



From the National Court

**MOTOR SPORTS COUNCIL NATIONAL COURT  
SITTING TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

***Guy Spollon (Chairman)***  
***John Felix***  
***Mike Garton***

**CASE No J2015/40 Daniel Ticktum**

Daniel Ticktum appears before the National Court who must consider what disciplinary action is appropriate following a most disturbing and dangerous episode at the BARC Silverstone meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Daniel Ticktum appears before the Court supported by his father. He has the advantage of being represented by leading counsel, Mr Alan Maclean QC and Mr Jamie Horner, Solicitor.

The brief facts are as follows:

Daniel Ticktum has had a highly successful racing career spanning over 8 years. He is very talented and may well be capable of progressing to Formula 1. He is a Red Bull sponsored athlete and is dependent for the furtherance of his career upon sponsorship. This Court is only too aware of the pressures that young men and women are under in trying to pursue a professional career in motor sport.

Prior to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Daniel Ticktum had maintained a relatively clean driving record. However in the summer of this year his licence was endorsed with 6 points following an incident at the Croft Circuit.

Immediately prior to the Silverstone race meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Daniel Ticktum was well placed to win the MSA Formula Championship. We have no doubt that he was under enormous pressure to succeed and mindful of the need to impress his sponsors.

During the first lap of the Silverstone race Daniel Ticktum was involved in what we regard as a 'racing incident' with a fiercely competitive rival, one Ricky Collard. Regrettably for Daniel Ticktum he was spun out of the race and relegated to the last position. He told the Court that he felt that his chances of securing a good result had evaporated together with any prospects of winning the Championship. Although at this stage of the matter the National Court had some sympathy for Daniel Ticktum what happened thereafter can only be described as totally irresponsible and reprehensible in the extreme. Despite the deployment of the safety car and the waving of yellow flags, Daniel Ticktum accelerated off in pursuit of the pack at very near racing speed. Although there were stricken cars at the side of the track with marshals and drivers, Daniel Ticktum passed no less than:

- 13 yellow flags
- 4 double yellow flags
- 2 white flags and
- 15 safety car boards.

He overtook 10 cars on the track besides those that were stationary or in the process of recovery and/or restart. Having come up alongside Ricky Collard with whom he had been in contact earlier, Daniel Ticktum then deliberately and apparently regardless of the possible consequences drove into Mr Collard's car, damaging it and effectively ruining any chances of Ricky Collard completing the race. Daniel Ticktum then drove into the pits and disappeared, no doubt realising the enormity of his actions.

In fairness to Daniel Ticktum thereafter he was open and frank with the officials, admitting to the Stewards that he had wanted Mr Collard "to suffer". The Court in its endeavours to ascertain what exactly had happened from the first contact between the cars of Daniel Ticktum and Ricky Collard has been considerably assisted by the available film footage, particularly the footage from the on board camera on Daniel Ticktum's vehicle.

The predicament that Mr Daniel Ticktum now faces is that:

Firstly the Clerk of the Course excluded him from the meeting with 6 penalty points. Secondly, the Stewards imposed a 30 day suspension and have referred the matter to this Court for the consideration of further penalties. Thirdly he stands to be suspended for 3 months in any event under the totting up provisions of C2.1.8, having amassed a total of 12 points within a 12 month period.

We have listened carefully to the evidence of Daniel Ticktum, paying particular attention to his age and lack of maturity. We have also listened to the full and helpful submissions of his Counsel who has addressed us comprehensively on the possible options and penalties open to this Court. We have also read all the references which have been provided including one from his former headmaster who describes him as considerate, sociable, affable, good natured and trustworthy.

As has already been indicated the Court does understand the pressure now placed upon young competitors. However, this cannot and does not excuse reckless and dangerous driving. Motor sport is an inherently dangerous sport. The National Court must state quite clearly that if drivers flagrantly ignore yellow flags and safety boards and with some pre meditation drive into a rival competitor's car, there will be serious consequences.

Taking into account all the mitigation in this matter and making such allowances that we can, we direct that the following penalties must be imposed:

1. Daniel Ticktum's licence must be suspended for 2 years commencing 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
2. The first 12 months of that suspension will be immediate. However the second 12 months will be suspended for 12 months on condition that there are no further offences.
3. The 'totting' period of 3 months will be ordered to run concurrently with the first year of suspension.

4. Daniel Ticktum must undergo a further ARDS test prior to the recommencement of his motor racing career.
5. There will be an order for the payment of £2,000 towards the costs of the hearing.

**GUY SPOLLON**  
**CHAIRMAN**