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USF2000 Announces 2011 Schedule Consisting of 14 Races from March to Sept.

PALMETTO, Fla., Oct. 12 — Today officials of the “Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda” released an exciting 2011 schedule for the series, which is part of both the Road to Indy and the MAZ-DASPEED Motorsports driver development programs.

Continuing its mission to stage its races at high-profile events, the 2011 schedule has grown to 14 races at eight events, which is an increase of two races from 2010.

The 2011 season opener is on St. Patrick’s Day in March when the series supports one of the world’s most prestigious endurance sports car races, the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring at Sebring, Fla. It closes in September when it is part of the Labor Day extravaganza at the brand-new street course event at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

The series will support IZOD IndyCar Series events four times. The series will also salute the past when it is part of the historic “Night Before the 500” show at O’Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis a few hours before the Indianapolis 500 is held a few miles east.

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The USF2000 series will also appear on the card for races staged by the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patron four times. Two of those events will also feature the IZOD IndyCar Series.

The USF2000 series is committed to provide training on the three different types of tracks young drivers need to be proficient on before they reach the IZOD IndyCar Series, so the 2011 schedule consists of two oval-track races, four on temporary street circuits and eight on permanent road courses.

All of the events are doubleheaders except for the two oval-track races.

The races at Sebring and Baltimore as well as the events at the venerable Milwaukee Mile and the always-popular Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course are new venues for the series, which was revived in 2010 from the very popular USF2000 series of 1990 through 2006.

The top driver in the USF2000 series' Championship class earns a scholarship package from Mazda valued at \$350,000 to help him or her advance to the Star Mazda series the following season. Andretti Autosport's Sage Karam of Nazareth, Pa. won that title in 2010.

The USF2000 series' National class is open to any car that meets the current SCCA Formula Continental regulations. The titlist in the National class receives a \$20,000 awards package consisting of a new, race-ready Mazda MZR 2.0 engine and additional pieces that are needed to convert a Zetec Van Diemen to Mazda power. AcceleRace Motorsports' Ardie Greenamyre of Louisville, Ky. is the 2010 champion of the National class.

Drivers and teams wishing to test during the pre-season will be interested in the Cooper Tires Winterfest, a separate, two-event, five-race series that is being conducted at Sebring and Homestead, Fla. in January. That schedule, as well as much more information, is available on the series' Web site at USF2000.com.

The series' regular 2011 schedule follows.

m-o-r-e

2011 USF2000 Schedule*

Race 1	March 17	Sebring Int'l Raceway	w/ALMS
Race 2	March 18	Sebring, Fla.	(12 Hours of Sebring) 3.7-mile road course
Race 3	March 26	Streets of St. Petersburg	w/IndyCar
Race 4	March 27	St Petersburg, Fla.	(St. Petersburg Grand Prix) 1.8-mile street course
Race 5	May 28	O'Reilly Raceway Park Indianapolis, Ind.	w/USAC Midgets (Night Before the 500) 0.686-mile oval
Race 6	June 18	The Milwaukee Mile Milwaukee, Wis.	w/IndyCar 1-mile oval
Race 7	July 30	Autobahn Country Club	w/Star Mazda
Race 8	July 31	Joliet, Ill.	(Harrah's Grand Prix) 3.56-mile road course
Race 9	Aug. 5	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course	w/IndyCar/ALMS
Race 10	Aug. 6	Lexington, Ohio	2.258-mile road course
Race 11	Aug. 19	Road America	w/ALMS
Race 12	Aug. 20	Elkhart Lake, Wis.	(Time Warner Showcase) 4.048-mile road course
Race 13	Sept. 4	Streets of Baltimore	w/IndyCar/ALMS
Race 14	Sept. 4	Baltimore, Md.	(Baltimore Grand Prix) 2-mile street course

** Subject to change*

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About Mazda:

On any given weekend there are more Mazdas on the road courses of America than any other brand of vehicle. MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models are all popular race cars 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, it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with one of the world's premier road courses, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Salinas, Calif., 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. It oversees the sales, marketing, parts business and customer service 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. Operations in Mexico are managed by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

For more information see MazdaUSA.com.

About Cooper Tire & Rubber Company:

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company is a global company that specializes in the design, manufacture, marketing and sales of passenger car and light truck tires and subsidiaries that specialize in medium truck, motorcycle and racing tires. With headquarters in Findlay, Ohio, Cooper Tire has manufacturing, sales, distribution, technical and design facilities within its family of companies located in 10 countries around the world.

For more information visit Cooper Tire's Web site at coopertire.com.

About the Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda:

Many top drivers in the IZOD IndyCar Series and endurance sports car racing honed their skills in F2000, and the Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda is an important training ground for rising stars.

Debuting in 2010, it is the revival of the very popular USF2000 series of 1990 through 2006. Sanctioned by the Indy Racing League, it is the first step on its Road to Indy ladder system, preceding Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights.

It is also part of the prestigious MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development program. The top driver in the series' Championship class earns a scholarship package from Mazda valued at \$350,000 to help him or her advance to Star Mazda the following season.

USF2000 races are contested on road courses, street courses and ovals in order to give the series' drivers experience on all the different types of tracks they will face as they proceed up the ladder.

For more information visit USF2000.com.