

ORCi DISCIPLINARY REVIEW

The ORCi has during December and January reviewed various parts of its disciplinary process as part of its ongoing aims to look after its drivers and provide a fair process when incidents do occur.

Several points have now been re-clarified and supplement the existing policies with effect 18th January 2013. 95% of drivers will not fall foul of Disciplinary procedures and year on year that figure improves in line with improvements in consistency of approach.

Technical Offences - Applies Engine irregularities only

Technical infringements discovered during engine checks have previously carried a mandatory ban of 12 months. Upon review this has, for a first offence now been reduced to 6 months. A second offence will attract 12 months and thereafter further penalties will be invoked for serial offenders.

Those drivers currently serving a 12 month for this offence will be advised individually by their promotions of an amnesty in this area and if appropriate existing bans will be recalculated / reduced.

Please note that any refusal of your car to be checked, either pre- or post race will attract a standard 12 month ban.

Physical Violence

The ORCi has a consistent and robust policy in terms of Physical Violence and ensuring an appropriate and safe environment for all. There is no change to the penalties for such offences and continues to carry a mandatory 12 month automatic ban for a first offence. However the ORCi has reviewed self defence for unprovoked attacks. Currently, any form of retaliation resulted in exactly the same ban however, the ORCi will consider 'reasonable defence' on a case by case basis to adjudge a suitable and in some cases much reduced penalty of up to 50% if this is proven.

For clarification bans in this category are detailed below:

Verbal Abuse 3 months:

Threatening Behaviour 6 months

Physical Violence 12 Months

Physical Violence 2nd Offence 3 Years

Physical Violence 3rd Offence LIFE

Note: see separate section with regard 'Totting Up' procedures for repeat offences.

You should note that with effect from 18th January 2013 should any of the above offences be committed against a Race official / personnel then the sentence will be double that above.

Seasonal Formula Bans

The majority of ORCi formulae race on a seasonal basis. Clarification has now been established to ensure consistency that an official season runs from 1st March to 30th November inclusive. In the future ALL bans will be calculated in racing months. As an example if a driver commits an offence on the 31st October and receives a 6 month ban, one month will be served in November, the remaining five months will be served from the 1st March the following year.

There are formulae and drivers that race during the Winter and these drivers will be dealt with on a case by case manner and always historically on a record that a driver has competed during the winter and not necessarily claims he/she intend to. In such cases the winter month period of December/January/February will count as 1 month of a racing season ban.

Totting Up Procedures.

Further clarification to this has been made. Any driver will be subject to totting up for any offences committed during the 2 year period leading up the offence, any prior to 2 years, with the exception of violent conduct offences, will be considered 'spent' for the purpose of Totting Up.

Driver Offences 'By Association'

There are one or two anomalies that exist in individual formulae where there has been a inconsistent policy.

For example where a non racing member of a race team commits an offence at an event and 'holds' a current racing license, yet is principally inactive, in isolated cases the actual driver has escaped punishment and a ban imposed upon the licensed team member. It is deemed now that this is inappropriate as a 'ban' on a barely active driver is not punitive.

For the avoidance of doubt there will now be absolute consistency and the driver at the meeting will take primary responsibility for any member of his team/associates whether that individual holds a license or not. The individual may also be subject to punitive action.

Clarification with regard Destruction Derby events

There has been a practice of individual promotions having 'local' rules permitting use of the infield for DD events. It is felt that this not only poses a risk for infield staff but also confuses drivers when they may visit other venues who have a zero tolerance to this.

For consistency, the ORCi have decided that ALL races at ALL venues must stick to the track area as defined and use of the infield will attract punishment as already prescribed.

Costs

Those undertaking hearings as part of the Disciplinary process have traditionally undertaken this at their own cost. In light of rising costs etc, an individual if convicted will have appropriate costs added to the penalty to cover the costs of the individual panel members adjudicating a case.

Consistency

As part of an ongoing policy to achieve consistency across the ORCi, a pre season meeting has been arranged on the 16th February at Coventry Stadium exclusively for National Banger Stewards to get together, exchange views and work collectively towards the aims.

Promotions will individually contact Staff with regard this meeting.

Review of local decisions

Again, for the purposes of consistency, the ORCi has now reserved the right to assess individual penalties and if necessary arbitrate and amend a decision if there are sufficient grounds to suggest that the original decision was not consistent.

PROTESTS - Important amendment

If a driver has a protest against the action of another which may not have been picked up or dealt with by Race Officials, the driver must in person make representation to the Steward of the meeting with his protest and within the individual tracks procedures WITHIN 30 MINUTES of the meeting being completed. Subsequent protests received in days following may well be rejected.

In all of the above the ORCi reserves the right to amend as it feels appropriate any penalties on a case to case basis.