2023 SMP Cup Breakouts

Analysis

SMP Break-outs

- Purpose of setting breakouts at each track
  - The purpose of evaluating breakouts should be to keep cars in a class at one track in roughly the same class at the other tracks.
    - i.e., a GT2 driver at CTMP should be roughly competitive in GT2 at the other tracks.

SMP Break-outs

- The suggestion before the weekend was that 1km of new paving might improve lap times.
- Drivers were advised at the drivers meeting that the breakout times would not be used for Qualifying.
- After qualifying on Saturday, the Stewards were approached by acting Race Director about the breakouts for SMP Long track.
- CASC-OR Race Regulations, Appendix O, Section F PIRELLI Tire Touring, Section 5
  - New Tracks and Track Configurations:

  For the first event at a track, or track configuration, for which break-out times have not been established, there shall be no break-out during qualifying. **Break-out times for each class shall be established as two seconds less than the average of the best qualifying lap times achieved by the three fastest cars entered for the class, rounded down to the nearest even second**. The CASC-OR Race Director may set or alter these break-out times.
- Analysis (i.e., who broke out) in the following slides only includes drivers who competed in more than one CASC-OR event this year.
  - Excluded: Felix Kwok, Gary Kwok, Ian Crerar, and Steve Kent.
- Small data sample: classes had 4 to 7 entrants
- Difficult to directly compare to a previous year because drivers could sandbag in previous years to prevent a breakout.

SMP Break-outs

- GT1, 2022 1:53.999 or faster.
  - 5 entrants
  - Only 1 driver (of 5 entrants) was over 1:53.999
    - James Maclean – only ran Qualifying, DNS for the three races
- Example vs CTMP
  - Rocco Marciello was qualified with 1:48 on SMP Long Track, 5 seconds under minimum GT1 lap time
  - At CTMP BARC weekend Rocco was 3 seconds under the minimum GT1 lap time.

SMP Break-outs

- GT2, 2022 1:54.000 and slower
  - 7 entrants
  - Three drivers would have broken out in Qualifying, and Race 1, and Race 2 and Race 3:
    - Daria Khachi
    - Marlin Langeveldt
    - Pat Cyr
  - One driver would have broken out in Race 2:
    - Geoff Johnson
  - One driver would have broken out in Race 3:
    - Chantal Carter
  - Four drivers per 4.1.1 would be reclassified to GT1 for the rest of the year
    - Daria Khachi
    - Pat Cyr
    - Marlin Langeveldt
    - Geoff Johnson
- As per Section 5, the time would be 1:50.000 (average of top 3 minus 2 seconds, rounded down).
- The updated time was 1:50.000 and slower and did not produce any breakouts.

SMP Break-outs

- GT3, 2022 1:58.000 and slower
  - 5 entrants
  - Two drivers would have broken out in Qualifying, and Race 1, and Race 2, and Race 3
    - Krystian Palka
    - Brad Ranson
  - Two drivers per 4.1.1 would be reclassified to GT2 for the rest of the year.
    - Krystian Palka
    - Brad Ranson
- As per Section 5, the time would be 1:54.000 (average of top 3 minus 2 seconds, rounded down) with Felix Kwok, or 1:57.000 without Felix Kwok.
- The updated time was 1:54.000 and slower and would not produce any breakouts or reclassifications.
- If 1:57.000 was used instead, the same number of breakouts would occur, and Brad would still be reclassified.

SMP Break-outs

- GT4, 2022 2:01.000 and slower
  - 4 entrants
  - No drivers would breakout during the weekend.
  - The calculated updated lap time was updated to 2:00.000 and did not make any difference in the results.

SMP Break-outs

- GT5, 2022 2:04.000 and slower
  - 4 entrants
  - One driver would have broken out in Qualifying
    - Michael Bos
  - Two drivers would have broken out in Race 1, Race 2
    - Michael Bos
    - Michael Sylvestre
  - Two drivers per 4.1.1 would be reclassified to GT4 for the rest of the year.
    - Michael Bos
    - Michael Sylvestre
- As per Section 5, the time would be 2:04.000 (average of top 3 minus 2 seconds, rounded down) – i.e., no change, and both Micheals would breakout and be reclassified.
- The time was left unchanged at 2:04.000 and slower, and both drivers broke-out, and were reclassified (possibly at a later event, the year-end results do not indicate it was done at SMP).

SMP Comparison – F1600

- Let's baseline with another class that does not use breakouts.
- Formula 1600 – had to compare Sunday 2022 Race 2 & Race 2 vs 2023 Qualifying. In 2022 Qualifying was on Pro Track.
- 2022: Top 3 average F1600A: 1:51.198
- 2023: Top 3 average F1600A: 1:50.440
- About 0.76 second improvement year over year, but not exact (race vs qualifying configuration).

SMP Wrap Up

- As requested, a review of the breakout times was done, as per the Regulations.
- The updated breakout times were calculated exactly per the Regulations.
  - The gaps between classes is 4 seconds.
  - Previously, the gaps for SMP Long were 3-4 seconds.
  - The gaps between classes at CTMP are also 4 seconds (except GT5 = 5 sec)
  - The gaps between classes at Calabogie Long are 3-5 seconds per class.
- The changed breakouts meant that 7 of 9 drivers did not break out and 1-2 of the 8 were reclassified.
  - There were 20 entrants in GT2-GT5 who could breakout. 7 of those 20 drivers would have broken out (35%), and 5 would have been reclassified (25%).
  - But this is partly because the drivers were told ahead of time, and so were not sandbagging.
- Data was based on groups of **only 4 to 7 entrants** per class.
- Could not directly compare with 2022 Qualifying, which was done on Pro track; only the Race 2 & Race 3 were on Long track in 2022.
- Drivers might be sandbagging at other tracks too, so the comparison might not be apples to apples. If we told drivers we were reevaluating breakouts at CTMP, we might see a similar number of drivers below their class breakout times.