

RULE PROPOSAL

6/10/11

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New Class Proposal: **Top Sportsman**

Top Sportsman will cater for the fastest sedan based vehicles running in Group Three, using the dial your own handicap system.

Vehicles competing in this class are required to qualify faster than 8.50 seconds (1/4 mile).

Class Designation: TS/ **Eliminator:** **Top Sportsman**

Class Details TS/A: Any unsupercharged with any engine combination
TS/AA Any supercharged with any engine combination

Field Size

Top Sportsman eliminator will consist of the quickest 32 sedans qualifying faster than 8.50 seconds (1/4 mile) with no lower ET cut off, and will be seeded from the first round of racing.

Class Regulations Engine

(a) **Electronic Management:** OEM equipment / systems controlling the operation of brakes, steering, fuel / ignition systems or automatic transmission will be permitted where the original engine and drive-train are used. Moveable aerodynamic devices will not be permitted under any circumstances. Aftermarket Electronic Fuel Injection permitted.

(b) **Engine:** Automobile type engines required, any modification permitted, any engine location permitted. Engine must be self-starting by driver.

(c) **Exhaust:** Open exhaust permitted but must exit below sill panel level, directing gases out and to the rear (not at the track surface) of the vehicle. All turbocharged vehicles without mufflers must have two diffuser bolts through exhaust pipe

(d) **Fuel:** All classes restricted to methanol, ethanol or petrol only.

(e) **Liquid Overflow:** Refer General Regulations

(f) **Lower Engine Containment Device:** Required on all piston-engined cars using a supercharger / turbocharger or nitrous oxide with an ET quicker than 9.00 seconds (1/4 mile) / 5.70 seconds (1/8 mile).

(g) **Supercharging:** Supercharging, turbocharging or nitrous oxide injection is permitted. See Class Designations for Classification. Turbocharged vehicle using 4 cylinder, six cylinder or rotary engines are permitted to also use nitrous oxide injection.

Body and Chassis

- (a) **Batteries:** Refer General Regulations
- (b) **Body:** Any body produced by an automobile manufacturer is acceptable. Fibreglass replica bodies permitted. The replacement of removable panels with fibreglass or other materials is permitted, but with the exception of 1948 and earlier traditional hot rod type vehicles, no external panels such as bonnet or fenders may be removed. Sedans, panel vans, utilities, etc. are permitted. Convertibles of sedan models are acceptable but must compete with the hood up. A minimum of two operative doors required that permit entry from both sides.
- (c) **Chassis:** Frame from radiator to rear of car may be replaced. Any properly reinforced frame accepted. Additional members may be adhered for strength and/or roll cage installation. Refer General Regulations
- (d) **Upholstery:** Optional. Driver's seat only required. Refer General Regulations
- (e) **Wheelbases:** Wheelbase alterations are acceptable. Cars from 2006.6mm (79 inches) – 2260.6mm (89 inches) are restricted to maximum of blown sixes and fours up to 250 cubic inch capacity or single four barrel V8's to 310 cubic inches. Such cars must have full roll cage and wheelie bars. There are no restrictions on vehicles above 89 inches (2260.6mm). Wheelbase variation from left to right, maximum of 25mm (1 inch).
- (f) **Windshield and Windows:** Must be in good condition and need not be operative. All non-operative windows must be permanently closed. Plexiglass of a minimum of 3mm (1/8 inch) thickness may be used in any window to replace original glass. Other than factory tint, front windscreens must be clear on all vehicles.

Drive Line

All rules pertaining to Super Stock class drive lines are relevant to these classes, except that any type of transmission may be used
All supercharged sedans quicker than 7.50 seconds (1/4 mile) / 4.90 seconds (1/8 mile) are required to use fully floating rear hubs.

Suspension

All rules pertaining to Gas class suspension are relevant to these classes, except that rear suspension is optional.

Driver and Safety

- (a) **Fire Extinguisher System:** All supercharged cars using enclosed fibreglass or composite bodies running quicker than 9.00 (1/4 mile), are required to carry an on-board fire extinguisher system.
- (b) **Helmet:** Required. Refer General Regulations
- (c) **Licence Requirements:** UDL as minimum
- (d) **Neck Collar:** Required in all vehicle quicker than 7.50 seconds (1/4 mile) / 4.90 seconds (1/8 mile)
- (e) **Night Lighting:** Required. Refer General Regulations
- (f) **Parachute:** Compulsory all vehicles exceeding 130 mph (208 kph), or 140 mph (224 kph) where four wheel brakes are fitted. Dual parachutes with separate shroud line attachments mandatory on vehicles exceeding 200 mph (320 kph). Refer General Regulations
- (g) **Protective Clothing:** Required. Refer General Regulations
- (h) **Roll Bars / Cage:** Refer General Regulations
- (i) **Safety Belts:** Required. Refer General Regulations
- (j) **Self Starting:** Required. Push starts and Remote starters not permitted.

(k) **Technical Inspections:** Refer General Regulations

(l) **Tender Vehicles:** The use of tender vehicles in Top Sportsman Eliminator is permitted for all vehicles.

Electronics

Delay boxes, driving aids (such as shift solenoid, and pneumatic start line controllers) are permitted for all applications.

Down track throttle stops, electronic interrupters (stutter boxes) and traction control are prohibited.

This application should be considered on the basis that Top Sportsman has been running successfully for two seasons in Sydney, now with Willowbank ready to include it in their season and cars able to qualify in WA.

Top Sportsman have been self funding, and the Top Sportsman Association have been pro-active in chasing their own Bracket Sponsor. The Disparity from the top of supersedan 5.98 sec to 10.99 is too great and many racers in lower half of the field have serious concerns when racing these faster vehicles. This class will accurately reflect the changing technology and assist ANDRA in moving forward and embracing the same.

Does the rule protect the safety of participants and spectators?

Yes.

Is the rule a positive step for the sport?

Yes, It has proved popular with spectators and competitors with good close racing. Our fields are consistently larger than a few other classes and we always receive good feedback and a lot of attention in the pits from spectators.

Is the impact of the rule on other classes and brackets a positive one? Does the rule ensure increased opportunity for even competition?

Yes. The slower sedans have indicated they would like Top Sportsman to continue. The competition is more even, rather than the tortoise and hare competition now. It is beneficial to supersedan to have less numbers as the field is normally well oversubscribed. It also will encourage superstreet racers to step up to sedan knowing that the top qualifier will run at 8.51 or slower. Many are intimidated by the speeds currently run.

Is the rule practicable and enforceable?

Yes

Is the cost of complying with the rule reasonable for competitors?

Yes.

Anne Fowler