



Daniel Jones
EFRA IC On Road Sections Chairman
61 Midhaven Rise
BS22 9LY Weston super Mare
Great Britain
eight.gt@efra.ws
tenth.track@efra.ws
eight.track@efra.ws
+44 7584 238853

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Clarifications regarding the 2024 GT8 European Championship

Dear Model Motorsport Friends,

I hope that 2024 so far has been kind to you all and preparations for a busy 2024 racing season are in full swing!

I am writing to you today in order to clarify some points and share some important news regarding the GT8 European championship this year.

As you will all know by now that the European Championship duration for 2024 has been reduced to 4 official days. This was a proposal which was made at the 2023 AGM and passed unanimously by the federation representatives present at the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the proposals are made available online several weeks before the AGM. This information is published on all of EFRA's social media outlets as well as on the website. This is a very good example of why it is so important that drivers coordinate with their federation representatives ahead of the AGM with their clear voting wishes for or against these proposals. Therefore I urge you all to take notice of this situation and a plea from me personally – Please for the 2024 AGM take a keen interest before the AGM and make your thoughts and wishes known by your federations!

Right, onto the topics at hand!

So I am pleased to advise you all that following significant work behind the scenes to find a legal way of running additional days of practice at Naxos it has become clear that a current rule in the 2024 handbook will allow the track to open on the MONDAY preceding the official event start on WEDNESDAY. The rule which I am referring to is rule 2.2 within Appendix 1 of the handbook (IC Section rules).

This practice will be "Unofficial Practice" which will be run under the event organisers discretion. Essentially under open track conditions. Clearly if demand allows then some element of control will be made by the event organisers. I will point out that this "Unofficial Practice" will not be under EFRA's oversight as will not be part of the official European Championship which will remain at 4 days of competition as per the rules.

I do hope that this news is welcomed by all and I do appreciate that this late notice is not ideal and it will surely affect some who have already made travel plans etc but I hope that it is understood that this was a complex issue to resolve – legally!

The next point that I wish to mention here regarding the tyres. I have seen the discussions held online on various social media posts. Whilst this is regrettable I do understand some of the points raised regarding the tyre choice.

One point raised in particular which concerned me was the view that the organiser is not only organising the event but they are also now a model manufacturer as well as the official tyre supplier to the event. This is an understandable view and so I would like to assure everyone that EFRA is taking particular interest to ensure that the tyres are strictly controlled by EFRA appointed officials prior and during the event to ensure that there is no possibility of foul play in any shape or form.

EFRA General Secretary
Willy Wuyts
Herentalsesteenweg, 20
2220 Heist op den Berg Belgium
Mob: +32477 947 109
secretary@efra.ws



Organisation Nr. 849400-6615 Sweden www.efra.ws

Handelsbanken, Box 135,
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I would further like to put everyone's mind at ease regarding the tyre construction. I think that by now it is known that the SM tyres are in fact manufactured by GRP and will be the same compounds used in Zagreb last year. This absolutely guarantees that the quality of the tyres delivered to Naxos will be as good as we saw last year from GRP with several thousand tyres used without any failures to note. Therefore I think it is safe to say that tyres are absolutely the last thing we need to be concerned about!

One final point is regarding body shells. I have now published the final list of eligible body shells for 2024. Please make sure that you review this list to ensure that your body shells are legal for 2024!

The 2024 handbook is not far away from being released onto the website. As soon as it is EFRA will publish the news online. I would strongly urge all of you to read it fully as there have been many rules changes within our class and it is a big year for us so please ensure that you go through it very carefully to ensure you are fully prepared for the EC in May.

All that remains for me is to say thank you all for your support and I hope to see you all in Naxos in just a couple of short months.

Best Regards,

Dan Jones
EFRA IC Sections Chairman

P.S. The same will apply to the remaining IC section races this year. The unofficial practice for these events will also start on the Monday – again at organisers discretion. The actual EC events will remain at 4 days of competition. I will write to those sections separately in due course.