



SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

July 2014

Hello to you all,

As part of our Risk Management Strategy, it is important that Speedway Australia continues to update you with the latest information of interest to you and your venue.

Topics included in this edition are:

- Official Accreditation - Compulsory
- Vintage Sprintcars
- Demo Derby's
- Junior Divisions
- Promotional Days/Rides
- Insurance Report – Personal Accident (Licence Holders)
- Tyres/Equipment on Mules
- Track Safety and Training Days
- Legal World on Speedway

A safety quote to share with you that you need to observe at all times:

“Everyone involved in the sport of Speedway, whether you're a competitor, official, mechanic, committee member or volunteer, you ALL have a responsibility to make sure Speedway has a safe and prosperous future”

OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION

It is important that everyone at a race meeting is correctly accredited to hold down certain positions at the venue. Some of the most important positions are the CHIEF STEWARD and the CHIEF SCRUTINEER of all racing divisions. All divisions that compete on a Speedway Australia insured venue must comply with the minimum standards accepted by our insurer, and with these 2 positions, I must remind all of the Accreditation status that must be complied with every time:

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Page 23 – Rule 5.1.1(b)

*All accredited officials must have an official Accreditation Card **(Also known as a Red Card)**, if they are performing the duties of a steward or scrutineer. This can be applied through the relevant Speedway Australia State body.*

We have been notified of venues and race meetings that are knowingly not being conducted under such standards, this is a deliberate breach of Speedway Australia policies and will no longer be tolerated. All Chief Stewards and Scrutineers should be producing their Red Card at all drivers meetings so competitors know and understand that the meeting is being controlled by the correct accredited people.

VINTAGE SPRINTCARS

Recently there has been a move by a lot of modern style (hi-bar) Sprintcars attempting to demonstrate and be involved as a 'Vintage or Classic demonstration'. Speedway Australia has received many complaints and issues in regards to this happening and them being involved with 'other' demonstrations on tracks and the dangers associated with doing this. Speedway Australia has since put policies in place for vintage Sprintcars to be demonstrated under and they are as follows:

- a) Vintage/Classic Sprintcars with a build date of up to the end of 1983, will be allowed to run on the track with other vintage/classic cars. They cannot be 1984 or onwards and run with existing vintage/classic cars such as Super Modified's etc.***
- b) Sprintcars from 1984 up to and including 1990 can be accepted as a classic/vintage car but:***
 - They must 'demonstrate' on their own and not with other vintage/classic cars.***
 - All drivers must wear the full safety equipment equivalent to a current sprintcar (including head and neck restraint device (ie HANS) as well as the top level of racing attire).***
 - All drivers must have a medical as per normal racing categories.***
 - The specifications of the car must reflect the era. eg. Cannot upgrade the engine to a 410 because they were not part of the original car) cannot subtract the downtubes to turn it into a low bar car.***
 - No other parts can be added or upgraded that were not part of the original specification.***

The above information must be adhered to and met AT ALL TIMES, irrespective of what club the driver is associated with and what venue. All Speedway Australia insured venues must make sure any 'Vintage Sprintcar' that wishes to demonstrate adheres to the above policy. If not the Insurance Permit for the event can be revoked.

DEMO DERBY'S

Over the past 12 months, there has been a huge exposure to our Personal Accident policy through claims being made from people being injured while competing in Demo Derby's. The claims over the recent period have been quite high and put high amounts of pressure on licencing costs. The average cost of claims for Demo Derby's over the past 3 years is \$13,789.00 (Highest average of all divisions)

If your venue does in fact run these events, please understand the responsibility to the entire sport in making sure all management of Demo Derby events are adhered too. Speedway Australia will be issuing soon some management standards that MUST be met when having an event like this being run.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS

With the launch of Junior Formula 500's this year to accommodate other Junior divisions, just remember the following:

THERE ARE STILL HAVE TRACKS NOT COMPLING WITH THIS,

Recently some changes have been made to the junior divisions in that they cannot compete at a venue after 11pm at night under any circumstances. Please make sure this is adhered too at all times.

Another reminder that to act outside of the standards agreed to by our insurer which is listed in the SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA RACING RULES AND REGULATIONS BOOK is a clear liability exposure to your club or track.

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Page 5 – Rule 2.4.1

Clubs, Associations, promoters and Speedway venues cannot allow any Junior Events (practice or racing) to commence after 11:00pm

PROMOTION DAYS

While Speedway Australia understands the importance of such days, there is far too many venues having important licencing standards dropped by having people go out and compete in a Speedway vehicle without any form of licence.

“ALL RACE CARS THAT ENTER THE ARENA TO COMPETE MUST HAVE A LICENCED DRIVER BEHIND THE WHEEL WHO HAS A PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER INTEGRATED WITH THE LICENCE”

If for some reason this continues and or an accident happens while a 'non-licenced' person is competing then the ability to have these days may be lost. This will be a massive negative to the sport, so we please ask that all venues who partake in having Mechanic/promotional days that they please make sure all people involved are complying with important minimum standards required.

INSURANCE REPORT

Below is a report which shows the divisions and claims made over the past 3 Racing Seasons. Speedway Australia is continually working with divisions and venues to try and improve safety and standards to make sure we can all participate in a safe environment.

<u>Total Incurred</u>	<u>No of Claims</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Ave Cost</u>
\$122,741.00	9	Wingless Sprint	\$13,638.00
\$90,353.00	13	Sprintcar	\$6,950.00
\$83,420.00	9	Speedcar	\$9,269.00
\$68,946.00	5	Demo Derby	\$13,789.00
\$50,488.00	8	Karts	\$6,311.00
\$42,370.00	3	Mechanics	\$14,123.00
\$40,235.00	4	Super Sedans	\$10,059.00
\$12,962.00	4	Junior Sedans	\$3,241.00
\$8,476.00	5	Formula 500	\$1,695.00
\$4,871.00	3	AMCA	\$1,624.00

This report is not shown to show who is the winner or loser in divisions.

This report is also dependant on car numbers and events run, so we understand there is a discrepancy between that, but it still does not mean we sit back and let people continually get injured. We will work hard with divisions in continuing to make the sport safer for the future, and we make no apologies for that.

TYRES/EQUIPMENT ON QUAD BIKES AND MULES

In the last edition of this report I mentioned about the increasing number of competitors who have Quads and Mules which enter the arena and have race car parts and tyres not strapped in and they then happen to fall off and become a safety issue.

At the recent Speedway Safety Advisory meeting it has been put forward and then supported by the Speedway Australia board, that there will now be the ability for a chief steward to penalise the driver of the team with a \$100 fine for anything that comes off the bikes/mules while moving in the pit area or on track.

TRACK SAFETY AND TRAINING DAYS

If you're a venue and are in the need to have a safety training day for your club or with associated clubs in your area, please contact your state body and or Speedway Australia and seek some advice on how this can be achieved. Some of the recent days that have been held have been very successful and are important in keeping our volunteers up to speed with common knowledge and training to help people in our sport.

A team of Volunteers at a recent Training day at Hamilton Speedway Victoria.



LEGAL WORLD ON SPEEDWAY

As some of you may be aware, there are a heap of legal cases in courts all over the world at present in regards to Speedway. Major cases in both NZ and USA are currently underway and we are watching them very closely.

Unfortunately in today's day and age, it is a common occurrence for people to seek the legal arm of the country to support them in cases where they have been injured or feel they have been left unsafe.

We must understand in Australia we are not immune to such things, and as volunteers Speedway Australia does not want to see you in a position of having this bought upon you. Please respect and stick to policies and procedures that have been put in place to protect you from such litigation, and we are here to support and help you run your speedway safe at all times.

“If you have a change of committee or seek further information on your management of racing events at the venue, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time, and we are here to help!”

Till next time, stay safe!

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