

Guide to How to Get Started in Karting





Introduction...

Welcome to Hamilton Kart Club! Good on you for picking up this brochure - Karting is a great sport for those aged 6 to 66 / male or female / family fun or serious competition. Hamilton Kart Club is affiliated with Kartsport New Zealand which regulates karting in New Zealand providing a safe, controlled and fun environment for our members.

Karting in New Zealand has a great safety record. Drivers are required to wear purpose made and approved driving suits, approved safety helmets, gloves and lace up shoes that cover the ankles. The kart itself is designed with a low centre of gravity and having minimal weight and a very large tyre contact area they slow or stop very quickly under brakes when required.

Karting can be a sport that will give good grounding for future development within a motorsport or simply be a fun way to spend a weekend - the choice is yours - once you're in a kart you're hooked!

Firstly... you will need to choose a class you are best suited to. The most popular classes are as follows:

JUNIORS

Cadet ROK - Drivers aged 6 and under 11 - smaller chassis, Vortex Rok engine, restricted 11,000rpm limiter (there is also an option to run a Racket 85cc engine club days only – however a good entry level for beginners)

Junior Mini ROK - Drivers aged 9 and under 13 - full or 3/4 chassis, Vortex Mini ROK engine, unrestricted, 14,000rpm limiter

Formula Junior / Junior Yamaha KT100 - Drivers aged 12 to under 17 - full exhaust, either Yamaha KT100 100cc 2 stroke engine or CIK homologated KF3 reed valve engine or 125cc FR125 Rotax Max Junior

SENIORS

Senior Yamaha KT100 Light - Drivers from 15 plus - weight 144kg minimum all up weight

Senior Yamaha KT100 Heavy - Drivers from 15 plus - weight 165kg minimum all up weight

Senior Rotax Max Light - Drivers from 15 plus - weight 165kg minimum all up weight

Senior Rotax Max Heavy - Drivers from 15 plus - weight 185kg minimum all up weight

Senior Open - Drivers from 15 plus - mix of engine configurations - max 250cc

For more details please refer to Kartsport New Zealand - they have a great website you can go to www.kartsport.org.nz

Have a Go...

Please contact the club at hamkart@wave.co.nz to arrange a time / contact.

Purchasing a Kart...

You can either buy new or purchase one second hand - they both however need to meet Kartsport rules and specifications for the particular class you choose. There are a number of kart shops located throughout the country who would be more than willing to help. Some of the best advice about buying a kart can be obtained from karters themselves. The best way to obtain this advice is to go along to a kart meeting and talk to people there, you will find that they are more than happy to offer advice to new people to the sport. A kart meeting is also a great place to see the different classes in action. If you wish to buy second hand it is best to know the full history of the kart itself. Talking to people at the track may even be helpful to locate a sound second hand kart available to purchase – someone at the track generally knows if there is a good kart for sale or point you in the right direction at least. All race wear along with a kart is required to meet Kartsport regulations - that way it is keeping the sport safe as possible.

Joining Hamilton Kart Club...

Right now you have got yourself a kart and race gear... what do you do next? You now need to join the Hamilton Kart Club and become a member. Your membership is valid for a year and is renewed every July. Please view our website www.kartsport-hamilton.co.nz for prices and membership forms.

Obtaining a Kartsport Licence...

You know need to obtain a licence from Kartsport New Zealand - this allows you to race. This also is valid for a year. To receive a Kartsport Licence you must be affiliated with a club. An application form and information is available on Kartsport New Zealand website www.kartsport.org.nz. If you are under the age of 18 a birth certificate is also required. A race and licence number will then be issued - start thinking of your favourite number, you never know it might be available. A Kartsport New Zealand manual will also be available - in this has a list of race flags and their meaning - start learning these before your first race day.

Practice...

It is a good idea to get some practice in on the track before first race day. The Hamilton track is available for practice – please see our website for days the track is available for practice. To practice it is \$10 for members and \$30 for non members to the club. On Saturdays directly before the Sunday race meet the track is also open for practice. Some drivers choose to practice for months before their first race for confidence. All safety equipment / clothing according to Kartsport regulations must be worn at all times. An indemnity form will also be required to be completed before practice can begin. If other karters are there strike up a conversation with them - great way to get to know others from the club or advice on your kart set up.

First Race Day...

Wow...first race day has arrived - congratulations now the excitement begins! When you first start racing you are required to have an "X" on your number plate to let others know that you are new to the sport and hold an unrated licence. You will also be gridded at the back of the race group. Once you have enough experience the stewards of the course may come up to you advising you that they think you may be ready to sit your licence test or perhaps if you think you are ready you can ask the stewards at the beginning of the day to assess whether they think you are race ready.

Be prepared the night before - check you have race wear, kart set up, have fuel etc. Try to get to the track early to set up...try to stay relaxed. Gates open at Hamilton Kart Club on race day at 7am.

Scrutineering and entries run 7.30 to 8.30. At the tech shed is where scrutineering is held and you will be given a card to complete. When you take your kart to the scrutineering area make sure your kart is clean ready for presenting. The scrutineers will check your kart for legality with the rules and also for safety. If something is not correct they will inform you requiring you to fix the problem and return to be rechecked - you cannot race until your kart has been approved. Your card will then be signed off by the scrutineer.

Following scrutineering you must have your race gear checked at the club rooms - suit, gloves, shoes, helmet. You are required to present your card received from the tech shed and also have your licence present.

Following this you are now able to enter the race. This is also located in the club rooms.

Now that your kart has been scrutinised, your race wear checked and have registered for the race meeting this is a good time to check your kart over, making sure it is all set ready to go - remember to check fuel tank is filled with petrol (from kartsport approved petrol stations) and oil mixed correctly and tyre pressures are set according to the day's temperature - generally the hotter it is the less tyre pressure is required, ensure chain is oiled with correct lubricant (just ask somebody if you are not sure). You are also required to have a transponder attached to your kart - this allows information to be passed to the race secretary as to lap times and placing. You can either have your own or you can hire one for the day from the club.

At 8.45am a driver's briefing is held. You and your pit crew (and parent or guardian if under 18) must attend the driver's briefing where the steward of the day will outline important points about the days racing and tell you what they require from the drivers. The Chairperson of the club will also speak advising club clarifications and what order of classes will be run during the day.

The club runs one or two practice / tuning runs so drivers can familiarise themselves with the track and warm up / tune their karts accordingly.

Prior to racing, located on the side of the tech shed there will be a race order and on the board located next to dummy grid the race draw showing what grid position you will be running for the first 4 races will be up (X plated karts always start at the back). In most race meets there is 4 races which will determine where you will be gridded for the final. Once the days racing is complete points are then added up to determine where you have placed for the day.

It is a good idea to keep an eye out for the class that is up before you. Once that class goes out it is a good time to warm up your kart ready for the next race and allows you time to get positioned on the grid for your race.

Once at the grid make sure your race wear is on correctly and securely fastened. The pit steward will advise you when it is time to start your engine. On the first lap you must keep in grid formation behind the karts in front and the field must line up in two straight lines when approaching the starter. If the starter is happy the race will be started with the lights switching off. If the starter is not happy you are required to stay in grid position for another lap, until the starter lights switch off - and then it's on!

At the end of the race the chequered flag is displayed and you then return to the pits where you push your kart through the tech shed where your kart and yourself are weighed (please see class minimum weights)

Remember have fun!

During the day the Hamilton Kart Club has a great kitchen where you can purchase thirst quenching drinks (got to stay hydrated) and a great selection of food. All proceeds go to the club.

Once racing is finished there is prize giving held in the club rooms. This is a great time for all to have a drink and catch up with other families / fellow racers. This is also an opportunity to pick those long time karter's brains for all their knowledge.

Message From the Hamilton Kart Club...

Congratulations for picking up this brochure - you have just taken the first step in karting! We here at the Hamilton Kart Club want to help you and make sure you have a great karting experience so please feel free to contact the club at hamkart@wave.co.nz if you have any queries.

We would like to thank Kartsport New Zealand who we have used as a resource for the brochure.

See you soon!