

Rules rule in the world of karting

KART RACING

KEN SEEBER

Life's rules start with toilet training and from that time on we have to abide to myriad changing rules and new rules forever. The more people there are, the more rules there are. As things get more competitive, the more rules there are.

Sprint karting in Australia is competitive and, therefore being rule driven, is no exception and has a new rulebook at the start of each year. The production of the rulebook is democracy at its best, albeit protracted. Like Australia's political system, which has three levels of government, karting has three tiers:

1. Club, consisting of member karters.
2. State Karting Councils (SKC) consisting of member clubs in each State.
3. National Karting Council (NKC) consisting of a delegate from each State.

Every racing karter must belong to a club and that club must be a member of their respective SKC. This membership entitles every karter, through his or her club, to be able to suggest rule changes and new rules.

At State level all the rule proposals from within that State are collated and voted on by that State and these are submitted to the national office, the Australian Karting Association (AKA).

This month, three delegates from each State (representing the areas of

Track Safety, Stewarding and Technical) meet, usually in Sydney, to review all the items submitted from all States. These are all voted on, rule changes drafted and the results copied back to the States.

In August or September, the AKA has its AGM and all the items are finally voted on by the seven State NKC delegates.

Then the rulebook is finally collated and ready for printing for the start of the next year. That's it in a nutshell. In many ways it seems quite painful and excessive but it does work and does provide the opportunity for every karter to contribute to the rulebook.

Why are the rules continually changing? A good question. To be realistic, the number of rule changes is not big, because our karting classes are relatively stable. The changes are



Rules are there for the safety and wellbeing of all competitors.

usually driven to eliminate different possible interpretations of a given rule. Also, as with any competitive technically based sport, people will always find new ways to do things, sometimes close or even beyond the spirit and intent of the rulebook.

While the rules are not to be intentionally broken, it is human nature to push them and the rulebook must keep up with these "developments". A cat and mouse game really.

The rule is that the rules rule.