

Australian Karting Association Inc

Steward Committee

# MINUTES



Venue: Crowne Plaza, 32 Mitchell Street, Darwin, NT

Date: 27/28 June 2009

Time: 9am

### **Item 1 - TAS Item 3**

Rule 16.11 (d) (3) If a re-start is to be conducted over the laps remaining, such re-start is to be in single file at up to race speed.

Rewrite this rule to allow all competitors to be on the track to face the starter in single file at race speed.

Suggested rewrite:

'(3) If a re-start is to be conducted over the laps remaining such a re-start is to be in single file at up to race speed. ***The starter must allow all karts to be clear of the out-grid, if necessary allowing a single lap of the circuit, before a green light to signify a re-start is displayed.***'

Reason:

Competitors qualified for a re-start must not be disadvantaged by the green light signifying the re-start if they are still making their way out of the out-grid area.

**Committee recommendation: Insert highlighted section into existing rule.**

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### **Item 2 - TAS Item 4**

Rule 20.22. 2 (11) All competitors must register a qualifying time and compete in 2 heats to be eligible for a grid position in the Final.

Reword rule to allow those competitors eligible to start the 1st heat be eligible for a grid position in the pre-final.

**Reason:**

The spirit of the sport is to encourage competitors to race. This allows competitors with genuine reasons to grid up for the pre-final and final.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Refer to similar item in Admin agenda. Committee agrees with proposal minus the reference to the baulk line and own motive power.**

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### **Item 3 - TAS Item 9**

Rule 5.01(g) Compete whilst not currently licenced (minimum penalty of three years suspension)

Consider reducing this penalty.

Three years suspension appears harsh.

Compare with other penalties - for example, refer page 368 of 2009 Karting Manual – 2009 Stewards quick reference guide suggests penalty for abuse or intimidation are #1 Fine (up to \$1000), #7 Exclusion from Meeting (and consider referral to SKC Tribunal), or #8 Suspension (Up to 6 months).

**Reason:**

If you are a disorganised driver and happen to compete whilst unlicensed once you can expect to retire from the sport – a three year break is too long to resume a successful karting career.

**Committee recommendation:**

**Given the simplicity and convenience of the new smart card licence system, the Committee totally disagrees with this request.**

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**Item 4 – VIC Item 1**

Rule 19.31

Add to this rule – who shall then immediately notify the Chief Lapscorer.

Rule to read: Should a competitor decide NOT to compete in a section of the event for which they have entered, it is a requirement that they notify the Clerk of Course/Grid Marshall or Race Secretary – **who shall then immediately notify the Chief Lapscorer.**

**Reason:**

Depending on what scoring system is used i.e. “0” point system, points for a DNF the communication of a competitor not competing would assist lap scorers in their duty.

**Committee recommendation:**

**Remove reference to Clerk of the Course and Race Secretary and reword to say “it is a requirement that they immediately notify the Grid Marshall.”**

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**Item 5 – National Officials Coordinator Item 1**

Rule 16.11(c) currently reads;

- (c) After a red flag incident, the karts are to be impounded in “parc ferme” and no work is permitted to be carried out unless instructed by the Clerk of the Course.

Since the implementation of clutches, it is now possible for a kart, damaged in an incident that results in a red flag stoppage, to be mobile again prior to the red flag being displayed. Under rule 16.11(b), the competitor is eligible to take part in the re-start of the race because they were not stopped when the red flag was shown.

As rule 16.11(c) states, these karts are impounded and cannot be repaired unless instructed by the Clerk of the Course.

Scrutineers now scrutineer karts during the race meeting on the “in” or “out” grids and when a non-compliant kart is found entering or on the out-grid, the competitor is prevented from racing by the scrutineers until the fault is rectified. Impounded karts entering the out-grid for a re-start after a red flag stoppage should all be checked by

scrutineers for compliance, and if found to be damaged and / or non-compliant, disallowed to participate in the re-start of the race.

Add to rule 16.11(c)

- (c) After a red flag incident, the karts are to be impounded in “parc ferme” and no work is permitted to be carried out unless instructed by the Clerk of the Course. **Any karts found by the Scrutineers to be damaged, unsafe and / or non compliant will be excluded from the re-start of the race.**

**Committee recommendation:**

Remove the reference to the Clerk of the Course and re-word to read,  
After a red flag incident, the karts are to be impounded in “parc ferme” and no work is permitted to be carried out. ***Any karts found by the Scrutineers to be unsafe and / or non compliant will be excluded from the re-start of the race.***

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#### **Item 6 – National Officials Coordinator Item 2**

Rule 7.29 currently reads;

Midget, Rookie and Junior competitors who attend the hearing of a Complaint must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult.

This rule needs to be changed to read;

**Any competitors under the age of 18 years who attend the hearing of a Complaint as either, the Complainant, the Defendant or a Witness, must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian before being addressed by an AKA Official.**

**Committee recommendation:**

**Replace the word competitor with the word person, to read;**  
***Any person under the age of 18 years who attend the hearing of a Complaint as either, the Complainant, the Defendant or a Witness, must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian before being addressed by an AKA Official.***

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#### **Item 7 – National Officials Coordinator Item 3**

Proposed new rule to precede current rule 6.23;

- (a) Any competitors under the age of 18 years who are called before a Clerk of the Course or Steward for a verbal or written warning must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian before being addressed by an AKA Official.**

**Committee recommendation:**  
**To be implemented.**

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## Item 8 – National Officials Coordinator Item 4

Proposed Rule changes to Rule 16.17

### 16.17 During a race:

- 1) A kart alone on the track may use the full width of the track. However, as soon as it is caught up on a straight line by a kart which is either temporarily or constantly faster, the driver shall maintain his/her line.
  
- 2) Curves, as well as the approaches and exit zones thereof, may be negotiated by drivers any way they wish within the limits of the track. Overtaking may be done either on the right or the left. However, maneuvers liable to hinder other drivers such as,
  - **deliberate baulking to restrict passing opportunities.**
  - deliberate crowding of karts towards the inside or outside of the **track.**
  - abnormal braking maneuvers
  - premature or abnormal changes of direction or driving lineare strictly prohibited and **may** be penalised according to the repetition and importance of the offence.

**Action may be taken by the issue of a Complaint Form for a Stewards Hearing, or a Penalty Notification Form which will be issued without a Stewards Hearing and signed by at least one Steward and one other Steward, Clerk of the Course, Observer or Starter. When a Penalty Notification Form is issued, the penalty will be exclusion from that section of the event. A complaint / appeal cannot be lodged against the issue of a Penalty Notification Form.**
  
- 3) If it can be proven that, during the last lap of a race, a competitor was, or competitors were unfairly disadvantaged, they may have their race position prior to the incident, reinstated.

### **Committee recommendation:**

***Rule 16.17.2 to be re-worded as below and new rule 16.17.3 be implemented to allow Stewards the flexibility to cater for unfairly disadvantaged competitors.***

- 2) Curves, as well as the approaches and exit zones thereof, may be negotiated by drivers any way they wish within the limits of the track. Overtaking may be done either on the right or the left. However, manoeuvres liable to hinder other drivers such as,
  - (a) ***deliberate baulking to restrict passing opportunities,***
  - (b) ***deliberate crowding of karts towards the inside or outside of the track,***
  - (c) ***abnormal braking maneuvers,***

- (d) *premature or abnormal changes of direction or driving line, are all strictly prohibited and may be penalised according to the repetition and importance of the offence.*

*Action may be taken by the issue of a Complaint Form for a Stewards Hearing, or a Penalty Notification Form which will be issued without a Stewards Hearing and signed by at least one Steward and one other Steward, Clerk of the Course, Observer or Starter. When a Penalty Notification Form is issued, the penalty will be exclusion from that section of the event. A complaint / appeal cannot be lodged against the issue of a Penalty Notification Form.*

- 3) *If it can be proven that, during the last lap of a race, a competitor was, or competitors were unfairly disadvantaged, they may have their race position prior to the incident, reinstated.*

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#### **Item 9 – National Officials Coordinator Item 5**

Upgrade to rule 6.01 Penalties. This rule needs to be constantly looked at to reflect the appropriate types of penalties for how race meetings are now run.

#### **Committee recommendation:**

**National Officials Coordinator to do a re-write and send around to all co-ordinators for input and approval. Changes to be proposed to 6.01.4 and 6.01.5.**

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#### **Item 10 – SA Item 1**

7.29 Midget, Rookie and Junior competitors who attend the hearing of a Complaint must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult.

Amend to

**7.29 All competitors who are not considered adults by the current legal system, (at this time 18 yrs of age) and are required to attend the hearing of a Complaint must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult.**

#### **Reason:**

Senior drivers can be under the legal age.

#### **Committee recommendation:**

**Already covered by previous items 6 and 7**

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**Item 11 – QLD Item 12**

Rule 19.17 (c)

Extend the four (4) minutes qualifying time to allow for the final lap to be completed. All Karts to continue to register qualifying times until they receive the Black & White chequered flag.

**Reason:**

At the recent National titles, the competitors at the rear, and middle of the pack were greatly disadvantaged. In the view of safety, competitors were spaced out considerably when leaving the grid. The only problem with that is that almost a minute had elapsed before the last kart left the grid, allowing them therefore, at best, two laps. This motion will not allow the first kart to do more laps, only for the last karts to finish the same lap as the leaders, so a more consistent number of laps are completed by karts in qualifying - Also bringing rules into line as per current rule book - Black And White Chequered flag signals the completion of the Timed Session. This motion would be much fairer for all competitors involved.

Recommendation: Re-word to read

**Extend the qualifying session to allow for the final lap to be completed. All Karts to continue to register qualifying times until they receive the Black & White chequered flag.**

**Committee recommendation:  
Add section into existing rule;**

Rule 19.17(c)

For events or specific races that require timed qualifying to determine grid positions (other than State or National Championship events), the organizers may program a minimum of one or a maximum of two timed qualifying sessions per class. Each session shall be no less than four (4) minutes. When only one timed qualifying session is programmed per class, practice / carburettor sessions and timed qualifying sessions may be run simultaneously.

**Timing for qualifying sessions to start when the first kart crosses the timing loop. The chequered flag will be shown after the designated time has elapsed. Competitors will continue to be timed until the completion of their lap.**

Where a single timed qualifying session is used and a competitor fails to record a time for any reason other than a faulty transponder or through the fault of the organisers, the driver will be issued a time of the slowest time plus one second. Action will be taken by the issue of a Penalty Notification Form which will be issued without an Officials Hearing and signed by at least one Steward and one other Steward, Clerk of Course or Timekeeper. A complaint / appeal cannot be lodged against this action. Where more than one competitor has received a penalty of the slowest time plus one second for any reason, they shall be placed on the grid at the rear of the field in an order determined by random draw.

Item 12:

New rule 25.16(b)

**The use of any type of camera on a kart or driver during practice or racing at permitted race meetings is banned.**

**For promotional purposes only, permission may be requested from the relevant SKC in consultation with the State Technical Officer.**

Already approved by the NKC

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Item 13:

New rule 14.03.3

**Cool suits must be a fully sealed and self contained body suit, concealed inside the race suit.**

Already approved by the NKC