

BAMBINO KART TRAINING & EVENT GUIDELINES FOR 6 – 8 YEAR OLDS:
These Guidelines are for ARKS Instructors/Examiners and Clubs

INTRODUCTION

Motorsport UK has embraced a Bambino kart class for 6 – 8 year olds from 1.1.2010 which is described as pre-race training for these youngsters, which can only be held on circuits specifically licenced by Motorsport UK for Bambino under a specific Bambino Clubman permit. The maximum number of starters will be listed on the Track Licence for the circuit. Drivers in competition must hold a Bambino Kart Clubman licence after taking part in the approved pre-competition training (see below for details) which they can obtain from the date of their 6th birthday. The first licence is currently free, thereafter is £45 per annum (2020 fee) and the legal guardian, father or mother must simultaneously take out a PG Entrant licence at a fee of £25 (2020 fee). They can compete in Bambino time trials up to the end of the year of their 8th birthday and if they have the necessary experience may enter races after their 7th birthday. They can upgrade to an Interclub Novice licence from the age of 8, in order to race in the Cadet classes. To upgrade they must purchase the Motorsport UK Go Karting Starter Pack at a cost of £59 which includes the cost of the licences and take the ARKS Novice Driver written and driving test. The drivers must wear protective clothing to normal Motorsport UK Blue Book standard, i.e. a CIK homologated kart suit and helmet of the CMR/CMS standard. From 2021 it is anticipated that a Bambino driver may take an age specific ARKS test from the age of 6 in order to enter races.

The Bambino class regulations are printed in the Motorsport UK Karting Yearbook but are subject to amendment so check the Resource Centre / Technical: Kart on the website www.motorsportuk.org for the latest version. The kart chassis must be registered with Motorsport UK and those are listed in the Yearbook. The only approved engine is the Comer C50 and must match the log book supplied by Zip Kart. Only the homologated all weather Le Cont MSA 04 tyres are permitted.

BAMBINO DRIVER TRAINING

The aim is to teach young drivers the basics of kart driving before they enter Motorsport UK competitions, and go on to Cadet racing from age 8. The main emphasis is on building confidence and having fun. The initial lessons are primarily aimed at youngsters who have never previously driven a kart. In which case progress should not be rushed, perhaps only being allowed to do one lesson per day as at this age the attention span is relatively short.

It is appreciated that some drivers will come to licence training having already gained experience at other venues, in a hire kart or their own. Relevant experience at Bambino schools at Buckmore Park, Daytona, Three Sisters and Ryehouse can be taken in lieu of the first two lessons. Proof of participation can be proved by the circuit's certificates and the Bambino record book entries completed for that experience.

The karts should be checked for reasonable compliance with the Motorsport UK class regulations. The drivers' protective clothing should be checked for compliance with the Blue Book requirements and mandatory CMR/CMS helmets. (Note: Rib protectors are not compulsory but note the FIA Safety Institute is drafting a standard. Neck collars must not be mandated in any way.)

Drivers should be signed onto the club or circuit's disclaimer form, with parent or guardian signature and if appropriate a letter from their legal guardian giving permission for the activity. The disclaimer and briefing to parents and guardians should cover the local child protection policy, including what is permitted by way of photographs or video. The circuit must have insurance for the Bambino age participants.

The initial driver's safety briefing covers the following:-

1. A briefing by the instructor, preferably including a video presentation if one is available
2. Overview of the day's events
3. Inspection of the circuit – a track walk round if possible, and a diagram
4. Safety equipment
5. How to get in and out of the kart, and controls
6. Event rules
7. Staying inside the kart

8. Entering and leaving the circuit
9. Pit lane safety
10. Hand signals (leaving the circuit)
11. Flags (using a limited range probably yellow, red, black, chequer to begin with)

Instructors must ensure that the drivers understand the kart controls and safety instructions. Time is taken to ensure that the drivers are seated in the correct position and able to safely reach all the controls without over-stretching. They must have a bend in their legs when the pedals are fully depressed.

A separate drivers briefing is given to the parents to stress that the first few lessons are very important and that they should not push their offspring into doing what they do not want to do.

Before drivers go into the pit lane or dummy grid they are taken to a clear area and shown the correct way of getting into and out of the kart and the controls. They are then pushed forward and told to stop, and observed if they can operate the brake pedal correctly. This will show them how to slow down or stop the kart. Once this has been done a few times they are then told how to operate the throttle (still being pushed) and then asked to stop the kart again, to ensure they take their foot off the throttle and do not use the pedals together, always one or the other. The drivers can then be taken to the dummy grid or area for their first lessons. They are then tested again on their knowledge of the brakes in the pit lane or dummy grid or area for their first test with the engine running but at slow speed before continuing or being allowed onto the track. This ensures they understand the kart controls.

On the first outing the instructors exercise extra care until they are happy that the driver can demonstrate that they are able to control the kart to a reasonable standard. For the first timer it may be appropriate to speed govern the kart by limiting the throttle opening.

Lesson 1

No more than 4 pupils to 2 instructors when on circuit. Give an explanation of what will be covered, including kart controls and safety procedures, signals and flags, driving standard and techniques.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
A stop box at each end of the track or area used, and two stop cones are placed on the track. The drivers are instructed to drive to the stop cone and then into the stop box. Once the driver has moved out of the stop box the next driver should be waved on. The teaches them to accelerate and stop.	The stop boxes remain but four cones are added to each side of the track. The drivers are then instructed to drive in and out of the cones. This teaches them to steer and stop.	One of the four cones on each side should be removed. This increases the speed without the driver knowing. No overtaking to take place at this stage.

The main purpose of Lesson 1 is to build confidence and provide the skills for basic controls and safe handling of the kart. Their Pre-Bambino licence training card is issued (available on the Motorsport UK website in the Resources/ Competition Licences area) and only signed by the instructor if they are happy with the performance of the driver. This enables monitoring of the driver's progress (especially if they continue at a different venue) and maintains interest along giving the drivers a sense of achievement.

Drivers should be given homework on the flags, either matching the meaning to a set of answers (with the help of an instructor or parent) or colouring in.

Lesson 2

This starts with an explanation of what will be covered: The concept of the racing line, correct cornering techniques, and marking homework e.g. the flags.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Drivers should be tested on their knowledge of the brake operation in the pit lane.	All in line cones are removed but the stop boxes remain. Drivers are shown the racing	All cones (including stop boxes) are removed and drivers are allowed to drive round the

The circuit is set up as for Lesson 1, session 3.	line and told to drive to the boxes and then move onto the next.	circuit on the racing line. No overtaking is allowed and an area in the centre can be used to give coaching. Each driver is called in using hand signals for feedback. This also works to keep the drivers spread out around the track.
---	--	---

The training record card is updated. More homework is given. A sheet of paper with three corners drawn on, a right angle, a hairpin and an S bend. The driver is required to draw on the racing line.

Lesson 3

If the previous lessons have been given on a short track, then this lesson will be on the full track licenced for Bambino events, that will be used for timed runs. Drivers that have had training at other circuits or schools can start at Lesson 3 but must have written proof.

Training record cards are inspected; Homework is marked; an explanation of what is to be covered is given; the racing line for the circuit is explained; the cornering technique for the circuit is explained; driving standards that are expected are covered; signals (flag and hand) that will be used for Motorsport UK competition but this time including the blue flag.

Drivers should always be tested on their knowledge of the brake operation in the pit lane or dummy grid. The number of karts should not exceed that shown on the track licence. Cones should mark the areas for braking, turn in points and apex. Stop boxes are also used. If possible do a track walk.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Drivers follow the cones to help learn the racing line and are told when to stop in two stop boxes that allows the instructors to keep the field spread out and gives the drivers time to think about the feedback. The chequered flag is used to finish the session.	For the first time we allow the drivers to overtake, but only when they follow the procedure – only overtake on the left and only in a straight line. Blue flags should be used to warn drivers that they are likely to be overtaken, and they should move to the right to allow the faster driver to pass. Yellow and red flags should be introduced and used to gain familiarity. The stop boxes should still be used.	The stop boxes are removed and the drivers are free to driver round and overtake. If necessary drivers should be called in to correct faults and be given feedback and further coaching. Lap times can be taken or observation that they are quick enough not to be a danger to others in competition.

Their pre-Bambino Clubman Licence training is now complete and if considered suitable can be signed off to apply for their licence for Motorsport UK events. Explain to the parents that the training record card, having been completed by a licenced ARKS Examiner or Instructor, must be sent with the licence application form and the PG Entrant licence form. Drivers will need two passport photographs and the PG one. Explain that if they are competing in the following few days the licence forms and the record card will suffice in place of a licence, so long as all the medical questions are satisfactory and the driver is a British citizen. Finish with a resume of the Race'n'Respect karting code and give the parents a copy of the flier.