

Getting Started in Karting

Welcome to Westwood and the great sport of karting!! This package will have all the information you need to start racing at Westwood.

First, a little information about our club. Westwood is the oldest active club in B.C., established in 1951. The club began at the original Westwood track in Coquitlam. Throughout the years Westwood has produced many top notch drivers who moved up to higher levels of racing. The

late Greg Moore was one of them.

Currently Westwood boasts some of the best drivers in karting. This is an element that separates our club from others. We have the best of both worlds, high caliber racing and a great club atmosphere that everyone can enjoy. So let us give you what you need to start racing!!

#1- Join the club. - (forms available online and at the track)
Fill in the form attached to this package.
Please print neatly, and fill out all required fields.
#2- Get to know the rules!!

Karting is a high speed sport and it's important to know the procedures and rules to maintain safety.
#3- Take the drivers test. Every new driver has to take the drivers test before they are allowed on the track. The test covers the basic rules of kart racing. An extremely important element of the rules is understanding the meaning of all the flags. The flags tell you what is happening on the track while YOU are on it. It's mandatory you know them; it's the #1 priority to everyone's safety.

Here are the basic guidelines to a race weekend

The track and registration open at 7:30 am. Your first step is to find a pit space. Then head over to registration and sign up. (If you haven't joined the club and taken the driver's test, you must do this first).

To register, you will need to produce your Westwood membership/license card. (This is mandatory). Your card acknowledges you as a member who has passed all tests and procedures. When

registering you will be asked what class you will be racing in. There will be people there to assist if you are unsure. If you are a brand new driver, and over 16 years of age, it will be mandatory for you to start in our Club WKA class. That's where all novice drivers start.

Once you have completed registration, you will receive a Tech card. This card is for the "Pre-tech" inspection of your kart and race gear. It will also say what class you are racing in. This will help out the

Pre-tech person and our official scorers. You must fill out the card carefully and neatly with your signature. Once you have done this, you will take your kart, helmet, and neck brace to the individual who will be inspecting those items to make sure they pass all safety requirements. Once everything is inspected and passed, Pre-Tech will sign your card, and mark your kart to acknowledge that you have been passed. Your card will be kept and given to scoring. Your kart must have the

designated sticker (mark) from Pre-Tech before you go onto the track. This is mandatory.

Now get ready to have some fun!!

Each morning begins with a Driver's meeting before we get onto the track. It is mandatory for all drivers to attend. This is where you will meet the Race director, all the Corner Marshalls, Race Starter, and Pit Boss. The Race Director is the person who runs the race event. He is the one who watches you on the track, to make sure everyone is

racing safely. If there happens to be a race incident, it is up to the Race Director to implement warnings and/or penalties to the drivers that are involved. The race Director will also give everyone an outlay of how the weekend will proceed, with items such as the class schedule, how many laps each practice and race session will be, and which class will start the rotation. So, you must attend all driver meetings.

After the driver's meeting you will receive a schedule. It will show which class

begins the rotation. The schedule will have all the times for the entire day. It is **YOUR** responsibility to know when your class is up. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get ready. This is very important on RACE day; you don't want to miss your class for qualifying, heat races or your final!!

On Track Procedures

Approximately 10 minutes prior to your scheduled track time you will proceed to the Pre-Grid area. This is where you will line up to get ready to go onto the track. There will be a designated person who will show you where you will line up. This person is called the Pit Boss. Once the other class has come off the track it will be the Pit Boss that will let you know the track is cleared of all karts and it is safe to go on. He will let you know when you can go by waving a

green flag. Once the green flag has been waved, you slowly and carefully enter the track. There will be a person as you enter the track that will be at the finish line waving a green flag as well. He is the Starter.

The Starter is the person who waves the green flag in a qualifying, heat, or final race. He is the person on the track who tells you to start racing. He is also the person who will wave the other coloured flags depending on the situation. That's why it's important to

know your flags. This is the way the Starter and Corner Marshalls communicate with you in regard to what is happening on the track.

Corner Marshalls are at designated stations around the circuit. They are the eyes and ears of the Race Starter and the Race Director. They are also there to warn you of any issues that may be on the track. They also use different colored flags that tell you what's happening. If a Corner Marshall waves a flag at you, you must follow procedure. It could

be to tell you that something is happening ahead and to watch and be careful. Or the track could be blocked ahead and stop immediately or when safe.

A white flag from the starter signals that you have one lap remaining. The next lap you will get a checkered flag. After crossing the finish, complete cool-down lap and head into the pit area. When you are approaching the “Pit In” entrance, raise an arm to indicate to those behind you that you are slowing down and entering the pit.

Next is Scales

The scales are used only for qualifying, heats, and final races. Not in practice.

Scales are used to ensure that you meet the minimum weight requirement for your class. This means if your class weight is 365lbs, kart and driver, you must be at least that weight. If you are 364 ½ lbs. you will be disqualified as underweight. It’s very important to know your **WEIGHT CLASS**.

Once your session is complete you can go back

to your pit until you are up again.

This is the time to make adjustments to your kart for your next session.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to start racing?

You will need a variety of things. First, you will need to buy a kart. There are a variety of kart shops in the Lower Mainland. They will have new and used karts to

fit your budget and needs. Two shops that support Westwood and are at every race are Italian Motors in Vancouver and Checkered Flag in Chilliwack. Italian Motors can be reached at 604-253-4248 or www.italianmotors.com . Checkered Flag Racing's number is 604-792-5242 or www.gokarts.org . Both shops have been around karting for years and they will have everything you are looking for. Westwood also has a "classifieds" section on their web site at www.westwoodkarting.org

Once you acquire a kart, you will need to have all the proper race gear. The following is required:

- 1 Full face race helmet with a safety rating of Snell 2000 or higher. (this rating is either on the outside at the back of your helmet or on a tag inside underneath your padding)
- 2 Neck brace
- 3 Gloves
- 4 Race shoes
- 5 Rib protector
- 6 One piece race suit
- 7 AMB Transponder- the transponder is used with the scoring

system for qualifying and races. It mounts on your kart and when you cross the finish line, it gives a signal to the scoring computer. The scoring system then determines your qualifying times and your finish position in the race. If you do not use a transponder, you will have no qualifying times or finish positions in the races and will not receive any points in your class for the season championship.

There is a variety of parts you will need to go along with your kart.

7 Kart stand, to move you kart around in the pits

8 Extra rims for practicing and a set for rain rims (rear rain rims are a different width)

9 Rain tires

10 Variety of tools. All karts are metric.

11 Fuel container and mixing jug. Most motors are 2 stroke and you need to mix your gas with 2 stroke oil

As you get familiar with karting you will slowly

add items that suit your needs at the track.

Other items you must have at the track, are a first aid kit and fire extinguisher in your pit. This will be checked periodically throughout the year.

How do I join?

First you have to get a membership form. Either by downloading it from our web site, (under club information, click on forms, then click on Annual Membership and

License Application), or at the track on a race day.

It is strongly recommended that you have all your paperwork finished before hand to help things go smoothly on a race weekend.

Once you have joined and paid your annual dues you will receive a Westwood membership/license that must be shown at every race registration.

What are the costs?

The annual membership dues for Westwood are \$100.00 per year. This includes one license. Any additional licenses for immediate family are an additional \$30.00 each. Race fees are \$120.00 per weekend. (or \$50.00 for Saturday practice only which is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm)

Who do I talk to if I have question?

We have monthly club meetings every second Tuesday of the month. This is where we get together and discuss past events, concerns, possible changes, and answer anyone's questions. The time and place for our meetings is always posted on our web site. We also have contact information on our web site under Club Information. Click on 'contact us'. There are a number of people listed

who you can reach.