

# Junior Open Grand Prix Championship



2012

RULES & REGULATIONS



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## Introduction

Welcome to the new season of Mr Karting's popular Junior Open Grand Prix Championship!

Since we started the first Championship six years ago, it has steadily grown into a great Championship, providing a valuable learning experience for the competitors in their kart control and more importantly race craft.

Our Championship has grown a very good reputation for helping to develop new stars of the future, with a number of drivers going onto bigger and better things in Karting and Car Racing. We feel that the nature of the track layout provides close and competitive racing on a level playing field, with the drivers given equal equipment and opportunities.

Some of our recent graduates to the racing world include Nick Yelloly (Competing in GP3 for 2011 Formula) and Alice Powell (Formula Renault UK), Jordan King (Formula Renault), Jack Dex (Formula Renault) and Lindsay Butcher (KF-2 – WSK Championship) to name but a few.

## The 2010 Championship Format

Each Round of the Championship will be held on the first Sunday of every month, with signing on taking place between 8.45-9.25, followed shortly by a briefing.

The Championship will be contested over twelve rounds, with the competitor's three lowest scoring rounds being dropped from their final season totals. We feel this is the fairest way of running the Championship as we appreciate that it is not always possible to attend due to holidays and family commitments. It also gives you an opportunity if you have a couple of bad rounds to not let it affect your final championship positions.

As usual, the Championship will be split into two classes - Juniors and Cadets. Both classes will race at the same time during the event, with trophies awarded to the top three of each class and the end of the meeting.

## Driver Eligibility

The age restrictions for the Championship, is for drivers aged between ten and sixteen years old. If you turn seventeen during the season you are allowed to finish the Championship, as long as you were sixteen or under at the start of the season. Drivers aged between eight and ten can race in the Championship, if they are approved to race by a member of our staff. As you can appreciate with the competitive nature of the series, we feel that anyone under ten should be able to display the correct level of kart control, to ensure all drivers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

## Event Format & Points System

Each Round will be run to the same format of our popular Super Grand Prix Event.

This event consists of the following:

### **Draw for race numbers:**

Before the briefing commences, all the drivers will be assigned a 'race number' for the day, by way of a public draw. The first name out of the 'hat' will be number 1 and start on pole position for the first race of the day!

### **Practice:**

Each driver will get approximately 5 laps of practice to familiarise themselves to the track and karts. All Drivers **must** take part in practice; otherwise they will not be permitted to race, unless it has been agreed with the Race Director in advance.

### **Heats:**

There will be 5 points scoring heats of 8 laps for each driver. The order of your races will be decided by the number of competitors on the day and how the timing system randomly sorts the grids.

Points for the heats are awarded in the following format:

1<sup>st</sup> - 8 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 7 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6 points

4<sup>th</sup> - 5 points

5<sup>th</sup> - 4 points

### **Semi-Finals:**

The points scored from the heats will decide the grids for a 12 lap Semi-final. The number of semi-finals will be determined by the number of drivers present at the meeting, with a maximum 8 drivers competing in each. The highest point's scorer will be in pole position for the first semi-final, with the second driver in the points being pole for the second semi, the remaining grids spaces are arranged in the same method.

Points for the Semi-Finals are awarded in the following format:

1<sup>st</sup> - 8 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 7 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6 points

4<sup>th</sup> - 5 points

5<sup>th</sup> - 4 points

6<sup>th</sup> - 3 points

7<sup>th</sup> - 2 points

8<sup>th</sup> - 1 points

### **Grand Final:**

After the semi-finals have finished, the points scored will be added to the totals from the heats, to provide a definitive final points table. The top six drivers will progress into the Grand Final.

The Grand Final will not have any points awarded for it, although you will have the opportunity to earn extra points if you set the fastest laps of the meeting in your class.

### **Additional Information:**

- If you are tied on points with other drivers, the order will be sorted according to each drivers fastest lap time during the meeting.
- The fastest lap of the meeting in each class will be awarded **3 bonus points**.

- If a driver breaks any rules or has demonstrated bad behaviour on or off the track they may face a point's deduction. This is at the race director's discretion.

### **Presentation:**

Trophies will be awarded to the top 3 drivers in both Juniors and Cadets classes. If either class does not have 3 or more representatives in the final, trophies will be awarded to the next driver in class from the final points table.

Trophies will also be awarded to the 'Driver of the Day' in each class, which will be voted by a panel of parents selected at the start of the year. This award will also carry a bonus of **3 additional points**.

## Officials

### **Race Director:**

The Race Director is the clerk of the course for the event and therefore is in overall control of the action taking place on the track. All decisions made by the Race Director will be final and there will be no right of an appeal or protest. Anyone who wishes to protest may do so in writing after the event has finished (this can be emailed to our usual address with an appropriate subject heading). If this avenue of protest is not adhered to, the competitor stands to lose all the points accumulated on the day.

We would like to remind the parents/guardians that their behaviour also risks points being deducted from their child's points total. Please remember that the event is run to the best of everyone's ability and we take extra care in staffing the event with experienced marshals. Any abusive language to the track staff or Race Director will not be tolerated. This may result in a point's deduction or disqualification from the meeting.

The main objective of the Race Director is to ensure that the event runs smoothly with a high emphasis on safety and impartiality to all the competitors.

If an incident occurs during the event, the race director will make his decision on the basis of advice of from the experienced track marshals.

### **Track Marshals:**

Marshals will be located at various points around the circuit. The marshals are located in the best position to use the appropriate flag signals when necessary. The Marshals will observe driving standards and report to the race director anyone who falls outside of the expected standard. Marshals can recommend penalties/black flags to the Race Director, but the Race Director will make the final decision.

## Driving Standards

### **Contact:**

**Karting is a Non-Contact sport** and this will be strictly adhered to in the Open Grand Prix Championship

at all times. On the type of layout we run, under race conditions, some unavoidable contact will occur which is acceptable. However repeated front to rear contact and aggressive or unnecessary side to side contact will not be tolerated.

It is possible that, contact may occur as a result of a racing incident and no driver is to blame, therefore this will be judged accordingly with no action taken.

In some cases of a racing incident the drivers involved will be shown a warning board at the finish line, saying 'No Contact'. A driver should only expect to see this once or twice before further punishment is taken. The Race Director has the ability to instruct the Lead Marshal to show a 'Black Cross' to a competitor if he or she has gained an advantage after making contact with another competitor. The Black Cross will mean that we may drop the driver one or several positions depending on the offense. If contact persists a driver may receive a black and white Warning flag. After that, at the discretion of the Race Director, a black flag may be used (you may have a points deductions also depending on circumstances).

#### **Points Deductions:**

Three or more warning flags during the meeting will result in a 3 point deduction at the end of the event. If you accumulate six warning flags during the season you will be deducted 5 points from your total points score, you will then incur a further 2 point deduction for every further two warning flags.

#### **Blocking:**

Blocking and weaving to defend position is prohibited. You are allowed to move once across the track to defend your position, however more than once will be deemed blocking and the appropriate penalty will be given to the offending driver.

#### **Foul Language and abusive behavior:**

Any such behavior amongst drivers, spectators or parents will be not tolerated. This includes inappropriate hand gestures. Mr Karting operates a zero tolerance policy on this issue.

## Flags and Signals

#### **Start/Finish Gantry:**

The karts will line up on the grid, with the lights set to red. Once all drivers are stationary the lights will change from red to green and the race will start.

#### **Chequered Flag:**

Finish of the current practice or race. Slow down to half race speed and proceed to the pit lane.

#### **Yellow Flag/Lights:**

Additional flag displayed on the slowing down lap after the chequered flag, to ensure drivers enter the pits at walking pace

#### **Red Flag/Light:**

Race/session stopped – once the track is cleared and all karts are ready, the racing will resume with the use of Green lights around the track

**Black Cross:**

You have gained an unfair advantage after contact – you may have points deducted accordingly. If you receive this board, you have the option to let pass the driver you unfairly passed, thus giving yourself a good chance to score more points as no points deductions would take place (in most cases) .

**Black and White Warning Flag:**

This diagonal flag is a driver warning. You are being watched closely by the marshals - improve your driving. If you incur three warning flags during the course of the event you will receive a 3 point deduction from your total points.

**Black Flag:**

Penalty – Return to the pitlane, making sure you enter the pits at walking pace. Depending on the incident which resulted in your black flag, you may or may not be allocated points for last position in the race you were in.

## Disputes and Appeals

There is no scope in the Mr Karting Junior Open Grand Prix Championship rules for any form of dispute or appeal.

The Race Directors decision is final, and decisions must be accepted as being made in good faith by both the competitors and track officials.

If any driver or parent of driver wishes to query a decision made, they may do so at the end of the event in writing.

The Safety of the drivers, spectators and the staff of Mr Karting is the main priority and will be a factor upon which most decisions are made, please remember this and consider your own and others safety whilst at the event.

Protests or attempted appeals will not be entertained during the meeting. The marshals and the Race Director will be positioned at all the appropriate places to view the track action and incidents. All Marshals are human and regrettably some mistakes can occur despite the best efforts of all concerned

## Final Words

Our Open Grand Prix Championship has a variety of ages (between 8 – 16) and driver abilities at each meeting and it is intended to be a competitive event, but at the same time, good fun and something everyone can enjoy!

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the forthcoming season the best of luck in their racing!!**