

# PODIUM TKC RULES & REGULATIONS

These Rules & Regulations apply to Podium TKC championship events and are intended to provide a safe, fair, consistent, and competitive racing environment for all participants.

By registering for and participating in a Podium TKC event, drivers agree to comply with these rules, instructions provided during the Drivers' Briefing, and decisions made by Podium TKC officials.

## 1. ENTRY

All event entries must be completed through the **Podium TKC timing and registration system**.

### Season Membership

All championship drivers are required to purchase a **\$75 Podium TKC Season Membership**.

The Season Membership may be purchased at the same time as a driver's first event registration.

An event entry is not considered confirmed until **payment has been made in full**.

### Driver Eligibility

To participate in a Podium TKC event, drivers must:

- Be at least **13 years old**
- Be at least **5 feet tall**
- Meet all requirements of the class in which they are registered

### Testing Requirement

Before competing in a Podium TKC championship event, a driver must complete either:

- A previous **Podium TKC Testing Day**, or
- The designated **Open Testing Session on the morning of the race**

Only **28 testing spots** are available on the morning of a race event. Drivers who have not previously completed a Podium TKC Testing Day are responsible for securing one of these spots if they intend to complete their required testing on race morning.

Drivers with prior experience competing in a **professional owner-kart championship** may be eligible for an exception to the testing requirement.

To request approval, contact **zachary@podiumtkc.com** before the event.

Approval of an exception is at the sole discretion of Podium TKC.

## **Competition Classes**

A driver may **not compete in multiple classes at the same event**.

Drivers may request to change classes during the championship season. All class changes must be approved by Podium TKC before the driver competes in the new class.

Podium TKC reserves the right to approve or deny class-change requests.

Drivers who continue to meet all requirements of their registered class will not be involuntarily moved into another class.

## **2. CHECK-IN / DRIVERS' BRIEFING**

### **Check-In**

All drivers are required to complete **event check-in** before participating.

Check-in times will be provided in the event schedule and/or pre-event information sent to registered drivers.

Drivers who fail to complete check-in by the designated cutoff may:

- Miss their first on-track session, or
- Not be permitted to participate in the event

Late arrivals will be handled **on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Podium TKC**, but drivers should not assume that a late arrival will be accommodated.

### **SWS Identification**

Drivers are not generally required to present personal identification at check-in.

However, drivers competing in the **Senior or Senior Heavy classes** may be required to provide their **Sodi W Series (SWS) ID** to be eligible to receive SWS points.

It is the driver's responsibility to provide the necessary SWS information when requested.

## Drivers Under 18

Any driver under **18 years old** must have a parent or legal guardian sign them in at check-in.

The parent or guardian will also be required to complete any additional minor waivers or documentation required for participation.

## Drivers' Briefing

Attendance at the **Drivers' Briefing is mandatory.**

The briefing time will be provided before each event.

Any driver who fails to attend the Drivers' Briefing **will not be permitted to compete.**

## 3. WEIGHT

Podium TKC uses minimum driver weights to create fair competition between drivers.

### Minimum Driver Weights

The minimum driver weights are:

- **Junior:** 140 lbs
- **Senior:** 170 lbs
- **Senior Heavy:** 200 lbs

To compete in **Senior Heavy**, a driver must weigh a minimum of **175 lbs before ballast.**

### Ballast

Ballast may be added to the kart to help a driver reach the minimum required weight for their class.

Each kart can accommodate up to **45 lbs of standard ballast.**

Drivers requiring more than 45 lbs of ballast to reach their class minimum should contact **zachary@podiumtkc.com** before the event regarding the use of a **weighted seat insert.**

### Weight Checks

After each competitive session, Podium TKC will weigh:

- The **top three finishers**, and
- **One randomly selected driver**

Additional weight checks may be performed at the discretion of Podium TKC.

It is **each driver's responsibility** to ensure they meet the minimum weight requirement for their class.

## **Underweight Penalty**

A driver found below the required minimum weight following a session will be **disqualified from that session**.

If the session is a race, the driver will not receive the points otherwise earned from that finishing position and will be scored in accordance with the applicable disqualification rules.

If the session is qualifying, the driver will **lose their qualifying lap time/result**.

## **4. TRANSPONDERS & NUMBER PLATES**

Each driver will be issued a **number plate** that will remain with them throughout the event.

### **Number Plate Checkout**

To receive a number plate, the driver must provide Podium TKC with an **ID to hold during the event**.

The ID will be returned when the number plate is returned at the end of the day.

Drivers are responsible for keeping track of their assigned number plate throughout the event.

Failure to return a number plate will result in a **\$50 replacement charge**.

### **Transponders**

Before each on-track session, drivers must bring their number plate to the designated grid area.

A **Podium TKC grid marshal** will mount the appropriate timing transponder to the driver's number plate before the session.

Drivers should verify that they have their assigned number plate before entering the circuit.

## 5. CHANGING KARTS

Podium TKC operates an arrive-and-drive format, and kart changes are tightly controlled to maintain fairness.

### Race Events

There are **no kart swaps during a racing session**.

If Podium TKC identifies a serious mechanical problem with a kart **before the racing session begins**, Podium TKC may remove that kart from competition and provide the driver with a replacement kart.

Once the racing session has begun, a driver may not change to another kart.

If a kart suffers a verified mechanical failure on circuit during a racing session, Podium TKC will determine appropriate **compensation based on the circumstances of the failure**.

The decision regarding compensation will be made by Podium TKC.

### Practice Events

Kart swaps may be permitted during practice events when a kart has a **serious mechanical issue**.

A driver may not request another kart simply because they prefer the handling or performance of a different kart.

Podium TKC will determine whether a mechanical issue warrants removing the kart and providing a replacement.

## 6. CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

Podium TKC championship scoring will use the **Sodi W Series (SWS) points system**.

### Championship Scoring

Only points earned from a driver's **Final** will count toward the Podium TKC Championship standings.

Results from other sessions may be used to determine starting positions or advancement but will not independently award Podium TKC Championship points.

There are **no dropped rounds**. All championship rounds will count toward a driver's season points total.

## **DNS & DNF**

A driver classified as **DNS (Did Not Start)** or **DNF (Did Not Finish)** will receive the lowest applicable number of points available for that Final.

## **Disqualifications**

A driver disqualified from a Final will receive the **lowest applicable number of points for the Final in which they competed**.

When an event uses separate **A and B Finals**, a driver disqualified from the A Final will receive the lowest applicable A Final points. The driver will therefore remain ahead in championship scoring of competitors whose results came from the B Final.

The same principle applies to a disqualification from the B Final.

## **Championship Tie-Breakers**

If two or more drivers finish the season with the same number of championship points, the tie will be broken by:

1. Most wins
2. Most second-place finishes
3. Most third-place finishes
4. Most fourth-place finishes
5. Continuing through finishing positions until the tie is broken

## **Cancelled Championship Rounds**

If a championship round must be cancelled, Podium TKC will make every reasonable effort to **reschedule the round**.

Depending on the circumstances, rescheduling may not be possible.

If a replacement date or event cannot reasonably be scheduled, Podium TKC reserves the right to **remove the cancelled round from the championship**.

## **Abandoned Events**

If weather, safety conditions, or another circumstance requires an event to be stopped before completion, results from the **completed sessions prior to the stoppage will be totaled** to determine the event result.

Podium TKC will determine the appropriate final classification based on the sessions successfully completed.

## 7. RACE PROCEDURE

### Kart Allocation

Karts will be **randomly allocated** to drivers.

Drivers may not select, request, reserve, or choose a particular kart.

### Pre-Race Kart Concerns

Before entering the circuit, drivers may report a suspected mechanical or safety issue to Podium TKC staff.

Podium TKC staff will determine whether the kart requires inspection, adjustment, repair, or replacement.

### Starting Grid

Race starts will use a **two-wide rolling formation**.

Pole position will always start from the **inside of the circuit**.

Drivers are responsible for taking their correct starting position.

### Formation Lap

Drivers will complete **one formation lap behind the safety kart** before the race start.

Drivers must maintain an orderly formation and follow all instructions provided by Podium TKC officials.

### Race Start

Drivers may begin racing and overtaking once the **green flag is displayed**.

Jump starts, improper formations, failure to maintain an appropriate starting position, or other irregularities during the starting procedure will be handled at the **Race Director's discretion**.

### Spins & Rejoining

If a driver spins on circuit, the driver must **apply and hold the brake** and allow the field to pass before attempting to rejoin.

Drivers must only rejoin the circuit when it is **clear and safe to do so**.

An unsafe rejoin that interferes with or causes an incident involving another driver may result in a penalty.

## **Stranded or Disabled Karts**

If a driver cannot safely rejoin the circuit or the kart has suffered a mechanical problem, the driver should **look to the nearest marshal for instructions**.

Drivers must follow all marshal directions.

Depending on the circumstances, marshals may direct the driver to exit the kart and move to a protected location behind a safety barrier.

## **Non-Finishers**

When multiple drivers fail to finish a race, classification will be based primarily on **laps completed**.

A driver completing more laps will be classified ahead of a driver completing fewer laps.

## **Checkered Flag**

Once the checkered flag has been displayed, drivers must **stop racing and overtaking**, reduce speed appropriately, and return to the designated pit or kart-return area as directed by officials.

# **8. FLAGS**

Drivers are responsible for understanding and obeying all flags displayed by Podium TKC officials.

## **Green Flag**

The circuit is clear and racing may begin or resume.

During a race start, drivers may begin racing and overtaking when the green flag is displayed.

## **Yellow Flag**

An incident, obstruction, or hazard is ahead.

Drivers must:

- Reduce speed
- Exercise additional caution
- Not overtake
- Follow marshal instructions

Drivers may resume normal racing once they have safely passed the affected yellow-flag area and are clear of the incident.

## Red Flag

The session or race has been stopped.

Drivers must immediately **reduce speed**, cease racing and overtaking, and follow the instructions of Podium TKC officials and corner marshals.

## Black Flag

The black flag indicates that a driver must **return to the pits**.

It may be displayed because of a penalty, exclusion, driving-standard issue, or another situation requiring the driver to leave the circuit.

## Black Flag with Orange Circle

The black flag with an orange circle indicates a **suspected mechanical or safety problem** with the kart.

The driver must return to the pits as directed.

## Blue Flag

A driver is being approached by faster or lapping traffic.

The driver receiving the blue flag must allow the approaching competitor(s) to pass **safely and predictably**.

## Checkered Flag

The session or race is complete.

Drivers must stop racing and overtaking, reduce speed, and return to the pits as directed.

## **Black & White Warning Flag**

The black and white warning flag may be displayed to a specific driver as a warning regarding **driving standards, contact, or other conduct**.

Continued or additional violations may result in further penalties.

## **9. GENERAL**

### **Required Safety Equipment**

Drivers must wear the required safety equipment whenever operating a Podium TKC kart.

Required equipment includes:

- **Karting, automotive, or motorcycle helmet**
- **Motocross-style helmets are not permitted**
- **Gloves**
- **Full-coverage karting suit**
- **Closed-toe shoes**
- **Neck brace for drivers under 15 years old**

Safety equipment must be properly worn and secured whenever the driver is on circuit.

Podium TKC reserves the right to prevent a driver from participating if their safety equipment is considered inappropriate, improperly fitted, damaged, or unsafe.

### **Driver Conduct**

Foul language directed toward others, threats, fighting, harassment, abusive behavior, intimidation, or disrespectful conduct toward Podium TKC staff, officials, competitors, or other event participants will not be tolerated.

Podium TKC may issue warnings, penalties, event exclusions, or further disciplinary action depending on the severity of the conduct.

Drivers are **not automatically responsible for the conduct of their family members, friends, or other spectators attending the event**.

### **Kart Adjustments**

Drivers may make only the following adjustments to their assigned kart:

- **Pedal position**
- **Ballast/weight**

Drivers may not adjust, modify, tamper with, or manipulate any other component of the kart unless specifically instructed or authorized by Podium TKC.

This includes the **carburetor** and other mechanical components.

Any driver found adjusting the carburetor while operating the kart, or making another unauthorized adjustment to the kart, will be **disqualified from that session**.

## **Onboard Cameras**

Onboard cameras are permitted only in approved locations.

Cameras may be mounted:

- On the **chin area of the helmet**, or
- On **designated mounting areas of the kart**

Cameras may **not** be mounted:

- On top of the helmet
- On the driver's chest

Drivers mount and use cameras **at their own risk**. Podium TKC is not responsible for cameras or recording equipment that are lost, damaged, or destroyed during an event.

## **Radio Communication**

Pit-to-driver radio communication is **not permitted during sprint events**.

Radio communication may be permitted during designated **Endurance Events**, subject to any event-specific rules established by Podium TKC.

## **Alcohol & Drugs**

Drivers may not operate a Podium TKC kart while under the influence of **alcohol, illegal drugs, or any substance that impairs their ability to safely operate the kart**.

Podium TKC may immediately prevent or remove a driver from competition when there is a reasonable safety concern.

## **Organizer Discretion**

Podium TKC reserves the right to issue an appropriate warning, penalty, exclusion, suspension, or other disciplinary action for conduct that threatens **safety, fairness, sportsmanship, or the integrity of the competition**, even when the specific action is not expressly addressed elsewhere in these regulations.

Podium TKC also reserves the right to **refuse or revoke entry** to an event when deemed necessary.

## 10. PENALTIES

Penalties may be issued by the Race Director or other authorized Podium TKC officials.

Podium TKC will generally apply the following penalty structure.

### Contact & Driving Standards

**Gaining one position through contact with another kart:**

- **4-position deduction**

**Forcing another driver wide or failing to leave appropriate racing room:**

- **4-position deduction**

**Gaining an advantage through contact that causes another driver to come to a stop:**

- **6-position deduction**
- Second applicable offense during the race: **Exclusion**
- Third applicable offense during the race: **Black Flag / 0 points**

### Contact With Track Equipment

Contact with cones, barriers, or designated track furniture after a warning may result in:

- **1-position deduction**

### Yellow Flag Violations

**Overtaking under a yellow flag:**

- **4-position deduction for each position gained**

**Losing control and spinning under a yellow flag:**

- **4-position deduction**

**Speeding or racing under yellow-flag conditions:**

- **2-position deduction**

## **Excessive Kerbing**

After two warnings:

- **2-position deduction**

## **Deliberate Contact**

Deliberate use of contact after two warnings:

- **2-position deduction**

Deliberately forcing another driver off the circuit:

- **Black Flag**
- **Event exclusion**
- **0 points for the event**

## **Circuit & Track Limits**

Omitting a required portion of the circuit:

- **1-lap deduction**

Exceeding track limits after a warning:

- **2-position deduction**

Gaining a position or other competitive advantage through track limits:

- **2-position deduction**

## **Blocking**

Deliberately blocking another driver by changing direction more than once on a straight:

- **2-position deduction**

## **Abandoning a Kart**

Improperly abandoning a kart on circuit:

- **Exclusion from the session**
- **0 points for that session**

## **Spins & Unsafe Rejoining**

Allowing a kart to roll backward across the circuit following a spin and causing an incident:

- **Session exclusion / 0 points**

Compromising another driver's track position during the incident:

- **4-position deduction**

Rejoining the circuit from a stationary position and compromising another driver's position:

- **3-position deduction**

If the unsafe rejoin causes a collision:

- **6-position deduction**

## **Formation & Starts**

Excessive weaving during formation procedures that causes an incident:

- **2-position deduction**

Deliberately jumping the start:

- **2-position deduction for each position gained**

Breaking formation approaching the start:

- **2-position deduction**

Improperly loading the grid or loading into Turn 1 at the start:

- **4-position deduction**

## **Post-Race Conduct**

Deliberately making contact with another driver after the checkered flag:

- **Event exclusion**
- **0 points for the event**

Overtaking and/or spinning after the checkered flag:

- **2-position deduction**

## **Underweight**

A driver found below the required minimum weight:

- **Disqualification from the session**

Qualifying results will be removed when the underweight violation occurs during qualifying.

Championship scoring following a Final disqualification will be handled according to the Championship Points section of these regulations.

## **Unauthorized Kart Adjustments**

Unauthorized adjustment of the **carburetor or other prohibited kart components**:

- **Black Flag / Session Disqualification**

## **Ignoring Mechanical Flag**

Ignoring the black flag with orange circle or another instruction to return to the pits because of a technical issue:

- **Session exclusion**

## **Hand Gestures**

Taking both hands off the steering wheel to make unnecessary gestures:

- **1-position deduction**

Offensive gestures directed toward another competitor or official:

- **Exclusion**

## **Penalty Discretion**

Podium TKC reserves the right to **adjust, increase, reduce, or apply additional penalties** when appropriate based on the circumstances, severity, repetition, safety implications, or intent of an offense.

## 11. RACE WITH RESPECT / CODE OF CONDUCT

By registering for or participating in a Podium TKC event, drivers agree to conduct themselves in a respectful, fair, and sportsmanlike manner.

All participants are expected to demonstrate:

- **Respect**
- **Fair play**
- **Integrity**
- **Good manners**
- **Self-control**

Drivers are expected to contribute to a **welcoming, friendly, and safe racing environment**.

Participants must treat Podium TKC staff, officials, marshals, competitors, volunteers, spectators, and other event participants with respect.

Drivers must respect the rules and regulations of the competition as well as the authority and decisions of Podium TKC officials.

Abusive language, threatening behavior, harassment, discrimination, intentional intimidation, or harmful conduct will not be tolerated.

Podium TKC may issue warnings, penalties, suspensions, event exclusions, championship exclusions, or other disciplinary action when conduct violates these standards.

## 12. APPEALS

There is **no right of appeal** regarding penalties or decisions issued by Podium TKC officials during an event.

Drivers may respectfully request **clarification regarding a penalty or decision** from the Race Director or another designated Podium TKC official.

A request for clarification does not constitute an appeal and does not require Podium TKC to alter the original decision.

## 13. RED FLAG PROCEDURES

In the event of a red flag, all drivers must immediately **slow to a controlled pace**, cease racing and overtaking, and stop or proceed to the location directed by Podium TKC officials.

Race results and restart procedures will depend on the portion of the race completed before the red flag.

### **Less Than One-Quarter Race Distance Completed**

If less than **one-quarter of the original race distance** has been completed, the race will be restarted using the **original starting grid**.

Where one-quarter race distance represents fewer than two laps, **two laps will be used as the cutoff point**.

### **Between One-Quarter and Three-Quarters Completed**

If between **one-quarter and three-quarters** of the original race distance has been completed, the race will be restarted.

The restart will be **single file**, with the starting order determined by the classification from the first portion of the race.

The final result will be determined from the restarted portion of the race.

### **More Than Three-Quarters Completed**

If more than **three-quarters of the original race distance** has been completed, the race may be declared complete and the result made final.

### **Restart Procedures**

When a race is restarted, Podium TKC officials will determine the remaining race time or number of laps.

During a red-flag stoppage:

- Drivers may **not change karts**
- Replacement karts will **not be issued**
- No work may be performed on the kart
- Fuel may not be added
- Penalties earned before the stoppage remain applicable to the final result

A driver involved in the incident that caused the red flag may be required to receive medical clearance before restarting.

The driver's kart must also be inspected and declared safe by Podium TKC staff before returning to competition.

If permitted to restart following such an incident, the driver may be required to **start from the rear of the grid**.

## **14. GOVERNING REGULATIONS**

These Rules & Regulations are intended to promote **fair competition, safety, sportsmanship, and competitive integrity** throughout Podium TKC events.

It is impossible for a written rulebook to anticipate every circumstance that may occur during an event.

When a situation arises that is not specifically addressed by these regulations, Podium TKC reserves the right to **interpret existing rules, establish additional procedures, issue instructions, and make decisions necessary to safely and fairly conduct the event**.

All competitors are required to follow instructions issued by Podium TKC officials.

Podium TKC reserves the right to amend or supplement these Rules & Regulations when necessary. Any applicable changes may be communicated to competitors through updated regulations, pre-event communications, event bulletins, or the Drivers' Briefing.