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MAZDASPEED Expands The Ladder **Mazda to Power New USF2000 Championship**

December 10, 2009 (Orlando, Fla.). Mazda is pleased to announce they will power a new series for 2010: The Cooper Tires presents the USF2000 National Championship powered by Mazda. The series will be a formal part of both the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development Ladder and the "Road to Indy". The series will be owned and operated by Andersen Promotions, sanctioned by the Indy Racing League (IRL), and powered by a 170 hp version of the Mazda MZR four-cylinder engine fitted to the MX-5 roadster and MAZDA3.

Over the past 20 years Mazda has established the benchmark of all club racing programs. With 9,000 people autocrossing and road-racing Mazda products, grassroots motorsports is the heart and soul of MAZDASPEED. To assist aspiring drivers to achieve their dreams, the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development Ladder was established. The four Mazda-exclusive series that frame the existing 2009 MAZDASPEED ladder are:

- Cooper Tires Atlantic Championship Powered by Mazda
- Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear
- BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda
- SCCA Pro Racing Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup

The new Formula 2000 Championship will fit between the Skip Barber series and the Star Mazda championship. Races will take place on both road-courses and ovals.

"Mazda is firmly committed to developing the next generation of racers. Our partnership with Star Mazda is two decades strong, and we more recently established great programs with both the Atlantic Championship and Skip Barber. This new series will add another affordable step that will allow drivers and teams to develop needed skills on both road-courses and ovals. We hope to see even more Mazda alums at the very highest levels of global motorsport over the next few years," noted Robert Davis, Senior Vice President, Product Development and Quality, and the man responsible for Mazda's North American motorsports operations under the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development banner.



Dan Andersen, co-owner and chief executive officer of Andersen Promotions, administrator of the Cooper Tires presents the USF2000 National Championship powered by Mazda noted that, "For years Mazda has been the strongest supporter of junior formula car racing in North America, and I have long admired the job it has done assisting the careers of young drivers. Its *MAZDASPEED* ladder is the model for programs designed to advance the careers of young drivers, and it clearly works. Mazda produces excellent cars and engines, its motorsports team has done an admirable job for many years, and we're very excited to have Mazda as a partner."

Drivers and teams interested in participating in the series can contact Andersen Promotions at (941) 723-3900 or info@usf2000.com

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata, with more than 2,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, making it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, one of the world's premier road-racing circuits, and the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing.

Celebrating its 40th Anniversary in the United States in 2010, Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif. and oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario; and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

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