

2010 Points

Posted by AvantAddict - 01 Oct 2009 23:47

To avoid any confusion for next year, I figure we can start talking about how to handle our points next year.

Here is my proposal.

How to score each race:

100, 90, 85

10 Point spread to 2nd Place

5 Point spread from 2nd to 3rd and down to 10th place

3 Point spread from 10th to 11th and down 15th place

2 Point spread from 15th to 16th and down to 20th place

25 Points minimum for all finishers 21st place and higher.

All non-finishers get half of the points scored by the lowest finisher with a minimum score of 20 points.

To determine season points, I propose we drop the lowest 25% of scores rounding up. Without knowing how many races there will be next year, I figure this is a good formula. So, if there are 9 - 12 races, we would have three drops. If we have 13 - 16 races, we would have four drops.

I also propose that for Nationals, we score only in region drivers or any driver that drives regularly in the region. I add this proviso as there may be drivers that technically live in a different region, but find us closer to race with. For example, I'm not sure if Kansas is technically Rocky Mountain or Mid-West, but drivers in western Kansas may choose to race with Rocky Mountain because it is closer even though it may be Mid-West.

I'm open to having the Nationals main race count for more points, but how do we score it. If it is scored as double points, Is it scored as two races or as one. If we score it as two races, do we allow both races to be drops or just one? Lets get everything clear now so that we don't have any problems next year

and new racers will know what we are doing.

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Re:2010 Points

Posted by Weston - 14 Oct 2009 06:37

AvantAddict wrote:

Weston wrote:

To add on to what I said earlier... I want to support Chuck's good intentions here, and he has certainly done a better job with our class than I could, so I've been trying to view this positively ever since I first heard about it a few months ago... While there are some good points to support this, I just have to be honest and say that I just don't see this plan working out in our group's best interests. There are some benefits, but I foresee it causing multiple problems that outweigh those, and the races would not be fair.

I'm really getting tired of having things to complain about, and this would most likely give me another one in 2010. I've spoken up about our bigger issues so that we can address them and improve things, and although I know a number of people agree with me, it's really getting old and just makes me look like someone who bitches and moans all the time. This is supposed to be our hobby... This is supposed to be fun. The more that we, or especially NASA, interferes with our racing/points/etc, the more drama it seems to cause for our group, regardless of what the intentions were.

Weston,

None of this is set in stone. That's why we are discussing it on this forum. If a majority of us want it, we will try to implement it. If not, then we won't. I personally don't mind "someone who bitches and moans" as long as they have valid reasons.

I'd like to know what you think the multiple problems are that will be caused if we implement this. It could be that we can address them. I'd also like to know how you think this lowers the bar. I see this making better racers. As I'm sure we all know, the fastest driver doesn't always win the race. If we want our region to show up and dominate at Nationals, we not only need fast drivers, but great racers.

If we can teach our faster drivers, who rarely, if ever, have to worry about being passed because they are fast, how to keep an even faster car behind them by slowing them down a little, I see that as a benefit. There isn't a single driver amongst us that wouldn't benefit from having tighter races that make us practice and learn better race craft.

I don't think anyone had any illusion of this being set in stone, as such a change would certainly not be presented in this manner. The problems with this are pretty clear, and others here have mentioned a few of them... We're taking the slowest class and making it slower in order to manufacture a "race. Sorry, but that's simply not racing, much less "low cost, equal racing". It also offends the people that this is supposed to benefit, because they want to fairly earn their results just like many of the rest of us want to. I don't see anyone asking for a handout, but I do see people feeling insulted when they are offered one.

As for it helping people develop racecraft, that's the strongest point I see in favor of this, but the fact remains that racecraft isn't going to win Nationals when we're driving a few seconds off of the pace. Removing X amount of weight when we get to Miller isn't going to instantly make everyone faster... it's going to take everyone some time to adapt, which puts us at a disadvantage compared to other regions, even for those drivers who can adapt quickly. And that's assuming that the car is already setup properly for the lower weight. Not to mention, we'd be destroying the value of our regional racing season in the process.

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Re:2010 Points

Posted by joepaluch - 14 Oct 2009 06:40

Couple bits of experience here.

Az has been around in this class since 2002. I would say that 75% of us have been in these cars since 2005. That is a long time in one class. Over the years we have discussed much of what you guys have.

Weight penalties -

The idea is sound, but it does create an environment that handicaps the fast guys vs requiring the slower ones to develop. Back in 2003 I won about 20 straight races in class. Then I took a break in 2004 and when I came back I had to work for every position. The class skill level had improved that much. Right now I am in the lead pack for most of my local races, but not at the very front. I like to know my position vs the other drivers straight up. I don't want to be beating a guy like Norm only because he has to carry 100 lbs more than me. I want to beat him straight up and this sentiment is shared by nearly all the drivers. Guys like Norm are a benchmark and knowing your lap time vs theirs give you a measuring stick on your own performance. So while we in Az tossed this idea around in 2003 and 2004 we never went with it. Plus it can be hard to properly determine weights if a slower racer wins because the fast guys did not show or had a mechanical.

- Drops, Cross overs and Nationals.

We in Az have had crossovers since 2003 mostly with So-cal. We have always tried to have these count for points, but at the same time have enough drops to cover them. This means you don't need to tow a long way to stay in your local hunt. There are times we add in night races or short enduros as well. These have always counted for points, but again we have drops to cover them. So in effect you get a bonus if you do well, but it will not hurt you if you don't do well or can't make it. We did the same for Nationals. We scored it as a single race for single points and had enough drops to cover it. Right now our current local series points leader is close to winning the region championship. He has either finished first or second in each regional race, but could not make nationals, our so-cal crossover and had a mechanical that took him out for one event. Even so he can wrap up the championship at our final race weekend over thanksgiving. Point is that he has had ample chance to both win locally and yet not overreach his budget for long tows.

One thing I like is drops as percent of total races. One of things I struggle with is allowing for enough drops to make sense, but also have enough races to make a proper championship. The percentage thing is nice to create more structure around that as our season can vary in length.

Re:2010 Points

Posted by SvoChuck - 14 Oct 2009 06:47

This should have been a different thread ... but.

weight rewards is not part of Nationals . I'm not sure what my plans are for September next year. So with that in mind I want to focus on what makes me happy and that's racing here in the RMR !

Back in August at PPIR Dirks and Eban were fixing cars and could not make the event, so I did some experimenting with weight rewards. On Saturday I was over weight then on Sunday I was even more overweight. The racing was GREAT that weekend and on Sunday I ran .6 seconds faster than on Saturday . ? why because I was driving like Der Kommissar at MPH trying to pass Dave and trying to catch Steve. This year I also ran with my spare tire in at most events even with my tank empty my car is over weight with the spare in. WHY . because I don't give a hoot (keepin it clean) about second place in the championship points I want to fight like hell to keep Dirks and Eban and Dave behind me at Pueblo ! I want to run for my life while Shane and I trade positions twice per lap !

one way of making that happen is weight rewards . are there other ideas ... yep . more to come .

Re:2010 Points

Posted by SvoChuck - 14 Oct 2009 06:58

If we run rewards weight we could put in passenger seats in those front running cars , then they could show me how to go faster . ? The instructors who drive for free in HPDE 4 that is .

Re:2010 Points

Posted by Weston - 14 Oct 2009 07:31

944cer wrote:

Weston, only you can decide how much you want to "bitch and moan" and how much fun you will have. Racing by definition is as challenging and sometimes frustrating as it gets.

Part of what I was getting at is that I know I'm not the only one who feels the way I do about certain things, just that sometimes I'm the only one who speaks up about it. People can write me off as some habitual complainer or attack my arguments, but that doesn't change the fact there's a problem that needs to be addressed. It seems like I'm getting more grief than it's worth for speaking up, so maybe I should just be silent, let the problem continue to grow, and then it can be a "surprise" when a bunch of people are pissed off and leave without saying a word. I see NASA already experienced some of that this year with the tire nonsense.

I enjoy the challenge of racing... that's why I'm here. What I really don't enjoy is repeatedly being put at an uneven disadvantage. After all the crap I've been through over the past two seasons, I don't have any patience for screwing around. I've spent two seasons "playing" and trying to have fun without being able to run where I should be, and I'm completely burnt out with that. It's one thing to do that at an event or two, or get screwed over by bad luck on occasion, but it gets old really fast when something knocks me down damn near every event. I haven't had a race weekend that I felt very good about since March of 2008... I didn't even do all that well then, but I finished where I should have at that time, and I was happy with that. The key to doing better was more in driver development, than overcoming stupid BS that I shouldn't have to deal with in the first place.

I just want real, honest, races. I want the starting and finishing positions that I earned, fair and square. That's what has value to me and would validate all the pain of 2008 & 2009, otherwise there really isn't any point for me. I've been hanging on in the hopes that I'd have a good race weekend again, but if it's going to be clear that won't happen, then I suppose I might as well just cut my losses and stop now...

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