

F1 diffuser row threatens season opener

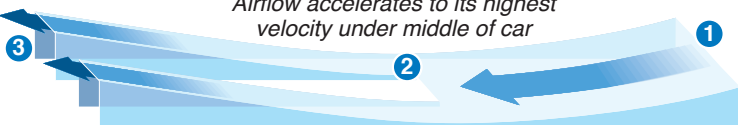
Race stewards have ruled that the rear diffusers used on the Brawn, Toyota and Williams cars are legal after Ferrari, Renault and Red Bull lodged official protests. An appeal is now likely, particularly if teams using the disputed diffusers score points in Melbourne

HOW DIFFUSERS WORK

1. Air flows under car
2. Air channelled into tunnels either side of engine-gearbox assembly



Airflow accelerates to its highest velocity under middle of car



3. As cross-section of tunnels increases, air speed decreases

Downforce highest where air speed is highest

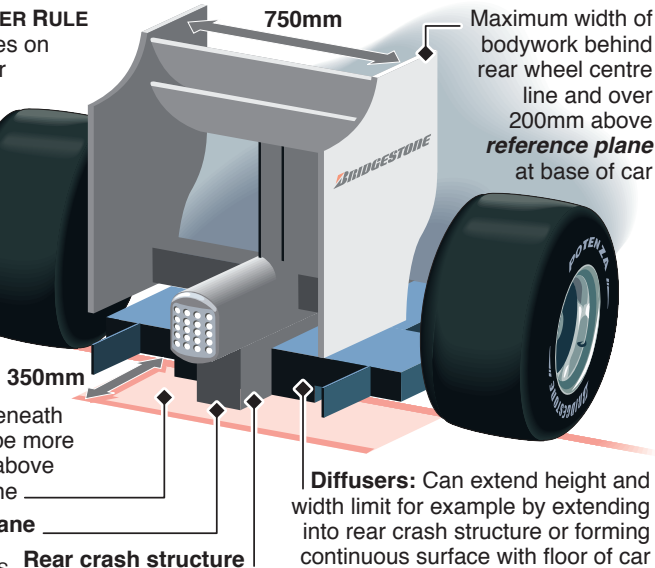
REAR DIFFUSER RULE

Dispute centres on size of diffuser as it extends beyond rear wheel centre line

Bodywork in this area visible from beneath car must not be more than 175mm above reference plane

Reference plane

Source: Autosport
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Diffusers: Can extend height and width limit for example by extending into rear crash structure or forming continuous surface with floor of car

Rear crash structure