

## COVID-19 VIRUS - MESSAGE TO ALL CLUBS AND STATES

15 April 2020

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Thank you to those State and Club Presidents and representatives who joined us online last night.

I want to encapsulate the key matters that we discussed and the approach to matters such as licensing that we will be announcing tonight. Firstly, I want to share a few observations and thoughts in relation to the pandemic and our planned response to it.

At times of great uncertainty like that in which are currently in, there are essentially two types of thought processes, messages and actions that invariably come to the surface – **hope and optimism** or fear and pessimism. Personally, I will choose **hope and optimism** over fear and pessimism every day of the week. So does the Karting Australia Board and staff.

This is not the time for people to allow the ‘*Chicken Little Syndrome*’ to take hold. It is an awful time, of that, there is no doubt life is continuing to challenge us all but the ‘sky is not falling’ and we cannot allow pessimism and fear to take hold. This is a time for the leaders of our sport – our Board and staff, our Member States and our Clubs to put hope and optimism first – for the good of our members and our sport.

It is a time for everyone to consider the best information available, make the decisions that need to be made – don’t make rushed decisions just because someone else did, don’t make a decision that could have significant impact on the sport if you don’t really need to make a decision at all and when you do make a decision, make sure that you are properly informed and basing it on quality information. Please – go to the source (use the links below, find out what applies in your state.) If you want advice, call either Lee or I or speak with your State Association.

Most of all, don’t listen to the rubbish on social media and don’t make your decisions based on social media chat.

Here are a few things that you might want to consider and take on board:

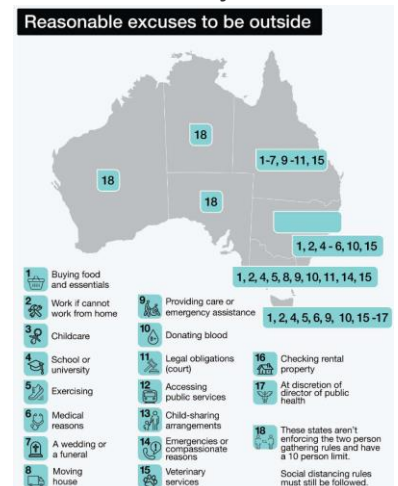
- Governments across the country have their various restriction Orders and Directions in place for **no more than a month at a time** – some are applying things only 2 weeks into the future.
  - They are continually repeating that “restrictions are constantly being reviewed on a daily basis.”
  - It is clear that they don’t want the restrictions to be in place any longer than is absolutely necessary to allow them to deal with the health issues.
- As Club Presidents and committee members, you are no doubt being offered plenty of opinions as to what your Club and our sport should do at the moment. That’s okay, everyone is entitled to an opinion, but it is those of us in leadership roles that must make the decisions. **Our obligations are to make informed decisions, based on the best advice that we can obtain, that are in keeping with the requirements of the law and the objectives of the Club.**

- Most Club Constitutions will have a clause in their Objectives that reads something like this:

*“The objectives for which the Association are established are: -*

*To promote interest in the sport of karting and to provide members with the opportunity to participate in this sport.”*

- As a sport and as a Club, why would we want to lock ourselves down for 6 months if we don’t have to? How will freezing membership of your Club for 6 months, help your Club, your members or the sport? Simply put, it won’t.
- Karting and motorsport are NOT LOCKED DOWN RIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRY. The restrictions vary in different States.
  - By way of example if the restrictions in one state reads – “*the conduct of motor sports or other forms of racing*” is allowed to take place (with some restrictions).
    - As a sport, if that restriction was available to us right across the country, wouldn’t you grab it with both hands just so that some our members can have a ‘skid’ in a controlled social setting at your Club?



## OUR PLANNED PANDEMIC RESPONSE PRIORITIES

With our Board, we have established three key priorities that will be the pillars of our ongoing response to the pandemic.

1. To ensure that our Member States and Clubs are properly prepared and ready to recommence karting activity as soon as Government restrictions allow that to happen.
2. To prepare our Member States and Clubs to conduct our sport in the 'new normal' environment of strained economic times and possible ongoing Government restrictions.
3. To ensure that our individual members (licence holders) and stakeholders remain engaged with our sport throughout the restricted period.

Initiatives and programs designed to fulfill those priorities Include:

- Getting Club karting activity going again as soon as possible once the restrictions start to lift.
  - Preparing for the progression from private practice, to organised social karting to Club competition, to higher levels of State competition and National competition.
- Working with our Club development partner - Sports Community - to provide a karting specific club support and mentoring program that will prepare our clubs to start again quickly in the new normal conditions.
  - Making sure that our Clubs are prepared to offer a mix of karting – social and competition so that there is something on offer for everyone.
  - Preparing the Clubs to apply for the inevitable grants that will be available from all levels of government once this is over.
- Preparing all the digital assets that we think each Club will need to use to engage and reactivate their members – as quickly and as easily as possible.

We will be in contact with each Club separately in the coming weeks to make preparations for the commencement of the club support and mentoring program.

## LICENCES – BONUS MONTHS

Following is the information that we will be distributing nationally tonight in relation to Bonus Months for Licences. You will also note the simple statement that we are making related to Club membership. As I mentioned last night, this is a matter between each Club and its Members, but we strongly recommend that all Clubs follow suit from what Karting Australia and the Member States have decided to do with licence extensions.

I stress what I mentioned to you last evening that the shutdown only occurred on 25 March (even though some Clubs and states did decide a little earlier not to run some race meetings).

**For every licence that remains current, we will be applying 'BONUS MONTHS' to it and we have recommended to all Clubs to do the same with Club Membership.**

Initially, we have decided to extend all current Drivers Licences (as of April 1) by three months from the actual expiry/renewal date that is recorded on CMS. **You will get an extra 3 months added to your licence.** Even if the restrictions start to ease in 2 months' time and the Clubs can open up after 2 months, you will still get an additional 3 months on the life of your licence.

If the restrictions have not started to lift by July 1, then we will review the Bonus Months program again. To use the words that the PM has so often used - Our response is both scalable and agile.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Membership of your Club is between your Club and your members – Karting Australia and our Member States can only recommend a course of action to follow.

Just as Karting Australia and our Member States are extending licences to compensate for the forced shutdown, we strongly recommended to all Clubs you provide similar benefits with your Club Membership.

## RESTARTING KARTING

Given the constantly evolving situation with the pandemic and the Government imposed restrictions, it is not possible to say for certain when karting will be able to resume.

Probably the only certainties at the moment are that the restrictions will most likely come off much more slowly than they went on. This is something that we will be prepared for and Club karting centre will be initial epicentres of karting when it does restart.

**Karting Australia's focus right now and for the foreseeable future is to work with our Clubs and Member States to make sure that when the restrictions do ease, we will all be ready to go karting again in the Clubs.**

If the restrictions are eased differently and/or at different times in different States, then we will look to get on-track activities up and running in accordance with the restrictions that are imposed at that time in each State.

## NATIONAL AND STATE CALENDARS

The National and State Karting calendars will all need to be reviewed – that is certain.

We intend to do everything possible to run the remaining rounds of the Australian Kart Championship and the full Rotax Pro Tour but this depends on when the restrictions are lifted sufficiently to do that. We are looking at calendar and event format options for these events – in the hope that we come to need them but of course, they are completely reliant upon when competition at those levels will be able to start again. As I have stated previously, we expect that the recommencement of these events will be well after Club karting starts.

State Karting Associations will be doing the same with their State Karting Calendars. Many of them have already started reviewing and considering their options, once we have a direction on a possible re-start date we will be working closely with all Member States to ensure the best possible schedule is maintained throughout the second half of 2020.

## VOLUNTEERS RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Now more than ever our sport must act to recruit, train, reward and retain more Officials.

Like many sports, many of karting's Officials are older and in the most vulnerable category for COVID-19. We must recruit more Officials generally and more younger Officials specifically. We have done well in the first few weeks to have enrolled around 80 people in the Karting Australia Officials Academy powered by Rosche Paper.

I urge all Clubs Committees to **share our social media posts on Volunteer Recruitment and ask your members to enrol to train to become a Volunteer Official** – Now is the perfect time to do it.

## GOVERNMENT DIRECTIONS AND ORDERS – UPDATED INFORMATION FOR YOUR STATE

The links to several State government information and Directions/Orders pages seem to constantly change. The information and links to each State's COVID-19 pages have been updated as of today's date. New links in green.

### Australia

<https://www.australia.gov.au/>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert#current-status>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/limits-on-public-gatherings-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

### STAY INFORMED

Download the official government “**Coronavirus Australia**” app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), or join the Federal Government's [WhatsApp channel](#) on [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

### New South Wales

#### Public Health Orders

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/covid-19-phos.aspx>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/covid-19-latest.aspx>

### Northern Territory

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice>

## Queensland

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>

## South Australia

<https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations/business-closures>

[https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/156614/Signed-Direction-Non-Essential-Business-and-Other-Gatherings-no-3.pdf](https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/156614/Signed-Direction-Non-Essential-Business-and-Other-Gatherings-no-3.pdf)

<http://emergencydepartments.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+topics+a+--+z/covid+2019/novel+coronavirus>

## Tasmania

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/business-restrictions>

## Victoria

### Chief Health Officer Directions

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/state-emergency>

<https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirusresponse>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-stay-home-and-restricted-activities-directions-faq>

## Western Australia

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-state-of-emergency-declarations>

[https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus)

## KEY MESSAGES FOR OUR CLUBS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS ISSUED ON 25 MARCH REMAIN IN PLACE

### ACTIVITIES AT CLUBS THAT REQUIRE A KARTING AUSTRALIA ORGANISING PERMIT

Effective March 25, 2020:

**No Karting Australia Organising Permits can be issued for any event scheduled to be conducted prior to 1 May 2020.**

For the sake of clarity, an Organising Permit is defined in the Rules as:

*“A document issued by KA or the SKA authorising the organisation of a Competition under these Rules.”*

**States Associations are instructed to withdraw any Organising Permit that may have already been issued for an event that is intended to be conducted in the period commencing from today's date until 1 May 2020.**

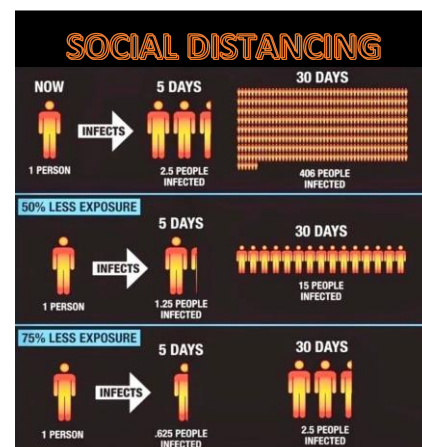
### ACTIVITIES AT CLUBS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A KARTING AUSTRALIA ORGANISING PERMIT

The situation related to the use of your Club's facilities for activities that do not require an Organising Permit must be decided by each Club. Normal arrangements for these activities including hire to third parties, open practice and organised practice activities vary from Club to Club and State to State.

**You must follow the Government's restrictions.**

### THE KEY HEALTH MESSAGES FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT REMAIN THE SAME:

1. If it's not essential – **STAY AT HOME.**
2. Reduce your contact with other people.
3. **SOCIAL DISTANCING MATTERS – IT IS ESSENTIAL!**  
Keep your distance from everyone else – observe the 1.5-2 metre Social Distancing Rules all the time.
4. Wash your hands – frequently and properly.
5. Do it for your community – it's not just about you.
6. If you have returned from overseas in the last 14 days, or if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 – **YOU MUST SELF ISOLATE.**
7. If you feel unwell and exhibit the COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolate, monitor and report.



### CONTINUING THE UPDATES

We will continue to update everyone with the latest information as and when anything changes as inevitably it will.

**Best Regards**

Kelvin O'Reilly

**Chief Executive Officer**