

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES TAKING THE ARKS TEST

Novice Driver Training Course information for Candidates

The ARKS test

The ARKS test is an examination of your ability as a prospective kart racing driver, and of your knowledge of circuit driving, safety and etiquette. ARKS is the organisation authorised by Motorsport UK for the administration of the Novice Driver Test. Vouchers to pay for the test are available through the ARKS website (www.arks.co.uk)

You should study your Go Karting Starter Pack in depth, including the Motorsport UK Go Karting video and Motorsport UK Yearbook (commonly referred to as “The Blue Book”) and for class regulations the Karting Yearbook (commonly referred to as “The Gold Book”).

The Blue Book contains a vast amount of information and is used for reference by Entrants, Competitors and Officials. You will not be able to absorb all its contents at this stage! But please make sure you have read and paid attention to Sections C, K and U. It is a ‘live’ document so please note any updates on the Motorsport UK website. Similarly please read your chosen class regulations and Appendix 4 of the Gold Book. Parents should also read the Safeguarding guidance available on the Motorsport UK website under ‘The Sport’ and ‘Participant Welfare’

This is an examination and you may fail if you don’t prepare properly

ARKS and Motorsport UK want you to pass your ARKS test and go racing but you must demonstrate you have sufficient knowledge and driving ability not to put yourself, your fellow competitors or race officials in danger while competing.

The test is not a competition – it is a test of your proficiency. Whilst pre-test tuition is not mandatory, you will find it helpful and you may want to discuss this with an official ARKS School. The test can also be held at some participating clubs, with a Club Examiner.

Your written test

The written test is in three parts, all requiring you to select the correct answer from the multi-choice options.

Section 1

Tests your knowledge of flags, which are essential to the safe running of kart events. You MUST know your flags thoroughly and answer all the flag questions correctly or you will fail the ARKS test.

Section 2

Is about essential safety

Section 3

Is about race day procedures and racing and driver skills. More than two incorrect answers from Section 2 and 3 together will result in a fail.

Driving Test

The Instructor or Examiner will observe you for safe driving to the skill level needed to allow you to enter your first race as a novice. You will first have an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the circuit used and the conditions. They will then set a target time based on a mid-grid lap time for the conditions of the day, and you must be within 10% of that time, otherwise it is a fail.

If you do fail, do not despair, it will be possible for a re-test later. When you pass, many congratulations and enjoy your kart racing.