



To: All Star Mazda Championship teams
From: Star Mazda Communications
Date: March 4, 2010
Re: Atlantic Championship Suspends 2010 Season

Gary Rodrigues / Founder, President, Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear:

"We are sorry to hear of the bad news about Formula Atlantic. We have sent a lot of drivers forward to successful motorsports careers through that program. It is fortunate for Star Mazda that, despite hard economic times, Mazda continues its 20 years of unwavering support of young racing talent and has assured us that they will continue to help Star Mazda's champions build on what they learn with us and move upward to the best racing programs available in subsequent years. We have seen an excellent example of this recently with Star Mazda's two most recent champions (Adam Christodoulou and John Edwards) promotions to Grand-Am GT with Mazda's help. It is rare to find such committed corporate partners these days. The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, with the support of our sponsors and teams is looking forward to another highly competitive year, starting with our traditional date at Sebring."

Robert Davis, Senior Vice President, Mazda North American Operations:

"All of us at Mazda are disappointed that the Atlantic Championship will be on hiatus this year. It was no doubt a very difficult decision made by the Atlantic management in conjunction with the teams. Mazda has greatly enjoyed the past four years of working with outstanding drivers, teams, and partners and we remain committed to our ongoing support of up-and-coming drivers in both open-wheel and sports car racing."

2010 Atlantic Championship Season Placed on Hold

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (March 3, 2010) - Due to the downturn in the global economy and the subsequent shortage of funded drivers, the Cooper Tires Presents the Atlantic Championship Powered by Mazda will go on hiatus until global conditions improve. The Atlantic Championship has and always will be committed to providing the best driver development series available to

the world's next generation of top-tier driving talent. Unfortunately however this experience cannot be upheld through 2010. Series officials will continue working throughout the year to develop new ideas for the future that will add value to drivers and also lower costs associated with competing in a world-class racing series like the Atlantic Championship.

"It is with a heavy heart and only after deep consideration that I have accepted the recommendations from the stakeholders in the Series to pause efforts related to the continuation of the 2010 Atlantic Championship season," said Ben Johnston, Owner, Atlantic Championship. "As a former Atlantic racer myself, the Atlantic Championship means a great deal to me personally. I know what this series means to the drivers of the world as well as the heritage that Atlantics carries with it and I will not devalue the world-class experience that each one of our drivers is entitled to just to save face during these tough economic times. I am committed to this series now as much as ever and will assure Atlantic fans that the Atlantic Championship office will be working during the down time in order to deliver an unparalleled racing offering when economic conditions allow."