

Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by Sterling Doc - 02 Apr 2011 14:32

Guys, it has become clear that Toyos will not be available in any significant quantity this year. The current shipment to Phil's Tire is held up in California, as well. I talked with John Lindsey this morning, and have been given the green light to change the tire rule for the class, for this year.

My goals with this, are to keep the RA-1 competitive, but allow an adequate supply of tires through the end of the year, without having to hunt them down across the country. As R-888's, and NT-01's are also made in Sendai, they alone do not meet our needs.

My proposal is to reference the Performance Touring rules, and allow any tire in the same " +7 points" performance category as the RA-1, with a maximum width of 225mm. Here is the relevant section quoted from the PT rules:

DOT-approved R-compound tires with a UTQG treadwear rating of 50 to 130 (ex. Kumho V700, Michelin Pilot Sport Cup, Nitto NT01, Pirelli PZero Corsa, Toyo R888, Toyo RA-1, Yokohama A048, etc) +7

This would include the NT-01, though remaining stocks of that tire are low, and it is made in the same Sendai plant. While the V700's are not available in a 15" size, the Victoracers are.

This should alleviate any supply issues, and keep the current RA-1's competitive.

Allowing Hoosier/Hankook/BFG tires would make RA-1's instantly non-competitive, and is not a good option, IMO. On the other end of things, allowing street tires gets very messy (hard to define, and very broad scope).

One issue is that other than remaining NT-01s, none of these tires are very cheap - somewhere around \$180/tire or more. I do see that the Tire Rack has Michelin Pilot Sport Cups at \$130/tire, but only in a 205/55/16" size. Allowing 16" rims, still limited to a 225mm tire width, may be an option as it would open up more tires (many are not available in a 15" size), but that would need to be thought through some more.

This would be a one year exception, with plans to return to the RA-1's next year, providing they become available again.

I want to wrap this up within the next 48 hours, and the choice is ours, so give me your thoughts!

This has been cross posted to the NASA forums.

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Re: Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by 944Racer72 - 05 Apr 2011 19:18

joepaluch wrote:

Look I know 5 guy in az who are good to go for the season on ra1s and few that might need a victoracer or NTO1 to make it through our season. We only have 6 races left for year. After having run 8 already. We don't need hoosiers.

We've been running an informal pole in NorCal and it seems we are probably good for the season on Toyos. AZ sounds about the same.

I'M NOT speaking for RMR but wasn't their plan to run in other classes anyway?

I keep coming back to the majority of people having Toyos for at least most of the season. Why not go the +7 route as it sounds like there are enough out there to get us going?

Hoosiers should be the last resort IMHO.

At the end of the day, I don't think this will effect me as a NorCal racer unless I attend Nationals as it sounds like we are going with the Toyos.

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Re: Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by Sterling Doc - 05 Apr 2011 19:24

I fully agree that individual regions should do whats best for them, because the situation varys widely.

We still have to come up with a National option, that is viable through the year, and at Nationals. I've asked John Lindsey for some more help/input, we'll see what comes of that...

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Re: Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by 944Racer72 - 05 Apr 2011 19:27

If you use the +7 rule now, are there enough for people to get started?

If yes, why not do it and get through a few months. If necessary, we can re-evaluate the situation over time after seeing how inventories pick up.

Nationals is a long way off.

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Re: Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by many944s - 05 Apr 2011 19:32

Eric,

I called earlier today to my suppliers checking on the R1R, the most I can get my hands is 9, though the pricing is decent.

-Nick

Bennington Motorsports

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Re: Spec Tire Rule Change Proposal

Posted by norman#99 - 05 Apr 2011 19:52

This site illustrates the tire pretty well, just not our size:

www.tiresdirect.net/TOYO Proxes R1R 195 50R15 82V P4715C885.cfm

I spoke with Debbie from Toyo today, 888 444 8696 she said the tire does not come in 225x50x15 but does come in 225x45x15 and there is a good supply available, but I would have to call my local Toyo guy. I left Bryan Shakelford a message and haven't heard back on price and his availability.

This site is from NASA's forum from a couple of years ago, drivers have experimented and compared 888's, ra1's with the R1R's, note that most of the cars are higher h/p and more weight than our cars which may not make the results totally accurate for us.

www.nasaforums.com/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=26249&start=10

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