

COURT OF APPEALS

JUDGEMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEALS James Flynn vs. Chief Steward COA Ref. No. 25-19-NP December 19, 2025

FACTS IN BRIEF

On April 12, 2025, following Race 1 for Spec Racer Ford 3 (SRF3), at the 99 West Double Regional held at Portland International Raceway, SRF3 #46, driven by James Flynn, was reported underweight in violation of General Competition Rules (GCR) 9.1.6.2.E. (SRF3 Weight). Chief Steward Spencer Gorham issued a Chief Steward's Action (CSA) against Mr. Flynn for technical noncompliance, disqualifying Mr. Flynn from Race 1. Mr. Flynn appealed the action of the Chief Steward.

DATES OF THE COURT

The SCCA Court of Appeals (COA) Lee Hill, Laurie Sheppard, and Costa Dunias, (Chairman) met on December 11, 2025, to review, hear, and render a decision on the appeal.

DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EVIDENCE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

1. Letter of Appeal from James Flynn, submitted December 4, 2025.
2. Official Observers Report and related documents, received December 7, 2025.

FINDINGS

In his appeal, Mr. Flynn acknowledged his car was underweight by eight pounds after Race 1. He did not question the validity of the measurement but argued the penalty points incurred on his license were excessive.

GCR 8.4.1. (Right to Appeal) states, "Any participant ...named as a party to a protest, a Race Director or Chief Steward's RFA ...has the right to appeal a decision or penalty imposed upon him or it by the SOM..." GCR 8.4.3.A.3. requires all appeals to be received within 10 days after the decision of the SOM is delivered to the affected party.

The COA finds the event was held under the Small Regional Event Steward Model (Appendix O.) which states, "Incidents resolved by the Chief Steward without going to an appointed SOM will be treated as a CSA and the appropriate driver point will be applied per GCR Section 7.4.B." It further states, "If a protest or RFA is not finalized at the event, the Executive Steward shall appoint a Stewards of the Meeting (SOM) to hear and determine the outcome of the protest or RFA." However, Mr. Flynn did not exercise his right to protest the Chief Steward's action.

The COA finds it cannot hear Mr. Flynn's appeal because there is no penalty imposed by an SOM and the penalty imposed upon him was delivered 235 days before the appeal was filed.

DECISION

The Court of Appeals returns the appeal unheard. Mr. Flynn's entire appeal fee will be returned.