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To all FEMA members

December 22, 2016

FEMA X-Mas letter

Dear FEMA members

The year 2016 is soon coming to an end. X-mas and new year's eve are only a few days away and we can look back on a great racing season 2016. We would like to use this opportunity to thank all FEMA members, all clubs and race organizers for their work and effort, making 2016 a racing season worth remembering.

If we look back on 2016, a few events should to be highlighted. Never in recent Speedmodelcar history were we able to welcome more fellow racers and had more models to be raced at a World and European Championships, as this year in Pila. Racers from Australia, the USA, and from all over Europe were competing in an excellently organized Championship. At this point we would like to thank all members of the PSMA, all sponsors and helpers for this truly impressive event.

For the first time in a long history we had a great diversity in national anthems played at the awards ceremony of the World and European Championship. Our sincere congratulations go out to the new World and European Champions.

But not only the World and European Championship were impressive this year, breaking a world record is always something special, even more so if you break a world record with your own build model and engine. With the highest appreciation we would like to congratulate Torbjörn Johannessen from Norway, in the name of all, for his new world record of 285.711kmh in class II (2.5cc).

Unfortunately we also had to deal with an accident at the World and European Championship in Pila. Only due to excellent security measures of the race track in Pila no one was hurt. In the aftermath of the accident the FEMA board conducted an investigation and came up with sanctions which were implemented with immediate effect. Please find them outlined again below.

All existing FEMA rules have to be enforced by each country delegate, race organizer and race participant;

Before each race or practice, all chassis, regardless of the class, have to be inspected and visibly checked by the race organizer for defects such as cracks, holes, or other indications that the chassis is not capable of withstanding the forces that occur during a run;

Chassis with visible cracks or exhibits holes that may structurally weaken the chassis shall not be allowed to race or practice;

A chassis that has been repaired, must be judged by the Race Jury, Stewards (3 People) before it is permitted to race or practice.

If there is any doubt about the quality of the repair, the club that is organizing the race will have the authority to forbid any car to practice or race if it not considered to be safe

Currently the FEMA board is working on different issues. Our technical secretary Oliver Monk updated the English version of the FEMA technical regulations. Soon we will publish the update on www.speedmodelcar.com. Further we will propose to separate the technical regulations from organizational rules. Therefore we envisage three basic documents as reference for our hobby, the FEMA statutes, the FEMA technical regulation (all rules for speedmodels and tracks) and the FEMA sporting code (all rules concerning organizing and conducting of speedmodelcar events and behavior). Our FEMA general secretary Christoph Rabenseifner is putting a lot of effort into the issue of FEMA licenses. In order to save time and increase effectiveness, the FEMA board will propose a new system without paper licenses for 2017. Instead we see the solution as an online list, administrated by the FEMA general secretary. In order to speed up the decision making process within FEMA, we will conduct an online vote, as we have done in 2015.

Looking into the future, the priorities for 2017 are clear. First and most important we will focus on the safety and security of our sport. Therefore we are updating the form for the security inspection for race tracks. As our secretary general Christoph Rabenseifner reminded all delegates at the general meeting in Pila, FEMA will not sanction races at tracks which do not adhere to the safety standards and/or have not completed the required safety inspection form as set out in the FEMA regulations. However, we as FEMA board are looking forward optimistically to 2017 and will meet at least three times (Pentecost in Kapfenhardt, at the European Championship in Stryi and at the GS Final in Pecs) in order to work closely and coordinated together for the benefit of our sport.

We wish you all happy X-mas, a happy new year, good health and a successful 2017 racing season.

For the FEMA board

Michael Schmutz

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Schmutz', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

President of the Fédération Européenne du Modélisme Automobile