



Covid-19 Policy & Guidelines

Updated 2nd June 2021

Message from TKC Chairperson

As we plan the 2021 Championship we must ensure that we do so in the safest possible way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This document outlines the measures which must be taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 amongst our members, volunteers, race officials, their families, and the wider community. The safety of everyone at our events is our highest priority.

Following on from our 2020 Championship our planning for 2021 has been approached in a manner that reflects the national public health guidelines. It is a given that race days will continue to be run differently for now, this document sets out the procedures that must be followed to allow the Club to race in 2021, while at the same time keeping us all safe.

Your feedback / suggestions on this document are welcome and can be sent to tkartclub@gmail.com



Michael McLoughlin (TKC Chairperson)

Date: 2nd June 2021

Key Points

- **Nobody** (child, parent, race official, volunteer, mechanic, family, etc.) should attend a TKC event if they are unwell or if any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- **If you travel outside of Ireland (except Northern Ireland)** in the 14 days prior to a TKC event you must have quarantined for at least 5 days on your return and you must have written confirmation of a negative PCR test dated at least 5 days after arrival into the state.
- Social (Physical) distancing, hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette must be observed by everyone present at a TKC event.
- Everyone attending a TKC event must bring their own hand sanitiser.
- It is mandatory for face masks / face coverings to be worn.
- Everyone attending a TKC event must adhere to the parking arrangements in place.
- We will continue to review and update this document as new Government guidelines become available.

1. Rationale behind a return to TKC Championship

Several factors have informed the Committee's decision to return to karting on 26th July 2020, not least the non-contact, outdoor nature of our sport and the ability of participants to maintain 2 metre social distancing.

However, the individual risk level of participants must still be considered. If you have any concerns regarding your (or your child's) susceptibility to COVID-19 due to an underlying illness you must discuss this with your GP.

2. Who is responsible for ensuring these guidelines are followed?

COVID-19 Compliance Officer

A nominated COVID-19 Compliance Officer will be announced before each event. The Compliance Officer will ensure that Government and public health guidelines are implemented and will answer any questions / concerns. They will have full authority to make decisions in relation to health and safety matters at the event.

Personal Responsibility

Minimising the risk from COVID-19 is the shared responsibility of everyone in attendance.

3. Covid-19

3.1 How is Covid-19 spread?

COVID-19 is a new illness caused by a new coronavirus. It is spread mainly through tiny droplets scattered from the mouth or nose of a person with the infection when they cough, sneeze, talk, shout, etc.

You could also contract the virus if you touch surfaces that an infected person has coughed or sneezed on and bring your unwashed hands to your face (eyes, nose, mouth).

Covid-19 can be spread through person to person contact, i.e. handshaking, hugging, high fives.

It is vitally important that we all follow the public health advice and guidance, as well as any specific measures TKC put in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

3.2 What are the symptoms?

The most common symptoms are:			
			
Cough: any kind of cough, usually dry but not always	Fever: High Temperature over 38° C	Shortness of Breath	Difficulty Breathing
It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear.			

Some cases are asymptomatic, meaning there are no symptoms, however the individual is still infected with Covid-19.

3.3 Who is most at risk?

Everyone is at risk of contracting the virus and spreading it to others, however, people over 70 and people with long term medical conditions like heart disease, lung disease, cancer and diabetes are at a higher risk.

If you are in an at risk / vulnerable group, as advised by the HSE, or have any concerns you must discuss this with your GP before deciding whether to return to TKC activities or not.

4. TKC Covid-19 Infection Control Policy

We must follow Government advice and guidelines. To ensure everyone's safety several changes are required across most aspects of our events. It is imperative that everyone follows these guidelines to protect every person present.

TKC is a volunteer-led Club and participation in TKC run events is not mandatory. Drivers, mechanics, Club officials and volunteers can choose to opt-in or opt-out from activity at any time.

If anyone does not feel safe or comfortable with the following measures in place they should not attend the event.

Consider whether you should stay at home

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you feel unwell it is essential that you do not attend TKC events.

Anyone who has been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case should also stay at home.

Close contact is defined as:

- Spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of an infected person.
- Living in the same house or shared accommodation as an infected person.

The following measures will be in place to ensure the safety of everyone present at TKC events:

(a) Race entry

Race entries and payments will only be accepted online. It will not be possible to enter and or / pay for a race entry at the track under any circumstances. Please do not turn up on the morning of a race if you have not already entered and paid online as you will be turned away. No exceptions will be made. Entries attempted by email, messenger or phone will not be accepted. There is no provision for late entries.

The number of people you will be permitted to bring with you will be advised before each round. You will be asked to submit names and contact details of everyone who will attend the race with you. This is to facilitate contact tracing if required. This must be done in advance of each race. These named individuals will be issued with a wristband upon entry. You are not allowed to bring anyone with you that has not been nominated by you in advance, if you do, they will be turned away.

(b) Sign on & Health Declaration

- There will be no sign on the night before or the morning of an event.
- Every entrant will be required to submit their sign on information before each event (similar to what you would have signed at driver sign-on in the past).
- Everyone attending a TKC event will be required to submit a declaration before each event in relation to their health and travel.
- Parents / Guardians will be required to submit the declaration on behalf of a child.

This is required **in advance** of each race – no declaration = no admittance to the track.

(c) Arrival

- Access to events will be restricted to entrants and an allocated number of attendees which will be notified in advance of each round. The event will be closed to the public and access will be strictly controlled at the gate. You must follow instructions at the gate on arrival.
- On arrival, you will be required to collect and apply their own wristband. You must observe 2 metre social distancing rules. Your temperature will be taken and if it is above 38°C you will not be allowed to enter the facilities.

(d) Pre-Race Scrutiny

- Entrants must complete and submit an online scrutiny form and declaration before each race. By submitting this form, the entrant is declaring that their kart and equipment is of the required standard and complies with the TKC Race Regulations 2021.

The Scrutineers will have sight of these forms prior to each event. Pre-race scrutiny will be performed in line with public health guidelines and you must cooperate with the arrangements in place.

(e) Personal hygiene measures

- Everyone should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water on arrival and departure from the track.
- Everyone attending a TKC event must ensure they bring enough hand sanitiser with them.
- Everyone should cover their mouths / nose when they cough or sneeze, either with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues must be thrown in a bin and you should wash your hands immediately with soap and water or hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Hand sanitiser should be used regularly after handling equipment, coughing, or sneezing or having direct contact with others.
- Children should be supervised when handwashing or using hand sanitiser.
- Everyone should wash their hands before eating and should not share food or drinks.
- Avoid sharing personal equipment.
- Bikes, scooters, e-scooters, etc are strictly forbidden.
- Spitting is strictly forbidden.

(f) Face coverings / masks

- It is mandatory for face masks / face coverings to be worn. Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from the person wearing the mask.
- It is mandatory that all drivers wear their helmets at all times in the following areas: going to the dummy grid, on the dummy grid, weighbridge area, parc ferme and going from parc ferme back to their tent.
- You should not touch the face covering and you should continue to wash your hands frequently.

(g) Social distancing measures

- Social distancing of 2 metres between everyone at the track must be maintained.
- Unnecessary physical contact, such as high fives, handshakes, fist pumps or hugs are discouraged.
- Parents must monitor their children to ensure that they maintain social distancing particularly at driver's briefing, trophy collection, on dummy grid, in parc ferme, etc.

(h) Track Facilities

When using track facilities such as restaurant, toilets, showers, allow enough time and space to facilitate the correct levels of hygiene and physical distancing. Be respectful of these boundaries. This may mean a longer wait.

(i) Timing Hut

Only relevant officials are allowed in the timing hut. Social distancing must be maintained.

(j) Driver's Briefing

- Driver's briefing will be held outdoors and will be kept as brief as possible. 2 metres social distancing must be observed.
- Numbers will be kept to a minimum (e.g. driver, 1 parent / guardian of driver only, race officials).

- Depending on the number of entries the Committee may decide to hold separate briefings. Further details will follow in advance of each round.

(k) Prizegiving

- It will not be possible to hold a traditional prizegiving, however, there will be an opportunity to collect prizes.
- 2 metres social distancing to be observed.
- Further details will follow in advance of each round.

(l) Tents / Easy-ups

Tents / easy-ups with more than 1 competitor are permitted to have 3 of their 4 side panels attached. The 4th panel is not to be attached. The only exception to this is where there is more than 1 competitor from the same household sharing tent space. The tent must be well ventilated and spacing of karts must respect social distancing requirements.

Members and teams in particular must ensure that there is adequate distance between karts to allow them to be worked on with social distancing measures in place even if this means bringing extra easy-ups with you.

(m) Meetings between or with officials

If a face to face meeting is required, the following will apply:

- Only necessary participants should attend
- Attendees should be 2 metres apart from each other
- Meetings will be held in open areas where possible.

(n) Ambulance

Visits to the ambulance should be avoided other than for serious injury or illness and anyone being treated by ambulance personnel is required to wear a face mask.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their own first aid kits to use in the event of a minor injury / illness. The Ambulance is restricted to medical personnel and patients only (except where a parent needs to be present). Anyone feeling unwell with COVID-19 like symptoms should not attend the ambulance (see Section 5 below).

(o) Marshals & Incidents on Track

Marshals should maintain social distancing if possible. In the event of an incident the CoC can ask a Marshal to approach the kart at a safe distance to ascertain whether the driver is ok (thumbs up signal will suffice). The Marshal can advise the CoC whether the ambulance or rescue truck is required.

(p) Post-Race Scrutiny

Scrutiny will take place in a non-enclosed area. Drivers must stay in their karts with their helmets on until directed otherwise. When asked to step out of the kart he / she must stand 2 metres clear of the scrutineer. Several karts will be selected for scrutiny, everyone else must leave the area immediately. Contact with the kart will be minimised. Contact with the internals will be avoided and if it is required then PPE will be worn.

(q) Cleaning and disinfection measures

- One person will be designated for the cleaning and disinfecting of any shared equipment before, during and after all events.

- Scrutiny - equipment sharing will be minimised, and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between use if used by different people.
- Hired transponders - transponders will be disinfected prior to each race and will be available for collection in a safe and controlled manner. The transponder must be removed by the driver from the kart after the final before exiting parc ferme. The transponder must be wiped down with the wipes provided and deposited in the designated box at the weighbridge. The box will be sealed and after 72 hours the transponders will be disinfected and stored for the next race.
- Hi viz vests - vests for officials and parents will be washed prior to each race and will be available for collection on the morning of the race in a safe and controlled manner. After the finals, the vest must be deposited in the designated box at the weighbridge. The box will be sealed and after 72 hours the vests will be washed at the highest possible temperature and stored for the next race.
- Radios and headsets - these will be sanitised before each race. They will be available for collection from the TKC Committee in a safe and controlled manner. After the finals, officials are asked to wipe down the equipment with the wipes provided and carefully place the equipment into the designated box which will be sealed for 72 hours. All equipment will then be sanitised for the next race. Radio equipment should not be swapped during an event.

(r) Catering

If catering facilities are available at the track everyone must follow the precautions put in place, i.e. social distancing, hand hygiene, etc.

(s) Limiting numbers at events

At the minute it appears numbers allowed at outdoor events will be limited. Unfortunately, this means that it is likely we will have to limit the number of people who can accompany an entrant to an event.

This means that drivers will only be allowed to bring an allocated number of helpers. Regrettably, no-one else, including spectating friends or family members, will be permitted.

Events will be closed to the public. Further details will follow before each round.

(t) Contact Tracing Measures

- A record of every person attending an event, with contact details will be recorded to enable contact tracing, should it be required.
- Drivers will be asked to declare the names of those who are attending with them in advance.

5. How TKC will manage a suspected case of COVID-19 at an event

If you feel unwell you should isolate yourself and inform the COVID-19 Compliance Officer by phone.

- TKC will arrange to immediately separate the person displaying or complaining of COVID-19 related symptoms from others in a designated isolation area.
- This person will be asked to wear a face covering and will be provided with gloves, tissues, hand sanitiser, wipes and a bin.
- The designated person managing the situation should try to maintain at least 2 metres from the person with symptoms and should wear a face covering and wash their hands regularly.
- If they are well enough to go home, they should go home with a family member as soon as possible and they will be advised to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, TKC will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect.

- All persons who have been in close contact with the suspect case will need to be informed to restrict their movement for 14 days or until further information is available (i.e. a negative test result of the suspect case).

6. Non-compliance with TKC policy

Any issues of non-compliance with these guidelines will be taken very seriously and will be dealt with accordingly. Any concern regarding non-compliance should be reported to the nominated COVID Compliance Officer.

Entrants are responsible for their own actions, as well as the actions of team members or others attending with them.

7. Notes for Parents / Guardians

Young children may have less understanding of physical distancing and hygiene measures. The onus is on you as parents / guardians to explain the measures outlined in this policy to your child and to lead by example by also following them.
