



Operations Rule Interpretation or Procedure

No. OPRI-002

Change To Rule 16.9 c) Rolling Starts

Date: 19 February 2014

Procedure Number	OPRI-002	Reviewed By Director	Operations
Drafted By	Mark Horsley	Approved by CEO On	19 February 2014
Version	V1 – 19 02 2014	Scheduled Review Date	1 December 2014
Implementation Date	Immediate		

Background

The purpose of the change of rules is to clarify that the lap preceding the start of a race where a rolling start is used must be:

- a) Conducted at a slow pace, and
- b) Run at a consistent speed, with the karts in their correct formation, and
- c) There should be no unnecessary acceleration and deceleration to warm up components or to endeavour to gain a racing advantage over other Competitors in the field.

Racing starts at the start of the race not during the formation lap and drivers must be required to drive the formation lap in a safe, restrained manner. Constant acceleration and deceleration has the potential to cause accidents further back through the field. Rapid deceleration following an aborted start also has the capacity to cause accidents.

Purpose

This procedure is unambiguous and establishes the procedures to be followed by all Drivers and the Starter.

It will remove the scope for local interpretation and lead to greater consistency across all events.

It will serve to improve the safety level of all starts.

It places the responsibilities on the Drivers (in particular the Driver on Pole position) rather than on the Clerks of the Course to control the speed of the karts in the lead up to a Race start.

The Rule (additions shown in red)

16.9 Starting:

c) Rolling Starts:

- (i) Drivers must maintain his/her grid position until the starting signal has been given. Failure to do so may incur a penalty. The Starter will be in a position near the starting area. A Driver not in their correct grid position should signify by raising their hand above their head. Hands raised unnecessarily will incur a penalty. The Field will complete approximately one (1) full formation lap before the start signal will be given. It is the Driver's responsibility to retain his/her grid position and the Starter is not obligated to allow any additional formation lap to allow a Driver who has lost his/her place to regain it.
- (ii) The practice of weaving to warm Tyres during the first rolling lap is permitted. The first rolling lap will end as Karts pass the grid apron the first time including when short circuits or roll up cut off areas are used unless the Track Licence defines otherwise.
- (iii) At the end of the first rolling lap, Drivers will proceed forward at a reduced and constant speed (for the avoidance of doubt, this shall mean no unnecessary acceleration and deceleration) towards the start line,



lined up in two lines of karts. Each line of karts shall remain outside of no man's land. The Driver on pole position, shall set the speed at which all Competitors shall approach the starting area (which shall be no more than approximately 25% of race speed) in anticipation of a start signal.

- (iv) The starter will give the start signal once the Driver on pole position is no more than 20 metres from the acceleration line provided that as he/she is satisfied with the formation and speed of the karts. It is forbidden for Drivers to accelerate until the front row of Karts have crossed the yellow acceleration line painted on the Track surface. If no start signal is given it is forbidden to decelerate at a rapid rate.

Drivers Responsibilities

- Drivers are required to drive responsibly at all times and are reminded that they are only permitted to Race or to seek to gain an advantage on the Race Track during the actual Race itself – not during any of the formation or roll around laps.
- After the completion of the first rolling lap, all Drivers are required to form up into two lines with no significant gaps between the karts.
- No kart is permitted to enter 'no man's land'.
- The Driver on Pole position is required to set the pace for the field during the formation lap.
- The pace of the formation lap as the field approaches the Start of the Race should be no more than approximately 25% of Race pace.
- The formation lap should be run at a consistent speed – i.e. no rapid acceleration and deceleration.
- Commence racing only when directed to do so by the Starter.

Starter Responsibilities

- To closely observe the karts during the formation lap and to assess that the Drivers are meeting their responsibilities under the Rules.
- To make an assessment of whether the karts are correctly formed up, running at a consistent speed and at the appropriate speed as designated in this Rule.
- If satisfied with the driving and positioning of the field on the formation lap, and the speed of the karts approaching the acceleration zone, to give the Start signal when the kart in pole position is no more than 20 metres from the acceleration line marked on the Track surface.
- If not satisfied that the provisions of the Rule are being met:
 1. To send the Driver's around again, or
 2. To start the race and issue starting penalty's to driver's who are in breach of the Rule by way of a Penalty Notification Notice, or
 3. If the formation is of such poor quality, and the circumstances warrant it, to abort the start using the red and white chequered flag.

Clerk Of The Course Responsibilities

- To ensure that the Starter is fully aware of his or her responsibilities under the revised Rule.
- To properly brief all Drivers about their responsibilities during the pre-race laps of the Race Track from the time that they are released and come under Starter orders.

Distribution To

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National Officials Coordinator