

# Penske fires Tim Cindric, 2 others after Indy scandal

Field Level Media

Team Penske parted ways with IndyCar Series team president Tim Cindric, managing director Ron Ruzewski and general manager Kyle Moyer on Wednesday amid the discovery of a violation of IndyCar rules by the team. “Nothing is more important than the integrity of our sport and our race teams,” team founder and chairman Roger Penske said. “We have had organizational failures during the last two years, and we had to make necessary changes. I apologize to our fans, our partners and our organization for letting them down.” Team Penske said in a statement that it will have further announcements in regard to personnel this week.

The news comes in the wake of the discovery that the cars driven by two-time defending Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden and teammate Will Power had modified attenuators during the second day of qualifying on Sunday. IndyCar announced Monday that Newgarden’s No. 2 and Power’s No. 15 will start 32nd and 33rd, respectively. Last April, it was discovered that Penske drivers were allowed access to the push-to-pass system when they should not have been. The team strategists also were suspended for the race for both cars, which will also forfeit Indy 500 qualification points and each pay a \$100,000 fine. “The integrity of the Indianapolis 500 is paramount, and this violation of the INDYCAR rule against modification to this part and using it ‘as sup-



KRISTIN ENZOR USA TODAY NETWORK via Imagn Images

Tim Cindric, left, was fired Wednesday as Team Penske’s IndyCar Series team president during an organizational shakeup after penalties were handed down for violations during Indianapolis 500 qualifying. Two-time defending Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden, right, and Will Power will line up 32nd and 33rd for Sunday’s race. plied’ is clear,” IndyCar President J. Douglas Boles said Monday. “The penalty should be more than simply starting where the cars might have qualified anyway, if given the opportunity. The cars belong in the field as two of the fastest 33; however, starting on the tail of the field is the appropriate penalty in this instance.” Cindric, 57, joined Penske

in 1999 and watched one of its drivers win the Indianapolis 500 on 10 occasions, including Newgarden in 2023 and 2024. On Jan. 31, Cindric elected to take a step back as the overall day-to-day leader of Team Penske’s racing programs. Cindric’s son, Austin, is a NASCAR Cup Series driver for Team Penske. He won the 2022 Daytona 500.

# Kurt Busch, Gant, Ray Hendrick add to NASCAR Hall

Field Level Media

The NASCAR Hall of Fame will induct Kurt Busch, Harry Gant and Ray Hendrick in the Class of 2026, the hall announced Tuesday. Busch and Gant were selected from the Modern Era Ballot, each garnering 61 percent of the vote. Jeff Burton, Harry Hyde and Randy Dorton were the next-highest finishers who didn’t make the cut. Hendrick was voted in on the Pioneer Ballot with 31 percent of the votes. Bob Welborn finished second. Busch, 46, made the Hall in his first year on the ballot. He was the Cup Series champion in 2004 and won 34 times in the Cup Series, including two crown jewel races: the 2010 Coca-Cola 600 and the 2017 Daytona 500.

Gant, 85, followed 21 victories in what’s now called the Xfinity Series with 18 wins in the Cup Series, including the Southern 500 in 1984 and 1991. Already a member of the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, Gant was in his seventh year on the NASCAR Hall’s ballot. Gant also holds the record for the oldest driver to win a Cup Series race (52 years, eight months) when he prevailed at Michigan International Speedway in 1992. Hendrick, who died in 1990, enjoyed a 36-year motorsports career and was known throughout the South as “Mr. Modified” for his successes in modified stock car racing. He is credited with more than 700 victories in modified racing and the Late Model Sportsman Series.

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