

# PREMIER SPEEDWAY



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MARS/PRISM:

HOME OF THE  
*Grand Annual  
 Spring Classic*  
 AND  
*Australian Domestic  
 Challenge Cup*

# Fax Header

**To: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**

**Attention: Monica Bourke**

**From: Premier Speedway, Warrnambool**

**Number of pages (including header): 6**

**Contact Phone: 0408 529 625**

ACKNOWLEDGED BY

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27 MAR 2008

# PREMIER SPEEDWAY



HOME OF THE  
*Great Annual  
Spring Classic*  
AND  
*Australian Home  
Challenge Cup*

March 27, 2008

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Attention: Monica Bourke  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Re: Exclusive Dealing Notification lodged by NASR and others**

As an interested party in the matter above, the Premier Speedway Club Warrnambool would like to make an interested party submission to assist the ACCC in its assessment of these particular notifications.

In general, the Premier Speedway Club Warrnambool feels that the impact NASR has had on our sport in general, is a positive one.

Through there organisation the sport has a clear direction, stringent safety standards as well as providing adequate insurance coverage for all participants, whether they be drivers, crews, officials, track volunteers or spectators.

It is with this in mind that I ask you to make a note of our reply to the questions as asked in your original document to all concerned parties as dated March 14, 2008.

**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?*

At Premier Spedway our view is that a NASR licence provides several member benefits which are advantageous to that particular licence holder. An example of this is that a NASR licence entitles the speedway driver to compete in NASR approved events, of which we run a number of at our venue in South West Victoria. NASR licence-holders benefit from the minimum safety and risk management standards which must be complied with at all NASR approved events.

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Members also receive a number of discounts on products and services as well as having NASR to fall back on as a source of information and advice.

We note that there are other entities which have attempted to identify themselves as an alternative to NASR. However in our eyes, these organisations do not have the expertise in our field, nor the product or value that NASR offers. For example, it may be cheaper for a competitor to join these other organisations with the down side being they do not get the same or even at times adequate coverage because they are not required to comply with the same safety standards or vehicle requirements.

We consider that these entities undermine the policies of NASR, which aim to provide unified standards of safety, training, presentation and performance for speedway racing, as well as promoting and marketing the sport in order to increase the profile of speedway racing.

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?*

It is the understanding of Premier Speedway after some consultation that most drivers do not obtain their own insurance. In most cases, drivers and other NASR members are satisfied with the personal accident insurance provided as a member benefit.

We are also of the belief as a Club that hosts numerous speedway classes that most drivers do not obtain their own insurance because their employers neither require them to obtain such insurance nor obtain it on their behalf. There also appears to be a misconception by some drivers that the insurance that they have for their employment (away from the Speedway track) will also cover their participation in speedway racing.



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*Grand Annual  
Speedway Classic*

AND

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AND  
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It is our understanding that it would be difficult for speedway drivers and us as a track/venue to obtain personal accident insurance on equal or better terms than that offered as a member benefit. However, it may be possible for personal accident insurance offering lower coverage to be obtained.

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?*

Premier Speedway Club Warnambool does not feel that the facts as listed above by NASR prevent a member from obtaining their own insurance.

Again our understanding of this situation is that NASR sets its fees based on a number of key criteria which in turn lead to member benefits and the like.

It should also be made very clear, that in the current environment it is extremely difficult to obtain personal insurance for a speedway event or as a speedway driver. This adds even more weight to the job as performed by NASR, in giving its members exceptional coverage.

We also note that many NASR members choose not to purchase separate personal accident insurance as they are satisfied with the cover provided as part of NASR membership.

CAMS and ANDRA, as governing bodies in their respective fields, both provide personal accident insurance as a member benefit. As far as NASR is aware, neither CAMS nor ANDRA members receive any reduction in membership fees, should they obtain separate personal accident insurance over and above the cover provided by the respective organisations.

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*

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Sportsman Classic*  
AND  
*Australian/Asian  
Challenge Cup*

*and venues? Does this deter a driver from racing at non-NASR approved events and tracks? Why or why not?*

Premier Speedway understands that NASR licence holders/members can participate at non-NASR approved venues provided the particular event has been sanctioned by NASR.

We also feel that those classes that are not approved by NASR should not be entitled to NASR personal accident insurance, due to the fact that in most cases, these classes defy or simply choose not to implement the necessary safety requirements to meet NASR approval. This Can only be seen as a positive as it is ultimately protecting the competitor.

Does this deter a competitor from racing at a Non NASR venue, probably from time to time, generally these are the competitors that understand where they stand and what they could stand to lose by racing at a venue which is non NASR approved.

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?*

In Premier Speedway's view it is vital for a venue or track to be NASR-approved in order to be considered as a serious participant in the speedway racing industry.

The safety guidelines and checks that NASR implement are second to none, thus leaving those non NASR approved tracks slightly behind in safety standards and the like.

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?*

We feel it is both important and advantageous for sprint car drivers, saloon car drivers and V8 dirt modified drivers to be a member of their respective competitor organisations. This is due to the fact that a majority of the major meetings, right the way across Australia are governed by these

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groups. The relevant specifications and safety standards for each division is also controlled by these groups, which again is vital to the safety and well being of all concerned..

Premier Speedway is aware of some other minor regional sprintcar and saloon car classes which have smaller engines, lower profiles and less safety compliance.

In closing I would like to make it very clear that Premier Speedway, Warrnambool strongly endorses what NASR is doing for our sport and the safety of those involved.

Yours Faithfully

David Mills  
General Manager.  
Premier Speedway, Warrnambool.

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