



**Karting (New South Wales) Inc**

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## **FROM THE CEO**

It's an exciting time in our sport at the moment, both at national and state level. On the national front the new board, chaired by Mick Doohan, officially took up their rolls on September 1 with a great deal of work in front of them. One of their first tasks was to appoint the new CEO of the national body and Kelvin O'Reilly was successfully appointed to the role.

The new board and CEO bring an enormous amount of experience and expertise to the administration of Karting, for those involved in the sport we will reap the benefits of their experience. The new Board will guide us on our journey of improvement, and I would encourage you to support them.

What does this mean for Karting NSW?

One of the more significant tasks, not just for NSW, but for all states, is to establish an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the state and national bodies. This is simply a contract between the state and national body outlining how we will interact and work together on a daily basis. Whilst there is a lot of work in ensuring this is completed with our best interests in mind, we hope to have this finalised and signed off by the end of October.

On the racing front the State Championships, this year being hosted by Combined Districts is just around the corner in early October. Entries are looking strong, so if you have not yet entered I would encourage you to do so now. State Championships are always great events and the pinnacle of Karting in NSW. Please support the event either as a competitor or offer your assistance at the event, there is always a need for help, and the bonus is you get to see some great racing. Remember it is your involvement that makes Karting successful.

New South Wales also has the privilege of hosting the next National Championships at Newcastle. The club is in full swing getting ready for the event in April 2014. This is a rare opportunity for us to compete at a national event in our home state, with minimal travel costs. Please support Newcastle Club and get involved, use the club race days as your practice for the next National Championships.

The annual Junior Development Camp held at Combined Districts is hugely popular with our younger members. This event offers not only racing, but race craft, kart set up, health and

fitness, but most of all fun. Numbers are limited so to avoid disappointment ensure you secure a place for your child when you receive the notification that entries are open.

January also has another major event, the nationally recognised Ladies Event. The event has grown over the last few years and provides an exclusive meeting for our lady competitors. However, don't be misled this event is hotly competitive and the competition travel from around Australia. My wife would say there are also two bonuses ...the event supports and fund raises for the Breast Cancer Foundation a very worthy cause, and..... there are a lot of men in pink shirts.

These major events command a lot of attention and we sometimes forget to focus on the most important aspect of our sport. Grass roots racing at club level is where it all begins, here is where I need your help. Participation rates at club level are critical to the success of our sport. Some clubs are doing well and others not so well. Could I ask you to look at your diary over the next few months and commit to racing at your home club, as well the clubs close by. Your involvement will make all the difference, this is the sport you love so get out and go racing.

I have two issues raised frequently with both myself and the Board. May I address these with you.

- Too many classes

The subject of classes is a major concern and requires a national approach. It was discussed extensively at the recent national conference. The matter is firmly on the agenda with the new national board, so I would request your patience on this point and I will keep you posted.

- Officials

I, on occasions, receive feedback regarding the lack of consistency and interpretation of some rules and occasionally officials are perceived to be too 'hard'. This is constructive feedback and I have asked our State Officials Coordinator to formulate a plan to address your concerns.

In addition I have asked all our staff and board to ensure we provide as pleasant an experience as we are able, when dealing with our state organisation. We will strive to be easy to deal with, to ensure our members enjoy being part of the sport and interacting with Karting NSW.

This is of course a two way street. Our board members and officials are all voluntary positions and those fulfilling these roles receive no monetary gain, if the truth were told, most end up out of pocket. Without them we could not go racing, our voluntary brigade offer their services out of love of Karting and a genuine desire to contribute. Currently we are desperately short of officials so we need to look after those we have and encourage new assistance, please consider this as an option to 'give back' to your sport. Should you feel an official has made a mistake, or you don't agree with the decision, please avoid the confrontational approach and discuss the concern calmly and respectfully. If we disenfranchise our officials, they will walk away and none of us will go racing.

Finally, social media. This form of communication is definitely here to stay and has many benefits in keeping us well informed. However, I have more complaints across my desk concerning comments made on social media than any other concern Karting is facing. I encourage everyone to use the various mediums available to us, however please do so wisely and constructively. Should you feel the need to make comment on a concern raised through social media forums please avoid negative or disparaging retorts, these types of comments will not serve our sport well.

As a current karter and official myself I am welcoming of your feedback and hope this message is informative and interesting for you. I commit to updating NSW members on a regular basis.

Yours in Karting  
Glen Egan  
CEO/Chairman  
Karting (New South Wales) Inc.