



From the National Court

**MOTOR SPORTS COUNCIL NATIONAL COURT
SITTING TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2015**

Tony Scott Andrews (Chairman)
Mike Harris
Ron McCabe

CASE No J2015/29 Trent Valley Kart Club Inquiry

This Inquiry comes before the National Court at the instigation of the MSA's Disciplinary Officer.

It relates to a Mini Max kart race organised by the Trent Valley Kart Club and held at PFI on 3rd May this year. Because of deteriorating weather conditions it was decided to bring the twelve lap race to a close after just nine laps. This was achieved by displaying both a Red flag and a Chequered flag.

The results were calculated as though the race had ended in the normal way by the showing of the Chequered flag, that is to say the results were based upon the order in which competitors crossed the line at the end of the ninth lap, 75% of the race having been completed.

One competitor, however, maintained that the results should be calculated as at the end of the previous lap, the race having ended not by the display of the Chequered flag but by the showing of the Red flag.

It is understood by this Court that the simultaneous display of both Red and Chequered flags to signify the end of a race is now becoming comparatively common practice.

It is, however, a practice of which this Court would not approve and considers should cease.

When a decision is made to show a Red flag, the intention is that drivers should immediately cease racing. For that reason the flag is shown not only at the line but around the circuit at each and every flag post. The signal to cease racing will be seen by every driver on the track, they will, or should, slow down and overtaking is forbidden.

The Chequered flag has a quite separate and distinct meaning. It is shown first only at the line such that competitors will obviously not be aware of it until such time as they cross the line and, unlike the display of a Red flag, competitors are entitled to continue racing until such time as they pass the flag on the line.

To display both together is not only inconsistent in procedural terms but, in practice, confusing for competitors. In cases such as this, if a competitor sees a Red flag, curtails what would otherwise have been a successful overtaking manoeuvre, follows that other competitor to the line only to find a chequered flag with results being taken as at the crossing of the line, it is the view of this Court that he would be entitled to feel disadvantaged.

The entry in the index to the 2015 MSA Yearbook for "Flag signals, Karting" refers the reader to Regulation K6. It is believed this should, in fact, be to U6 which deals with flag signals in Karting. This section does not seem to contain any reference to a Red flag but fortunately U.7.9 shows that a kart race can be stopped by the display "of red flags". This regulation continues at U.7.9.3 in terms that "If 75% or more of the race distance has been completed by the leader the race will be deemed to have ended. The race results shall be declared as the lap completed by him and before the race was stopped."

It is considered by the Court that the effect of this is as that set out rather more clearly at Q.5.4.3 which says "The result will be based on the order of crossing the finish line at one lap less than at the time of the first showing of the Red flag."

In the instant case, the subject of this Inquiry, the results should be recalculated to show the order of crossing the line one lap before that on which the red flag was displayed and those results should be published accordingly.

One further point arises which is that whereas U.7.9.3 clearly states "the race will be deemed to have ended", Q.5.4.3 gives the Clerk of the Course the right to elect to continue a circuit race even though stopped after 75% of race distance has been completed. Subject to the exercise of that right, it would seem to the Court that there can be no objection once cars have stopped, whether on the grid or in the pit lane, to then displaying a Chequered flag to indicate that the race will not be resumed and has ended.

TONY SCOTT ANDREWS
CHAIRMAN