make the decision to utilize rain tires or slicks prior to each session, and all drivers will be required to run the same type of tire.

### **Radio Rules**

Radio communications are allowed during practice, qualifying and each race.

### **Race Structure**

The format for each event weekend will be dictated by the hosting sanctioning body (SCCA/NASA/SVRA/etc.), but typically each event weekend will consist of 3 days on track as follows:

Day 1: A test day (generally hosted by the track or sanctioning body)

Day 2: One Qualifying session and Race 1

Day 3: Race 2

Each race will have a split start from other classes, if possible. Spec MX-5 Challenge is a multiclass racing series. No driver can gain an “unfair” advantage from an out of class competitor during qualifying or race sessions (ruled by Spec MX-5 Series Director).

### **Qualifying and Starting Order**

The grid for Race 1 will be determined by the fastest laps from the first qualifying session. Laps will be discarded where track limit violations are found. In the event qualifying is not completed, grid order will be based on current point standings. The grid for Race 2 will be set by the fastest laps from the second qualifying session, or if there is only one qualifying session the grid will be set by the fastest laps from both the first qualifying session and Race 1.

### **Regular Season Points System: Regional Series**

Regional season points will be assigned for each race finish as follows:

1st - 10, 2nd - 9, 3rd - 8, 4th - 7, 5th - 6, 6th - 5, 7th - 4, 8th - 3, 9th - 2, 10th - 1

A bonus point will be awarded for starting each Regional race (max 6 races)

Regular season finishing order will be established by adding the points from each driver's best 6 races to bonus points. The highest point total (for 6 races) will be awarded first place for the regular season, the second highest will be awarded second place, and so on.

Carryover points will be the sum of the race points earned in the regular season. Thus, a driver who has run 10 races will carry over the sum of the points from his or her best 6 races including bonus points.

Any driver who is registered for Regionals, and runs at least one race, will be qualified for the Championship.

### **Regular Season Points System: National Series**

National Series points during the regular season will be assigned for each race finish as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> – 30, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 28, 4<sup>th</sup> – 27, 5<sup>th</sup> – 26 and so on if there are more than five contestants.

At the end of the season, National Series drivers will be ranked. The top-ranking competitor is awarded 66 carryover points, P2 receives 65, P3 receives 64 and so on.

All National Series drivers who have run at least 3 events qualify for the Championship.

### **Regular Season Points System: Invitationals**

Invitational points during the regular season will be assigned for each race finish as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> – 30, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 28, 4<sup>th</sup> – 27, 5<sup>th</sup> – 26 and so on if there are more than five contestants.

Invitational drivers also score points for teamwork, clean driving and social media.

Invitational drivers may only count two races as carryover points. The top 3 points scorers in each event will qualify for the Championship.

### **Championship Event**

As many as the top 60 full-season drivers from the series may qualify, based on regular season carryover points, to compete head-to-head at the Championship Event.

Drivers who qualify for the Championship Event will start the Championship Event with the carryover points they earned in the regular season.

Championship Event points will be assigned for each Championship race finish as follows: 1st - 30, 2nd - 29, 3rd - 28, 4th - 27, 5th - 26, 6th – 25 and so on down to 30<sup>th</sup> place.

The Championship winner will be the driver with the highest points total based on carryover points plus Championship Race 1 points plus Championship Race 2 points.

### **Prize System**

Spec MX-5 Challenge Champion payout is planned as follows:

1st - \$50,000 scholarship to an approved racing program (with driver choice of support by series race team)

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$25,000 scholarship to an approved racing program (with driver choice of support by series race team)

3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15,000 scholarship to an approved racing program (with driver choice of support by series race team)

\$5,000 awarded to the highest finishing Masters driver, provided he or she is not also a P1, P2 or P3 finisher in total points.

\$5,000 awarded to the highest finishing Emerging Talent driver, provided he or she is not also a P1, P2 or P3 finisher in total points.

To earn a payout, drivers must participate in the Championship event.

One driver, if qualified, will also be selected at large by Mazda to receive an invitation to the 2019 Mazda MRT24 Shootout.

The series reserves the right to alter these prizes at any time.

### **Points Tie Breakers**

In the event of a tie for regular season points, the positions will be decided upon the following criteria in this order until the tie is broken to determine qualification for the Championship Event:

- Most 1st places
- Most 2nd places
- Most 3rd places
- Most 4th places and so on until the tie is broken

In the event of a tie for Championship points the position will be decided upon the following criteria in this order until the tie is broken:

- Carryover Points
- Championship Races Points Total
- Most 1st place finishes (combined regular season and Championship races)
- Highest finishing position in the final Championship Races

### **Registering Points**

Drivers in the National Series and the Invitationals will automatically have their regular season points registered. Drivers running the West Regional Series or East Regional series

### **Driving Infractions**

Drivers in the Spec MX-5 Challenge series are expected to race fairly and cleanly. Avoidable contact, blocking, over-aggressive driving, etc. will be penalized based on severity of offense, from points penalties to position loss, up to and including suspension. Repeat offenders will receive increasingly higher penalties.

The hosting sanction body will use their standard procedures (refer to hosting sanctioning body's rulebook and event supplemental regulations) to conduct the event, including driver infractions, flagging protocols, yellow flag procedures, etc. Drivers must follow all of the hosting sanctioning body's procedures, instructions, and directives. In addition, the Series Director may add to, or reduce, any penalties assigned by the hosting sanctioning body as deemed necessary for fair competition.