



GOODYEAR



MAZDA SPEED  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



To: Star Mazda Championship teams and drivers  
From: Gary Rodrigues / Star Mazda Championship  
Date: December 29, 2011  
Re: Looking forward to 2012

Thanks to the numerous people who have responded with input on the many subjects we have solicited you about. The diverse questions and suggestions were very helpful to keep us focused on the things you consider important.

Why do they call this the “off” season? Not for the Series staff. We have been working to organize a number of details to respond to your input, in addition to our usual push to improve the value of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear again for 2012, for all concerned. We hope you will agree that despite the few disappointments, where we fell short of our hopes, they were vastly outweighed by the things we were able to accomplish.

1) The 2012 schedule is published, albeit with one TBA still hanging. The response to the mostly double race events has been enthusiastic. See [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

2) We have completed over 350 miles of testing with two different cars and drivers, yielding useful data on the issues we were asked to explore. We have been able to make some nice improvements in the areas we preview here and will detail in the 2012 rules, coming soon.

3) We are not permitted to reveal the details of the new TV program yet, but we are close and it will be comprehensive. This will be a significant boost for everyone.

4) Bad news: the oil sponsor for the Mazda Road to Indy has backed out for 2012. Sorry. Those of you with potential oil deals should do your best to go forward with them.

5) Expert class drivers have been responding favorably to “the best 10 finishes” format for their championship. It works well with the double race events. Also Experts will NOT be restricted for testing, allowing them to run with NASA and SCCA.

6) New teams are forming to enter our Series. Preliminary counts look like our fields will be increased by at least 6 or 7 cars.

7) I will be attending the Autosport International Show at the National Exhibition Center in Birmingham, England - Europe's largest and most prestigious motorsports trade show -- January

11-14, representing the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear and the Mazda Road to Indy.

Any Star Mazda drivers or team owners, other representatives of the Mazda Road to Indy, are invited to contact me and work together to present the strongest possible case for European drivers to further their career goals by choosing to race in Star Mazda and the Mazda Road to Indy.

My schedule, hotel and cell phone information are below. If you are planning to attend the NEC show, please get in touch as soon as possible, and if you feel there is a young driver or manager who will be at the show that might be interested in meeting with me individually, you are encouraged to pass this information along to them.

Arrive Birmingham, UK - 1300hrs, Wednesday, 11 Jan 12

Depart BHX for LAX - 1725hrs, Saturday, 14 Jan 12

Hotel - Hilton Birmingham Metropole

National Exhibition Center

Birmingham B40 1PP

United Kingdom

Cell - 001-818- 620-2283

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*Below is a brief outline of what you should expect to see detailed in the 2012 Series rules, based on your input, our testing, and other considerations:*

a) Tires. After considerable testing with Goodyear and trying several sets of experimental tires, we have concluded the 430 compound we have been using is optimal for all but the oval tracks on our schedule for 2012. Three sets will be marked at each event for each entry. One set of previously marked tires will be permitted for the first practice session only. The correctly stamped tires are the only tires (except rain tires) to be used for each event.

b) Chassis tuning improvements. We have determined that new rockers are enough to address the turn-in characteristics that made some drivers uncomfortable. Shocks, anti-sway bars, and springs currently supplied per spec worked very well and do not need to change. New rockers will be available the first week of February (000-588 FRONT ROCKER LEVER 2012 / 020-553 REAR ROCKER LEVER 2012, total cost under \$500 ). These will be REQUIRED as part of the 2012 spec, with the exception of non-championship cars running the original 2004 specs throughout. Order your new rockers immediately.

c) Gears. This subject drew the most input. All of it was useful, but widely diversified. In the end, the call we made is to list 12 gears as approved, with ANY combination permitted. The two new gears are a 15:32 second (065-511 15/32 HUBBED GEAR RATIO), and a 16:30 top (065-512 16/30 TOP GEAR). Total cost for both under \$800. They will be OPTIONAL. If you wish to have them, order them right away. They will be available the first of March. Orders will be filled in the order received. The other ten ratios are those previously listed in the spec stacks.

d) Testing. As in 2011 for 2012, except no testing in ANY car on a championship track before the championship event, non-championship drivers and Expert class drivers excepted. Planned Series test days are 19-20 Mar – Barber, 4 May – Lucas Oil Speedway, 27-28 Sep – Road Atlanta.

Feel free to call if you need clarification. See you soon at the track.

Regards,  
Gary Rodrigues  
(818) 686-3359 direct

**Additional matters of note:**

1) For 2012 the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will use Race Monitor for live timing on the series website and mobile devices. The Race Monitor app, available for iPhone/iPad, Android and Windows based phones, allows users at the track and away from the circuit to view timing and scoring in real time without having to be on the timing and scoring network on pitlane. It also allows end users to filter and view all laps for an individual driver during a session, and set alerts and notifications for individual drivers as well. Links to the Race Monitor app can be found on the series' new live timing page at <http://starmazda.com/timing/>.

While the website timing is free the mobile app is a paid app; \$4.99 for the base app and \$4.99 for in-app plus purchase to allow for individual laps and notifications, the ability to view this information away from pitlane in real time is a nice enhancement over previous live timing options.

2) IndyCar is planning on doing physicals January 9 through 12. If drivers can make it to Indy, IndyCar will be happy to do their exams at no cost. In addition to a physician and nursing staff, IndyCar will have their optometrist for the eye exam and representatives from AEGIS Labs on-site to do the drug screening.

IndyCar will also be doing exams February 13 and 14 if any drivers are in Indianapolis for the State of INDYCAR meeting (more details as available). Otherwise, they will need to contact Linda Staletovich ([lstaletovich@brickyard.com](mailto:lstaletovich@brickyard.com) / Administrative Assistant, IU Health Emergency Medical Center) and she will send drivers a packet of forms after the first of the year and they can get the exam done on their own. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway will be closed December 23rd through January 3rd, so Ms. Staletovich won't be in the office, but will be checking email and can schedule physicals from home.

3) With the Super Bowl in Indianapolis (February 5, 2012) over a month away, IndyCar is currently planning a few activities to take advantage of the large number of media that will be in town that week. If you are a driver and either live in Indy, or plan to be there for the Super

Bowl, or are a team located in Indy and have a car that you would be willing to use for display, please send a e-mail to Amy Konrath ([akonrath@indycar.com](mailto:akonrath@indycar.com)) and let her know... and send a copy to Peter Frey at [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com) also, so we know what our drivers are doing.

This could be a tremendous opportunity to showcase yourself, your team, the Mazda Road to Indy and the Star Mazda Championship... and we urge you to take advantage of it.

4) IndyCar is looking for Mazda Road to Indy drivers interested in contributing to the Mazda Road to Indy page on IndyCar.com. Some of the options include writing a short blog updating our fan base on your off-season progress, a fun Q&A, or share some stories about your holiday experiences. Below is a more detailed outline of what they're hoping to do. Keep in mind that these are just a few of the options they've initially thought of as they begin this process, and any other ideas you'd like to brainstorm with them are welcome! IndyCar is also interested in videos – great way to promote yourself and your sponsor.

*A. Blog*

A short entry discussing what the driver has been doing since the season ended. This can be a season review, a next season preview or any kind of story that will give fans a better sense on what drivers do in the off-season. For drivers participating in Winterfest or other racing activity, they are welcome to talk about that, as well. Drivers are encouraged to insert their personalities into the blog—give funny stories, talk about workout regimes, etc. IndyCar is hoping to start posting these at a rate of one or two a week until the season starts again.

*B. Question & Answer*

This Q&A is a great option for drivers that don't feel comfortable writing a free form blog, and want some guidance on things to discuss. Questions will address the same general topics, with a few fun questions mixed in tailored to that particular driver (i.e. We heard you're a huge pizza fan. What's your idea of the perfect pizza?, etc.) These will also be posted on a weekly basis until the 2012 season.

If you wish to participate in any of these – or have an idea you'd like to pitch (videos, perhaps?) please contact Kate Guerra at IndyCar (contact info below)... and be sure to copy Peter Frey at [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com) / (818) 398-5733 so we're in the loop on what you are doing.

KATE GUERRA | Public Relations Coordinator | Social Media

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