

COURT OF APPEALS

JUDGEMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEALS Bruce Shelton vs. SOM COA Ref. No. 20-07-NE October 22, 2020

FACTS IN BRIEF

Following the Saturday, September 5, 2020, Group 2 race of the Labor Day MARRS Spectacular at Summit Point Motorsports Park, Thomas Paolino, driver of Super Touring Lite (STL) #134, filed a protest against Bruce Shelton, driver of Grand Touring Pinto (GTP) #11, for violation of General Competition Rules (GCR) 6.11.1.A. and 6.11.1.D. (On Course Driver Conduct).

The Stewards of the Meeting (SOM) Lew Giesy, Larry Oliver, Jerry Wannarka, and Gene Kern (Chairman) met to hear and rule on the Protest. The SOM ruled Mr. Shelton did not drive to avoid contact when he left the racing surface to attempt to pass Mr. Paolino. In fact, Mr. Shelton lost control when getting back on the racing surface and contacted Mr. Paolino's car. The SOM upheld the protest, placing Mr. Shelton on a 3-event probation.

Mr. Shelton appealed the ruling.

DATES OF THE COURT

The Court of Appeals (COA) James Averett, Laurie Sheppard, and Pat McCammon (Chairman) met on October 6, 2020, to review, hear, and render a decision on the appeal.

DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EVIDENCE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

1. Appeal letter from Bruce Shelton, received September 13, 2020.
2. Official Observer's Report and related documents and video, received September 24, 2020.
3. Video from Car #69 provided by Thomas Paolino, received September 24, 2020.

FINDINGS

Mr. Shelton requested the COA review all documents and video available to the SOM but provided no additional evidence. He contends the contact between GTP #11 and STL #134 was a racing incident. He also alleges Mr. Paulino turned into him and forced the contact.

The COA reviewed the original video evidence, witness statements, and SOM documentation, as well as rear-facing video provided by Jeremy Butz, driver of STL

#69, which was immediately ahead of STL #134. At the race start, STL #134's rearward facing camera shows GTP #11 directly behind, accelerating, and attempting a pass on driver's right of #134. As the race continues, both videos show #11, with 2 wheels off the racing surface, pulling next to #134. While alongside, #11 attempted to reenter the track and impacted #134's right rear quarter panel twice, causing #134 to spin. There is no indication #134 moved right while #11 was alongside.

The COA finds Mr. Shelton exceeded the track limits on driver's right while attempting to pass Mr. Paolino. Mr. Shelton was unable to complete the pass safely and upon reentering the track, he contacted STL #134. The COA affirms the ruling that Mr. Shelton violated GCR 6.11.1.A. (Avoid physical contact) and 6.11.1.D (Decision to pass another car and to accomplish it safely.) The penalty assigned against Mr. Shelton by the SOM is within the range of penalties specified in GCR 7.2.

DECISION

The COA upholds the SOM decision in its entirety. Mr. Shelton's appeal is not well founded and his appeal fee will be retained by SCCA.

COURT OF APPEALS

JUDGEMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEALS Steven Greenhill vs. SOM COA Ref. No. 20-08-CN October 29, 2020

FACTS IN BRIEF

Following the Sunday, September 20, 2020, Group 1 race of the Autobahn Fall Classic at Autobahn Country Club, Steven Greenhill, driver of Spec Racer Ford 3 (SRF3) #79, filed a Protest against Matt Gray, driver of SRF3 #64, for alleged violations of General Competition Rules (GCR) 6.11.1.A., B., and C. (Rules of the Road) as a result of contact causing both cars to spin and stop in front of oncoming traffic.

The Stewards of the Meeting (SOM) Bob Eyrich, Paula Spencer, and Joseph Helser (Chairman) met to hear and rule on the Protest. The SOM interviewed both drivers and reviewed witness statements and available video.

The SOM determined there was insufficient evidence to assess blame and disallowed the protest. Mr. Greenhill appealed the decision.

DATE OF THE COURT

The SCCA Court of Appeals (COA) Jack Kish, Laurie Sheppard, and Tom Campbell (Chairman) met on October 22, 2020, to review, hear, and render a decision on the appeal.

DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EVIDENCE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

1. Appeal letter from Steven Greenhill, received October 9, 2020.
2. Official Observer's Report and related documents, received October 9 2020.
3. Video from SRF #64, received October 9, 2020.
4. Additional video taken by a track employee, received October 20, 2020.
5. New videos provided by Mr. Greenhill from Cars #6, #86, and #59, received October 9, 2020.

FINDINGS

Mr. Greenhill provided additional in-car videos as new evidence to support his appeal, asserting Mr. Gray violated GCR 6.11.1.A. (Avoid contact) and 6.11.1.B. (Allow racing room).

The COA notes the incident occurred in Turn 1 on the first lap of the race. After viewing all video evidence, including those videos viewed by the SOM as well as video clips provided by Mr. Greenhill, the COA does not find compelling evidence that the first court

reached an incorrect conclusion. The COA acknowledges there was slight contact among several cars in the first turn but is unable to assign sole responsibility to any one driver. All drivers are equally responsible for avoiding contact under close racing conditions.

DECISION

The COA upholds the SOM decision in its entirety. Mr. Greenhill's appeal is well founded, and his appeal fee, less the administrative portion retained by SCCA, will be returned.