



Darwin Speedway Rider & Drivers Association Inc.
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Monica Bourke
Project Officer
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

26th March, 2008

Dear Ms. Bourke,

Responses to ACCC Public Consultation Questions

1. *How important is it to hold a NASR licence if you are a speedway driver? What other race controlling bodies provide licences and/or manage speedway events that drivers can attend instead of NASR approved events?*

Primarily, NASR approved events ensure that competitors are able to compete at racing venues which apply a minimum level of safety standards, encompassing the race venue, pit area and spectator area. NASR licence holders can therefore be assured of minimum safety standards being applied when they compete at various venues. The DSRDA is not aware of any other recognized race controlling body which issues race licences for speedway events. NASR licence holders/members also enjoy additional benefits such as various discounts on products and services.

The DSRDA is not aware of any events held in conjunction with the National Bodies in the Northern Territory which are not NASR approved events.

2. *NASR advise that it has negotiated a group personal injury insurance policy which provides coverage to licensees as a member benefit at no additional cost. NASR advise that licensees/members remain free to obtain appropriate personal injury insurance from other providers. Do drivers obtain their own insurance? Why or why not? How difficult is it to obtain personal injury insurance as a speedway driver or track/venue operator? Who are the main providers of insurance? What is the approximate cost for obtaining insurance for speedway racing?*

All drivers competing at Northline Speedway are NASR licenced and therefore, are also NASR insured. Competitors and members are however advised that they can obtain any insurance cover that they may feel suits their economic, domestic and business needs to afford insurance cover when actively participating at Speedway events. Members are also advised that many insurance policies specifically exclude racing as a term of insurance cover and they should check to ensure their choice of insurance is adequate and appropriate.

The DSRDA is not actively aware of any members who have purchased alternate insurance cover to compete at Northline Speedway as all drivers produce a NASR Licence in conjunction with their National Body credentials.

3. *NASR advise that should a licensee/member obtain their own insurance instead of/in addition to the insurance provided as a member benefit of the NASR licence, the licence fee paid by that member is not adjusted. Does this prevent licensees/members from taking out their own insurance? Why or why not?*

As per point 2., members are free to obtain any insurance cover they choose which they believe best addresses their insurance needs. The DSRDA is aware that both CAMS and ANDRA also provide a

licencing system to their members which includes an insurance component and no reduction is made should a competitor choose an alternative insurance scheme. I personally have a CAM's licence which includes an insurance component and was required to pay the full licence fees.

4. *NASR advise that licensees/members may obtain licences from other associations and may therefore race at non-NASR approved tracks and events. However, NASR's group personal injury insurance provided as a member benefit does not apply to non-NASR approved races, events or tracks. Do drivers race at both NASR and non-NASR approved events and venues? Does this deter a driver from racing at non-NASR approved events and tracks? Why or why not?*

The DSRDA is not aware of any DSRDA competitors who have raced at a non NASR approved or sanctioned event. The DSRDA does advise it's competitors, when traveling ex Northern Territory, to check each venue they attend for appropriate Public Liability and Participant Insurance cover.

5. *How important is it for a venue or track to be NASR approved? Can you outline what the effect of not being NASR-approved might have on these tracks?*

NASR approved tracks designate a minimum safe standard to permit speedway racing (class variations do exist with some venues allowing some classes but not others, dependant upon the level of safety systems in place) throughout Australia. The Policy and Procedure manual provided by NASR to venue operators requires a venue operator to put in place procedures which minimize OH&S deficiencies. Such guidelines ensure active participants are minimizing their exposure to unsafe procedures and maximizing competitor/official/spectator safety requirements. Without the provision of such a policy/procedures guide, many venues might deliver safety values which are below a minimum standard.

6. *How important is it for a sprint car driver, saloon car driver or V8 dirt modified car driver to be a member the SCCA, ASCF or the DMA? Are there alternative racing body organisations that operate events and/or tracks in these categories of racing?*

The DSRDA is not aware of any alternative National or State racing organizations that cater for the current categories that race at Northline Speedway. To maintain continuity in racing rules and specifications, it is important for drivers to be members of their respective national body (SCCA – ASCF-SSA – DMA). The National bodies enforce the minimum safety standards applicable to vehicle design and specifications, ensuring a level playing field for competitors. The National bodies are also responsible for conducting their respective Australian Championship/Title events.

Please contact me should you require any additional information.

Best regards

GPendlebury

Gary Pendlebury

President

DSRDA

Northline Speedway