

Seafair: Protest, process

An official protest has been filed by Schumacher Racing contesting the results of Sunday's Chevrolet Cup in Seattle, specifically a penalty called against their team prior to the start of the final heat.

The protest has been received by the ABRA (8/3/2008) and turned over to the Chairman for disposition. The process for reviewing this protest is as follows:

- The Chief Referee is responsible for writing a post race report and to provide his version of what transpired throughout the event, including the penalty that has been protested. The Chief Referee has seven days (August 10, 2008) to complete this report and submit it to the ABRA office and the Chairman.
- The ABRA has requested video footage of the Final Heat from KIRO-TV. It should be delivered to the ABRA by Wednesday, August 6. The ABRA rulebook allows for footage from an "official" source such as KIRO to be used in a review.
- The Chairman will convene a meeting of the ABRA Board of Directors to discuss the process for hearing the appeal and rendering a decision. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, allowing for the receipt of the Chief Referee report, KIRO footage and distribution of the protest filing from Schumacher Racing.
- At the conclusion of that meeting, the Chairman will announce the process and establish a timeline for handling the protest process and set a "final" decision date. It is the duty and responsibility of the Chairman, Chief Referee and Officials to enforce the rules of racing established by the ABRA Board of Directors.

The ABRA and its Chairman accepts responsibility for not notifying media of the penalty during the running of the final heat. We will develop a process of communicating infractions to the media in a timely fashion.

All teams competing in the Final Heat were aware of any and all infractions, warnings and penalties that occurred before, during and after the running of the Final Heat. Teams were notified in the "corral" by an ABRA Referee, in communications with all Referees at all times.

The ABRA has no method for direct communications with drivers during an event other than directly through team representatives in the radio "corral". The ABRA has no way to monitor communications between teams and their drivers.