



MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

Reg. No 1995/005605/08

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COURT OF ENQUIRY 1202 HEARING HELD IN THE MSA BOARDROOM ON THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2017

Present:	Tony Taylor	-	Court President
	Mark Cronje	-	Court Member
	Wally Pappas	-	Court Member
	Gavin O'Connor	-	Competitor Cameron O'Connor Father
	Cameron O'Connor	-	Competitor
	Vaughn Williams	-	Representative for Cameron O'Connor
	Dick Shuttle	-	Witness
	Eldrid Diederick	-	Clerk of Course
	Riccardo Stermin	-	Father of competitor Dino Stermin
	Corrie Bezuidenhout	-	Father of competitor Clinton Bezuidenhout
Apologies:	Dino Stermin	-	Competitor
	Clinton Bezuidenhout	-	Competitor
In attendance:	Allison Atkinson	-	MSA Scribe
	Wayne Riddell	-	MSA Sporting Manager

INTRODUCTION

The court members and attendees were all introduced and no objections were lodged against the composition of the court.

THE HEARING

On the 5th September 2017, Motorsport South Africa ("MSA") enrolled Court of Enquiry 1202 ("the Enquiry") to investigate whether Mr. Clinton Bezuidenhout had breached karting SSR 11 vii.

This is the written judgment of Court of Enquiry 1202. The enquiry took place on the 21st September 2017 between approximately 17h00 and 19h00.

EVIDENCE RECEIVED

Mr. Vaughn Williams stated that Cameron went out in Race 1 leading the championship. It became evident that he would be impeded by competitor Clinton Bezuidenhout. It seemed that Clinton was brake testing Cameron on the corners. Cameron would try and pull out and pass Clinton who would run him wide in the corners. Later on Mr. Williams moved from his position to get a better vantage point of the race. He noticed that Clinton was weaving on the track. Mr. Williams then tried to get the attention of the COC who was engrossed in admin paperwork. At this point Dino Stermin had caught up to them. Clinton then allowed Dino to go past but blocked Cameron. A protest was submitted, however there was no footage available. The COC did not witness the race, and Cameron was not in an emotional state to attend the protest. In race 2 Clinton caught up to the leading pack. Cameron was behind the leader at this stage. Dino then waves his hand at Clinton who then runs Cameron off the track. In race 3 Cameron was the leader and Clinton would then hold

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sport & recreation
Department:
Sport and Recreation South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directors: Adv. G. T. Avvakoumides (Chairman), A. Scholtz (Chief Executive Officer), A. Taylor (Financial), D. Easom, J. Fourie G. Hall, A. Harri, E. Murray, M. Rowe, R. Schilling, Ms M. Spurr, S. Van der Merwe

off Daniel Duminy for Dino Stermin. From these incidents it would seem that there was collusion with these competitors. The blocking by Clinton was in bad taste and not sportsmanlike. Competitors should be allowed to compete in once off races however the blocking should not be allowed.

Mr. Stermin stated that Mr. Williams view point is not correct. The waving of the hands is done regularly in karting. In the third heat when Dino spun off he had a flat tyre. The allegation that Clinton drove for Dino is not factual. Dino has not participated in the last two SARMC events and has no reason to contest the championship. They will be participating in the Rok Final. They also do not own a senior max engine. These motors belong to the team of SAKRA. RKT also supplied the motors to them throughout the year. Clinton also finished second overall and Dino finished third overall on the day. If Clinton was driving for Dino, he would not have finished second overall. You can also notice from lap times that there was no colluding.

Mr. Bezuidenhout stated that Clinton had written a statement. Mr. Taylor read out the statement to the parties present. Mr. Bezuidenhout stated that Clinton was not involved with any colluding with Mr. Stermin. A chassis was rented from the Birel Art team. The engine was rented from Henry Odendaal. The sprocket size was changed as the engine was not strong going up the hill. Another engine was made available after race 1 but did not make a difference opposed to the first engine. After viewing the video footage, you can see that Clinton does not bump Cameron off the track. Michael Buchholz was the competitor that bumped Cameron off the track.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the reason they withdrew the protest, was that they did not want Cameron subjected to the protest hearing. Cameron has been involved in two violent crimes in the past three years. They did not want to subject him to the stress of a protest hearing.

Mr. Diedericks stated that he did not watch the race as he was busy with issuing penalties from the previous race. He was in touch with the assistant COC however the radio communication was very bad. He did watch race 2 and 3 but could not see any further incidents. Video footage was not available straight after the event. The assistant COC was questioned about the incidents. He stated he did not see any incidents of blocking.

Mr. Shuttle stated that he witnessed the incidents and it was clear that Clinton was blocking for Dino. When Mr. Shuttle stated he went to Eldrid to ask him to view the race, Eldrid complied to the request, it would seem that the assistant COC was not helpful to Eldrid at all. When Eldrid did arrive to look at the race, the race was almost over. Tension was rife with the competitors and team members alike after the race. Mr. Taylor questioned Mr. Shuttle as to his capacity he attended the race meeting and the protest hearing. Mr. Shuttle stated he was representing Mr. O'Connor as a fellow club member of VKC.

At this stage the video footage was viewed. Commentary was given by all parties present while viewing the footage. Mr. Shuttle stated that Clinton was, at parts of the track always looking behind him, to which Mr. Bezuidenhout and Mr. Stermin stated that competitors were always looking behind them. Mr. Shuttle reacted by stating Mr. Stermin was not to talk to him directly but through the chair, should Mr. Stermin want to talk to him directly they could step outside. Mr. Stermin requested the chairman that Mr. Shuttle not threaten him. The chairman had to bring order to the court. Mr. Williams showed the court go pro footage from Cameron O'Connor kart where you see Dino waving at Clinton to come past.

Mr. Williams stated in closing that this type of driving should not be allowed in karting. Mr. Bezuidenhout stated that there was no collusion between the two parents. Mr. Stermin stated that there was categorically no collusion, and he felt that coming all the way from Cape Town was not necessary.

FINDINGS

Having heard all the parties and viewed the video footage presented to the Court, the court hereby finds no compelling evidence, to support the suggestion that Mr Clinton Bezuidenhout breached Karting SSR11 vii and viii of the National Karting regulations.

The court would caution competitors entering a National Championship event on a once-off basis to avoid any possibility of being seen to interfere, or in any way to affect the results of said event or the Championship concerned.

The court would further caution entrants, competitors, parents and any other interested parties from making allegations that would imply that a competitor has deliberately impeded another to aid third parties championship aspirations – this could be seen as “match fixing” and is a very serious offence.

All parties are advised of their rights in terms of GCR 212 B.

These findings are distributed via email on 23rd October 2017 at 10:15am

Ref. 161327/158