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USF2000 Series Announces \$71,400 In Special Incentive Awards for 2011

PALMETTO, Fla., Aug. 31 — Andersen Promotions, the administrator of the “Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda,” is pleased to announce a number of special incentive awards valued at \$71,400 that will be available to top amateur and semi-pro formula car drivers desiring to advance to the professional ranks for the 2011 season.

“Now that the IZOD IndyCar Series has a clearly defined ladder system in the Road to Indy, it’s important that the world’s top junior formula car drivers are competing in the first North American pro step, the USF2000 National Championship,” said Dan Andersen, chief executive officer of Andersen Promotions. “We hope these awards will help many amateur and semi-pro drivers compete in the USF2000 National Championship next year.

“In place already is the excellent MAZDASPEED Motorsports full-season scholarship for the 2010 Skip Barber National champion, valued at \$150,000,” Andersen pointed out. “With the additional awards we’re announcing today we expect to see the best of the world’s young open-wheel drivers competing for the USF2000 champion’s prize of a MAZDASPEED scholarship into the next level on that Road to Indy ladder, the Star Mazda Championship.”

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New awards valued at \$41,600 are being offered to Formula Ford competitors, while Formula Continental/F2000 drivers can benefit from \$19,800 in incentives. An additional \$10,000 in awards have been ear-marked for Formula Enterprises (FE) and Formula Mazda (FM) champions.

Formula Ford (\$41,600 in awards):

* *2010 British Formula Ford Festival Duratec event:* The winner and the runner-up will both receive free annual driver registration for the 2011 USF2000 National Championship. In addition, the champion will receive free USF2000 race entries for the 2011 USF2000 season and the runner-up will receive a 50 percent discount on those entry fees. The champion's award is valued at \$13,800 and the runner-up's award is valued at \$7,400 for a total of \$21,200.

* *2010 champions of five worldwide Formula Ford series (United States, British, Australian, Benelux and Canadian):* Each of these five champions will receive \$5,000 certificates redeemable towards either entry fees in the 2011 USF2000 Winter Series and/or the 2011 USF2000 National Championship.

SCCA Formula Continental/F2000 (\$19,800 in awards):

* *2010 SCCA Runoffs Formula Continental Champion:* This titlist will be entitled to a \$5,000 certificate redeemable towards entry fees in the 2011 USF2000 Winter Series and/or the 2011 USF2000 National Championship.

* *Champion of the F2000 Championship series and the champion of the Pacific F2000 series:* Both titlists will receive free annual driver registration and a 50 percent discount on race entries for the 2011 USF2000 National Championship season. These awards are valued at \$7,400 each.

SCCA Formula Enterprises and Formula Mazda (\$10,000 in awards):

* *2010 SCCA Runoffs Formula Enterprises (FE) and Formula Mazda (FM) champions:* Both of these champions will receive \$5,000 certificates redeemable towards entry fees in the 2011 USF2000 Winter Series and/or the 2011 USF2000 National Championship.

More details on the USF2000 Winter Series, which is planned for January in Florida, will be announced soon. For more information on the awards and other information, call the series office at (941) 723-3900 and see the series' Web site at USF2000.com.

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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.