



# IMSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1  
January 2, 2003

As we close out a successful 2002 race season our attention is now focused on 2003 beginning with our first event, The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Mobil 1 12 Hours of Sebring. We have many new things to report, which we have outlined below.

## **IMSA Headquarters**

The first order of business is IMSA's new office in Braselton, Georgia. The staff has all relocated and we are operating at full steam ahead. The new address and phone numbers are:

1394 Broadway Ave.  
Braselton, GA 30517

Phone: 706-658-2120  
Fax: 706-658-2130

Our close proximity to the American Le Mans Series offices has already resulted in improved communications that will ultimately benefit our customers.

## **2003 Credential and Membership Applications**

The 2003 Credential and Membership Applications have been mailed and are available on our website at [www.imsaracing.net](http://www.imsaracing.net). If you did not receive your copy or need additional copies, please access them from our web site or contact Carol Mueller or Pam Gratiot at 706-658-2120.

## **Round 1 - Sebring**

The "Road to Le Mans" once again begins at Sebring on the third Saturday in March. Representatives of the Automobile-Club de L'Ouest (ACO) will be present to meet Competitors and inspect cars which have also submitted entries consistent with ACO guidelines for the "24 HEURES DU MANS 2003" prior to the late March entry selection process.

The entry form and preliminary schedule have been posted on our website. We will accept a maximum of 60 entries for this event and the deadline for entry is January 29<sup>th</sup>. The official event Supplementary Regulations along with the entry form will be mailed to all Entrants the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Round 2 - Mexico City**

This year, the "Road to Le Mans" passes through Mexico City. Competitors who choose to enter and participate at this new event will get the bonus of having a second opportunity to meet with the ACO personnel before the Preliminary Practice at Le Mans on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

A group of six key IMSA personnel attended the CART Mexico City race in November to meet with the Promoter, CART officials and local authorities to gather information for our April 3-5, 2003 event. The Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez is truly a state of the art facility with all the amenities of a modern world-class motorsports venue. A comprehensive document containing all the necessary border crossing documentation and a list of do's and don'ts to make your travel to and from and stay in Mexico a pleasant one will be mailed with the Sebring entry information. Please note that any team wishing to participate in the Mexico City event must have documentation filled out and returned to IMSA headquarters no later than February 19<sup>th</sup>. If documentation is not returned by this date a team will be responsible for their own entry (travel, boarder crossing, etc.) into Mexico. A maximum of 50 cars will be invited to participate at this event. The race will be a six (6) hour endurance event and will be run from 4-10 PM on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Promoter expects attendance for this event to exceed 200,000 very excited fans.

We have made special arrangements with Sebring International Raceway for teams wishing to stay and work on their cars before heading to the bordering crossing in Laredo, Texas. If you are interested in staying after the Sebring event please fill out the form included in your Sebring entry and return via mail or by fax to 706-658-2130. We will have two (2) groups that will stage and enter into Mexico on separate days. Gordon Gratiot from IMSA will be in Laredo to meet teams and will stay until the last truck has been cleared. The promoter has arranged special boarder crossing logistical services and security services for all invited IMSA teams. When you receive the customs information packet please review thoroughly and note the designated deadlines. Teams failing to abide by the deadlines will be responsible for their own entry into Mexico. More detailed information will be provided with the Mexico City entry information, i.e., hotel information, clearing customs at Mexico City airport, recommended travel while in Mexico City, required visa and passport information, hospitality information, fuel and nitrogen information, etc.

**2003 Championship Point Systems**

The Championship Point System for the 2003 American Le Mans Series has been changed. Driver bonus points have been eliminated in order to increase the opportunity to have driver co-champions. However, each driver must complete the designated minimum laps required per the event supplementary regulations and each car must complete 70% of the laps completed by the overall winner to be eligible to be awarded points.

Championship points will be awarded in each class in each series race to the top ten (10) positions that have met the eligibility requirements as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	20 points	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 points	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16 points	6 <sup>th</sup>	6 points	9 <sup>th</sup>	2 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	13 points	7 <sup>th</sup>	4 points	10 <sup>th</sup>	1 point
4 <sup>th</sup>	10 points				

For intermediate events with races scheduled for at least 4 hours but less than 8 hours, three (3) additional points will be awarded for class positions 1 through 10. For long distance events with races scheduled for 8 hours or more, six (6) additional points will be awarded for class positions 1 through 10.

### **Privateer Points Fund and Competitor Incentive Program (C.I.P.) Revised**

The 2002 Privateer Points Fund and Competitor Incentive Program (C.I.P.) have been replaced with a "Championship Bonus Fund" for full season Entrants. Under this program, competitors who contract to compete in all ten (10) rounds of the 2003 American Le Mans Series will become eligible for travel bonuses and a revised privateer bonus fund. A maximum of forty (40) cars will be invited by IMSA to participate in this program. A document with details of this new program along with an Official Entry Form for Entrants to enroll will be mailed separately. Entrants requiring additional information should contact Doug Robinson at 706-658-2120.

### **Revised Prize Money Structure for the 2003 American Le Mans Series**

Under the new plan each event's prize money will be distributed based on class positions rather than last year's plan, which was based on overall positions and class bonuses. The individual per race prize money will continue to be listed in the official event supplementary regulations. Factory teams will **not** be eligible for per race prize money.

### **IMSA Announces New Endurance Awards**

IMSA will award \$10,000 and the title of 2003 IMSA P900/GTP, P675, GTS, or GT Endurance Champion to the Entrant of the car in each of the four classes which accumulates the most laps in the following 2003 ALMS Rounds:

Sebring  
Mexico City  
Road Atlanta

In case of a tie, the award will go to the Entrant whose car completed the most laps first.

### **2003 American Le Mans Series Schedule**

The 2003 ALMS schedule has been finalized with the elimination of the T.B.D. European round, and the change in race length for Mexico City to 6 hours and Road America to 2 hours 45 minutes. In addition, the Road America event will now be broadcast live on SPEED Channel and the Mosport event will become an NBC telecast.

### **Official Fuel**

The Official Fuel supplier for the 2003 ALMS has not yet been finalized. Proposals that have been submitted by several organizations are being reviewed and the final decision will be made no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>. The fuel specification will continue to be 100 octane, unleaded gasoline based on the same typical properties used for the 2001 and 2002 ALMS seasons.

As I said in the opening of this newsletter, there are many exciting changes and new features for our 2003 season. Many of these changes are being implemented in anticipation of fewer "factory teams" than in the first four seasons of the American Le Mans Series, while at the same time, privateer teams are stepping-up their efforts. The trend of consistent growth in both quality and quantity of cars on our starting grids indicates that competition on the track should be extremely close.

New cars in GTS and GT will bring diversity and heightened interest in these high aspiration marquee brands. New regulations that have been jointly developed by the FIA and ACO will lead to structural and aerodynamic changes to enhance strength and stability in new prototypes constructed in 2004 and beyond. The next phase of regulatory review will deal with integrating the new construction techniques incorporating the use of composites and aluminum into "road-going" GT cars into the GTS and GT classes beginning in 2004.

Today's challenges become tomorrow's opportunities. Successful adaptation of exciting developments and new technology allow Sports Prototype and GT endurance racing to capture the imagination of our fans and ensure our future.

It is with this thought that on behalf of all of the staff of IMSA and ALMS, I wish all of our member and competitors a happy New Year and a successful 2003 racing season.

Respectfully,

H Doug Robinson

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Executive Director  
IMSA