



COVID-19 VIRUS FURTHER INFORMATION – ALL CLUBS 19 MARCH 2020

The following information is supplied for the advice of all Member State Associations and Clubs.

Updated Public Gathering Restrictions – Gatherings Under 500 People Can Proceed

As at yesterday, the Government has clarified their direction in relation to non-essential public gatherings. While indoor gatherings have now been restricted to 100 people, outdoor gatherings remain at 500. **If your Karting event does not exceed that number of 500 people, then there is not currently any restriction from the Government as to not proceeding.**

The Victorian Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brett Sutton clarified the directive by the National Cabinet on Triple M this morning. In short, he said:

- Stay away if you're unwell;
- Observe social distancing measures;
- *Just to be clear 'junior sport' should be going ahead... "that's where we came too as Chief Health Officers across the nation...it may be that we get to a point where we are saying no community sport whatsoever but at the moment, the psychological health and what it means for communities is really an important factor when we are at very low levels"*

Listen to what he had to say here <https://omny.fm/shows/hot-breakfast/dr-brett-sutton-on-the-status-of-local-sport-right>

The Australian Government Department of Health have now prepared an information sheet for bodies such as Karting Clubs to assist you in organising and event. You will find it here:

https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-organising-public-gatherings_0.pdf

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While we understand that many Clubs have postponed or cancelled upcoming events, many due to the potential impact the virus could have on our most at risk of serious infection Officials in our sport, now is the time for our Clubs to prove their resilience and begin to look outside the square to ensure the wheels keep spinning.

Some of these opportunities that present themselves at the moment include **encouraging younger members to 'STEP UP' and assist in officiating at events – social and competition**. To assist with this, we have fast-tracked our new Online Officials Academy that was due to be launched next month. This will now be launched this week to assist with training new officials during this challenging period.

We would urge Clubs to consider running **Kart Fun Sessions** (organised social karting that requires minimal officials to be in attendance) for your members in place of actual Race Meetings if your Club has decided not to Race for a little while. This will ensure that the wheels keep spinning for your Club in a safe and controlled environment – I will detail below more information on the Kart Fun Sessions. I have just been informed that the Newcastle Kart Club are doing just that.

When organising any event, you **MUST IMPLEMENT** the procedures that I detailed earlier in the week "COVID-19 VIRUS CONTROL MEASURES TO BE APPLIED – ALL CLUBS Version 1 .0 - 16 MARCH 2020"

<https://www.karting.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Club-Requirements-16-March-2020.pdf>

Rest assured, we are following the Government's recommendations closely and providing as many resources to you as possible to provide you with all of the tools for your Club to come through the other side of this crisis even stronger.

As this crisis hits us all, here are some **THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER.**

With the possibility of limited race meetings in the next few months or so, it brings your Club an incredible opportunity to hit the reset button and do some serious planning so that you are primed and ready to go when the virus is under control.

Start from scratch, imagine what you could do with that...

It's possible, without the distractions and all that goes with making sure race meetings happen each month, use the time now to conduct a review of your club volunteer program and build your club into something bulletproof.

It's essential. For survival, you will need to be the best-prepared organisation in your region – not just the best karting organisation but the best organisation full stop.

If you're prepared, at the other end of this you'll be first in line for new participants, volunteers, sponsors.

Rest assured there will be **Government Grant Programs** to help you get back on track – or there may be some sitting there in the local or State government areas now. If you're organised, you'll be first in line for those too.

The only decision you have to make is how quickly you act.

Travel Register and Isolation Report

As of this morning, the response to the Travel Register and Isolation Report form stands at just approximately 1500 completed forms. The forms are returned to Karting Australia and will be retained by us.

Today, we have provided a report to each State Association and the Clubs that details:

1. The names of those people from within each State who have submitted a completed form.
 - a. This will show their home club.
2. Separately, we are providing:
 - a. a further report to their home club and the State Association of any person who is NOT PERMITTED to attend a Kart Club; and
 - b. Anyone whose answers to some of the questions contained on the form brought up a 'red flag'.

Please remember, that this is a short-term measure that is being done solely to ensure the health and safety of our Karting Australia Family.

If a person who is required to complete a form but has not done so or who is not permitted to attend a karting venue because of their recent travel history, then they will **NOT** be able to compete or attend your Club.

Important Notes:

1. The requirement to complete the form applies to attending the Club/Racetrack – not just to attending a race meeting.
2. Persons who have completed the form will **ONLY NEED TO RE-SUBMIT** it if their circumstances change and any of the answers provided will have changed **e.g.** if they answered **NO** to a question and through new circumstances, the answer is now **YES**, then they **MUST** resubmit the form with the updated answer.

I would appreciate it if you could again send an email reminder to your Club /State Members advising them that they must complete the TRAVEL REGISTER AND ISOLATION FORM before attending a Club or Racetrack. It can be found here: <https://www.karting.net.au/karting-australia-travel-register-and-isolation-form>

KART FUN SESSIONS

With many Clubs cancelling or postponing events, it has left a large hole in the lives for many of our dedicated Members – many of which will still be looking to get on track in a safe environment at their local track. For some of them, this will provide a perfect outlet to get away from the 'doom and gloom' of what is being thrown their way during this troublesome times.

If you've postponed or cancelled an upcoming event, we encourage you to replace these events with Kart Fun Sessions. These are just for fun, just for your members, organised and fully insured. It's short, sharp karting fun.

The Kart Fun section from the KA Manual is available to download here <https://www.karting.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Kart-Fun-Sessions.pdf>

In the shortest of terms, run by two or three key people of your Club:

- Grid Marshal/Race Track Control (Grade 3)
- Administration (Canteen) licence check and session fee payment
- Accredited First Aid person (Which can also be either of the people listed above)

You can turn your MYLAPS Timing System on and let it run so people can see their times throughout the day. Your administrator can double as your timekeeper to provide results for each session or drivers can just check their own times on Speedhive.

To provide further interest in the day, you could provide some random prizes (such as free entry to the next Club Day or a voucher to use at the Canteen) or prizes for the fastest time of the day in a group.

The Pro-forma Supplementary Regulations for Kart Fun Sessions can be found <https://www.karting.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-Pro-Forma-Kart-Fun-Sessions-Supplementary-Regulations-FINAL.docx>

OFFICIALS AND ONLINE TRAINING

Many of Karting Australia's Officials are unfortunately in the categories of those who are most at risk of serious infection from COVID-19. **It is essential that we act to protect the most vulnerable members of the Karting Australia Family.**

Adversity often creates opportunity. I am calling for the younger members of "the FAMILY" to help us out.

We are now asking them to step up and help by **becoming either a Trainee or a Grade 4 Official** at your Club.

To expedite the process of gathering new officials during this time we have fast-tracked the launch of Karting Australia's Officials Academy. Originally aimed at being released online in April, we have worked tirelessly over the past few days to now be in a position where we can start enrolments in the **Karting Australia Officials Academy** tomorrow. A separate Media Release will be released shortly.

When you have some people from your club who are not yet trained as an Official but who want to help please send their the following details to OfficialsAcademy@karting.net.au

- Full name
- State
- Club
- Email address

We will activate their enrolment in the academy from that information, and they will be able to immediately start the basic officiating course on their computer, phone or tablet – It's that simple. When they pass the course they will be able to download a Certificate Of Achievement and can become registered as a Grade 4 Official.

Each State Officials Co-ordinator will be brought into the process as we complete their training in the administration of their own groups in the Officials Academy, but this interim process will get us started quickly.

If you could **let your club members know that we need their help to keep the wheels spinning** at our clubs (while ever the Government allows it) during this crisis, we can start to get them through basic training to help our more experience officials for a while.

As advised earlier in the week, based on what is known about COVID-19, those most at risk of serious infection are:

- people with compromised immune systems (such as people who have cancer)
- elderly people
- people with chronic medical conditions such a cardiovascular issues, respiratory issues and diabetes

Many of the people who officiate at our Clubs and Race Meetings fall into the older age groups – 60+, 70+, 80.

Following consultation with Karting Australia's Chief Medical Officer we have formed the conclusion that it is appropriate for Karting Australia to **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** to all Affiliated Clubs and Member States that for the foreseeable future, **until the crisis subsides, that you refrain from appointing persons who are at the most risk of serious infection to officiate at Karting events.**

Thankyou. Together, the *Karting Australia Family* will come through this incredibly difficult challenge.

Best Regards

Kelvin O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer