

OLFSL Appeals Arbiter Decision – 23 October 2011

OLFSL S2 Fastlap Fury – Event 10, Fern Bay Green, Pool 3, FOX

A complaint was registered relating to *The Original LFS League (OLFSL) S2 No Frills, All Thrills, Event 10, Fern Bay Green, Pool 3, FOX, which was held on 18 September 2011.

The complaint was filed by [KKX andrespeed](#) against [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) relating to an incident which occurred on Lap 12, second chicane.

In my capacity as the Appeals Arbiter, I have investigated the incident. I have extensively reviewed the Pool 3 replay from multiple cars/angles, and I hereby set out my analysis and conclusions. This includes ex-officio elements that were not part of the complaint.

Relevant OLFSL Rules

Relevant OLFSL rules (emphasis added) to take into consideration in this case include:

In general: Take care to race clean/fair, i.e. do not hit other cars or obstacles, do not force other racers off the track [...].

• **Blue Flag:** Drivers that are a lap down or otherwise receive a Blue Flag warning from the LFS software or from the Host must let the faster car(s) pass as soon as sensibly possible without disrupting the race, i.e. slow down and move off the racing line at a sensible location on the track to let the cars that are a lap ahead get past. Blue Flag does not mean that the slower car must move off the track. Drivers that are catching up on a lapped car (e.g. because they are much faster, after a pitstop or race incident) must take particular care, giving a chance to the lapped driver to move aside in a safe location. Lapped drivers are allowed to try to un-lap themselves but must take particular care not to disrupt the race for the other cars.

OLFSL applies and enforces the RaceSIM Rules of Racing (formerly Clean Racers Club rules).

CT-5: The behind driver has a responsibility to not run into the back of a ahead driver. The ahead driver does not have to try to avoid you. If all else fails, the behind driver should run their own car off the track to avoid such a collision.

RT-1: The onus is entirely on the driver returning to the track after an off to take all necessary care and responsibility not to interfere with any cars still on the track.

RT-3: On-track drivers have right-of-way over anyone returning to the track. You can have very little defence if you cause an incident whilst returning to the track. If you leave the track you lose all rights. Even if you left the track through an event that was not-your-fault.

Penalties apply for the following

- Breaking the Racing rules (including the RaceSIM Rules of Racing (formerly Clean Racers Club rules)) defined above.
- Any other form of unsportsmanlike behaviour, as determined by the Appeals Arbiter.

Analysis of Pool 3, Lap 12, second chicane

The MPR replay shows the following:

[\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) is a lap down, with the race leaders catching up for a second lapping. [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) moves off track to let the 2nd placed car ([bozo](#)) through, rejoins the track, lets the 3rd placed car ([KKX YanE_Z](#)) through by staying on the inside of a corner, and moves aside, just before the entry of the second chicane, to let the 4th placed car ([ale85](#)) through.

Then, [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) enters the second chicane at slow speed, while the 5th placed car, [KKX andrespeed](#), is coming up at high speed not far behind the 4th placed car.

Seemingly realising that the oncoming car is fast, and under Blue Flag conditions, [\[FF\] Russ](#)

[Greeno](#) (still moving slowly) moves to the left within the second chicane. [KKX andrespeed](#) (not under Yellow Flag warning) hits [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) hard, causing [KKX andrespeed](#)'s car to be overturned, and forcing [KKX andrespeed](#) to retire from the race.

After the incident, [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) moves into the path of the oncoming car of [LSD Lio](#), causing [LSD Lio](#) to crash severely (and subsequently pit for repairs). [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) then moves forward, and also causes a crash with the oncoming [KKX Babbo](#), who sustains suspension damage as a result of the incident.

[\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) goes off 2 corners later, and dangerous situations arise again upon rejoining the track. [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) then goes to spectator mode.

Appeals Arbiter Conclusion and Decision

[\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) was on the track prior to the incident with [KKX andrespeed](#), hence no Yellow Flag warning was displayed to [KKX andrespeed](#).

[\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) clearly made driving mistakes: (a) moving into the chicane at slow speed with another car oncoming fast, and (b) moving within the chicane as the oncoming car was nearby, which can be considered problematic with regard to the Blue Flag rule to the effect that *Blue Flagged racers must move off the racing line at a sensible location on the track to let the cars that are a lap ahead get past*. The wording 'can be considered problematic' is used above, because the replay suggests strongly that [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) (who moved aside correctly for 4 previous lapping cars) may not have been aware of the oncoming [KKX andrespeed](#) until realising it while within the second chicane.

[KKX andrespeed](#) was also subject to Blue Flag rule to the effect that *Drivers that are catching up on a lapped car (e.g. because they are much faster, after a pitstop or race incident) must take particular care, giving a chance to the lapped driver to move aside in a safe location*. The replay suggests that [KKX andrespeed](#) had good visibility and could have slowed down, thereby avoiding the incident.

On the basis of the above, this is considered a race incident with shared responsibilities.

However, study of the MPR replay after the incident shows that [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#), while recovering from the incident with [KKX andrespeed](#), moved into the path of not just one, but two, incoming cars, and caused both of the racers involved ([LSD Lio](#) and [KKX Babbo](#)) to crash severely, affecting their races. This is in clear breach of RaceSIM rules RT-1 and RT-3, is more generally a manifest case of severely irresponsible behaviour, and is inexcusable for the experienced OLFSL racer that [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) is.

The OLFSL rules stipulate that a first offender will receive a time penalty. Given that [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#) did not finish the race, it is not possible to apply a backward-looking time penalty.

Given that this is an ex-officio decision, and in accordance with precedent (Ex-Officio Appeals Arbiter Decision – 25 November 2008 – Rejoining the track Irresponsibly), 40 points will be deducted from the overall season score of [\[FF\] Russ Greeno](#).

This decision is final, and is taken in the interests of making sure that OLFSL is a fun and fair play league for all drivers, irrespective of their skill level.

We hope and trust that you will all understand this decision, and that you will behave in accordance with the rules and take into account the precedents set by OLFSL Appeals Arbiter decisions.

Sincerely,

Solar Hydro, OLFSL Appeals Arbiter