

The Wisconsin Electrathon Board has been considering adding a new class ("Class 3 - Open") of racing to the Electrathon Challenge this year. This would be patterned after the three Iowa classes. As a board member, here is MY (not official) summary...

Class 1 - Standard Class: this would be for first year teams or teams who did not place in the top 50%. Limits would be similar to last year. High School Only.

Class 2 - Advanced: This class is a more challenging class with some of the limits removed (such as motors/controllers) and some added (shell). There would also be a spending limit and battery restrictions the same as Class 1. High School Only.

Class 3 - Open: This class would have no spending limits, battery restrictions would also be removed or changed. XRV's would be allowed but regulations would require vehicle to have a similar weight/efficiency to a standard Electrathon. Battery Chemistry would be opened up, but restrictions in weight would keep the energy levels similar to 67lbs of lead-acid battery (Optima). Also, Post High School/Adult teams could compete.

These are just proposals right now. I am interested in what you think.
The goals of these changes are

1. keep the challenge FAIR and SAFE
 2. allow for creativity in designing and building these vehicles
 3. give first year teams a chance to succeed.
 4. align our rules with regional rules (Iowa/Nebraska)
 5. challenge advanced teams
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Dave,

Looks good.

Just to clarify... there would be spending limits in Class 2? I'd have no problems with that addition since some school's budgets have taken a hit lately.

Class 3... I think we need to stop using XRV as a classification. That's just a name my team used for sponsorship procedures. Since the "XRV" hit a nerve with some people, I think it would be wise to change the name. Maybe it's called DOT legal? Maybe it's called Street Stock? Someone else might have a better term to classify this type of chassis/body. I'm open for suggestions.

Looking forward to having post-secondary teams involved. Benefits all the teams when students can see that this is just not a high school event.

Thanks for the feedback Jeremie. How about street stock? XRV is OK with me also.

Street stock sounds pretty good. It would be neat to see if a high school team could actually get a Class 3 vehicle to be FULLY street legal and still be competitive for an hour race. Would it be a motorcycle (i.e. three wheels) or four wheels? If gas keeps going up, I'd buy one!

What is the definition of "shell"? Can a non-removable covering be called a shell or is a shell removable? or both?

The rule would read (for class2) Chassis must have an enclosed body except for driver entry and egress. All frame components... must be enclosed within a body shell. Open cockpit designs are acceptable. I think a removable or non-removable covering would both work.

I liked my idea so much I posted it twice.

We are trying to include 3 new things, XRV's, Battery Composition and College Teams. Instead of making more rules and classes should we just *create more awards*? Class 1, Class 2 like always. College awards so they are racing at the same time but be competing against each other. XRV awards so they too are racing at the same time but competing against each other, and awards for alternative Battery Composition, we would race at the same time and likely compete against ourselves this year but may not be alone in the following years. Lots more winners. Less rules. Comments?

I have been silently reading all of the posts in all of the categories. There has been a lot of interesting comments and concerns. Perhaps now is the time to speak and no longer read.

I agree with Mr. Siebert on this one.

One of the reasons I moved away from HMV is because of the continual creation of rules for clarification. These new HMV rules, for us, eliminated creativity and my student's ability to design on the edge.

It is my opinion, take it for what it is worth, that less is more in terms of rules and classes (two is enough)

More trophies for creativity and different groups within the same class will provide more opportunities for our students to feel good about their accomplishments (image how they will feel if they beat the college kids), self promote themselves to their local press, and attract more sponsors and kids for their program.

Please consider making fewer classes and rules while creating more awards. This is a win-win for all.

Damon Smith