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March
2023



L. HeadsUP

Snell at Baja 1000

Tech Director Dan Cromwell of SCORE International invited Snell to help educate safety inspectors at Baja 1000 in November 2022. Snell Education Director Hong Zhang not only assisted in helmet inspection but also met in person with Class 1 Champion Kyle Quinn, #3 winner of Class 10 Ruvalcaba and Cruz, #1 motorcycle team Mark Samuels, Justin Morgan and Kendall Norman, as well as many top racers and riders. It is rewarding to be among supporters of Snell's mission for helmet safety and inspiring to see the racers' passion to be the best in what they love to do. This trip also led to a SCORE Magazine article on Snell Standards, helmet Standard comparison, and SCORE rulebook requirements for helmet use.

Testing NASCAR Helmets

Snell regularly purchases helmets randomly and tests them to continuously monitor the performance of certified helmets that are actually in the market. Top racers in high level competition usually do not buy helmets in retail stores. Recently Snell had an opportunity to test helmet samples intended for use in NASCAR racing events. And we are happy to report to NASCAR and its racers that all the helmets passed with flying colors.



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M2025D and M2025R Draft Standards

The Snell M2025D and M2025R draft standards will be ready for distribution and comments by March 15, 2023. The drafts include provisions for oblique impact testing which are likely compatible with ECE demands and, hopefully, also with FIM. Please review and send your comments to Stephen Johnson.

Each Snell standard update demands the highest level of impact energy management in a motorcycle helmet consistent with motorcyclists' needs, and with the mandatory standards in different countries where consumers look for premium headgear. M2020D demands complicate compliance with mandatory standards in Europe and other parts of the world, and this complication remains with the M2025D standard. Snell is committed to M2025R, applying test severities chosen to identify headgear with the greatest impact energy management consistent with motorcyclists' needs and with the requirements of ECE Regulation 22.





HELMET SAFETY EDUCATION

Motorcycle Rider Education

Over 25 years, Snell has supported State Motorcycle Safety Association (SMSA), a nonprofit organization of motorcycle safety professionals in the United States. Snell again presented at SMSA during the Sept. 2022 annual conference and distributed door prize helmets. Rider education program in various states bring new motorcyclists to the riding community. If your company would like to donate a couple of new helmets for the next SMSA conference, please contact Hong Zhang.

Presentation at SF Bay Area MOTO GUILD Workshop

February 18, 2023 right next to the Bay Bridge of San Francisco, riders learned more about Snell's work in making motorcycle helmets safer and differences in various standards. The presentation generated more interest for Snell lab tours. In Pete Snell's memory, Snell Foundation continues to urge the best helmets that racers or ordinary riders might reasonably be expected to wear.

Snell Outreach at PRI

Stephen Johnson and Hong Zhang were impressed by the number of Snell certified auto racing helmets presented at the PRI 2022 in Indianapolis. This reflected the strong continuing support of the racing community to Snell's commitment to head protection since the Foundation's early days. PRI has been a big platform for everyone in the racing industry. Snell will be more active in future shows to reach out to more people interested in helmet safety.

Pete Snell was an amateur racer. The Snell Foundation will continue to educate grassroots racers to make an informed decision on better head protection. In addition to meeting with helmet manufacturing representatives and the auto racing community in general, Snell has made valuable contacts with national and local racing organizations. We look forward to working with them in future collaboration in helmet safety education and training.

Please contact Hong Zhang if you have any suggestions to improve Snell education/outreach program.

Editor: Hong Zhang

From the Editor:

We invite comments and items for inclusion in subsequent issues.

Upcoming Events:

April 20, 2023-Snell Board Meeting

June 2-4, 2023 Hangtown Motocross Classic

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