

Introduction to Karting

OVKA Trade Show
& Swap Meet

Feb 1st, 2025





*Ethan & Elliot lead at
Portland, IN [defunct] (2001)*

Who are we?

Elliot Bokeno
OVKA President

Ethan Bokeno
*OVKA Marketing & Digital
Communications Chair*

What We're Going to Cover

High level overview of how to get started in sprint karting:

- Kart Racing Overview
 - Equipment you'll need
 - Class options
 - Costs to get started
-
- Open Q&A Session
-
- Kart Corral walkthrough with Karting Ambassadors
-



Why Karting?

True Grassroots Racing

>Karting is the first step on the road to professional racing

More Affordable & Approachable than Car Racing

>Consumables (tires/fuel/parts) are more affordable and vehicle systems are less complex

Wheel-to-Wheel Action

>Unlike HPDE track days or Auto-X, racers are able to compete head-to-head

Meaningful Track Time

>Multiple Warm-Up and Competitive sessions every race day





Why OVKA?

OVKA is celebrating our 61st Anniversary Season in 2025

Wide variety of well-attended classes available

Family Atmosphere and Group Events

Newly repaved G&J Kartway



Levels of Karting



Club Level



Low cost
Gain Speed & Experience
Family Atmosphere
Approachable Field Size

Regional Level



Higher Cost (3-4x Club Costs)
Higher Competition Level
Regional Travel
Larger Fields

National Level



Highest Cost (10-12x Club Costs)
“Professional” Competition Level
National Travel
50+ Kart Fields

What do you need to go Karting?



Chassis



Engine



Safety Gear



Tools





Where do YOU Fit In?

Select the best Class that's right for you and your budget.

**Classes are defined by Age Division & Engine.
Each Age Division at OVKA has multiple Class options.**

Kid Karts

5-8 years old

Sportsman

7-12 years old

Juniors

11-15 years old

Seniors

15+ years old

Masters/Heavy

**30+ years old
or 200+ lb driver**

Legends

50+ years old

Chassis Sizes



Kid Kart Chassis
~770-900mm Wheelbase

**Usable for all Kid
Kart classes**



Sportsman/Cadet Chassis
~900-1010mm Wheelbase

**Usable for all
Sportsman classes
& 206 Kid Karts (option)**



Adult Chassis
~1040mm Wheelbase

**Usable for all
Junior, Senior,
Masters+ classes**

Chassis Brands

Many international Chassis brands are sub-brands of a larger manufacturer group, which share parts.

There are also several notable American-made brands, some of which specialize in 4-cycle chassis



2-cycle vs 4-cycle Sprint Kart Engines



4-Cycle Engines

Low Maintenance
Long Rebuild Intervals
More Affordable
Good Parity



Example:
Briggs &
Stratton 206

2-Cycle Engines

Higher Revs
More Maintenance
Higher Costs
Higher Speeds



Example:
IAME KA100

Kid Karts (ages 5-8)

Comer Kid Karts
(150 lbs kart + driver)
C51 or C52 Engine



206 Kid Karts
(200 lbs kart + driver)

Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Kid Kart Slide & Jr Coil



Non-Points Kid Karts

Honda GXH50
150 lbs kart+driver



IAME Bambino
180 lbs kart+driver



Sportsman / Cadet

**206 Sportsman
7-12 years**

(260 lbs kart + driver)

**Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Green Slide**



**IAME Micro Swift
7-10 years**

(225 lbs kart + driver)

**IAME Swift Engine
w/ Micro Swift Restrictor**



**IAME Mini Swift
8-12 years**

(245 lbs kart + driver)

IAME Swift Engine



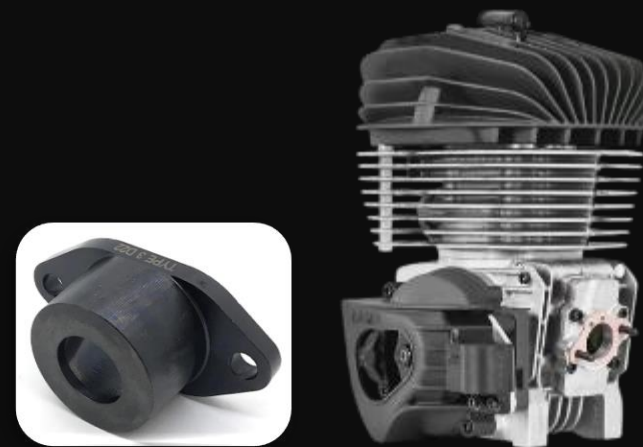
Juniors (11-15 years)

**206 Junior
(320 lbs kart + driver)**

**Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Yellow Slide**



**KA100 Junior
KA100 Junior
w/ KA100 Jr Restrictor
(320 lbs kart + driver)**



Seniors (15 years & up)

206 Senior
(365 lbs kart + driver)

Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Black Slide



100cc Senior
(360 lbs kart + driver)

KA100 Senior



ROK VLR Senior



OVKA 420
450 lbs or 460 lbs

Predator 420 OHV



Legacy Yamaha
**Non-Points*

Yamaha KT100
Open Exhaust



Masters / Heavy (30 years & up / 200+ lb drivers)

**206 Masters/Heavy
(390 lbs kart + driver)**

**Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Black Slide**



**100cc Masters/Heavy
(390 lbs kart + driver)**

KA100



ROK VLR



Legends (50 years & up)

**206 Legends
(390 lbs kart + driver)**

**Briggs 206 Engine
w/ Black Slide**



A Note on 206 Engine Seals

Beginning in 2025 the only legal engine seals on the 206 are the ORANGE seals.

If you have a holographic seal you will need to replace the “short-block” with a legal, sealed one.



The reflective hologram aluminum seal features a black tracer wire and a silver or black anodized body as shown



The orange housing seal features a red and black tracer wire, etched 'B&S Racing' type, and matching seal serial numbers

Buying a Kart

**Consider buying used for your first season.
You can always re-sell & upgrade later.**

**Always inspect a Kart in-person before buying.
Check for excessive scrapes, cracks, and bends.**

**Make sure to have a source for spare parts.
Some brands have good dealer networks, others do not.**

**Ask for Setup tips and tricks from the seller.
A good starting setup can help a new racer learn fast.**





Tires

**OVKA Competitors must run Hoosier Tires
for points:**

2025 Compounds

Kid Kart – Sportsman – Junior: Hoosier R60B

Senior – Masters/Heavy – Legends: R70

Rain Tire (All Classes): WET



Safety Gear



SNELL FOUNDATION SPECS.		SFI SPECS.	
SPECIFICATIONS	VALID THROUGH	SPECIFICATIONS	VALID UNTIL
CMR2016	2026	24.1/2015 (YOUTH HELMET)	12/31/2026
CMS2016	2027	31.1/2015	12/31/2026
CMR2016 (YOUTH HELMET)	2027	41.1 2015	12/31/2026
M2015	2026	24.1/2020	12/31/2031
M2020	2031	31.1/2020	12/31/2031
SA2015	2026	41.1 2020	12/31/2031
SA2020	2031		
K2015	2026		
K2020	2031		

**Helmet – must have current Snell or SFI rating
(for night races: clear visors mandatory)**

Neck Collar – karting approved neck protector

Suit or Jacket – full-length racing suit or jacket constructed from an abrasion-resistant material

Rib & Chest Protector – chest protector and a rib vest are mandatory for drivers in the Kid Kart, Sportsman and Junior classes. Must meet SFI 20.1

Gloves – karting approved gloves

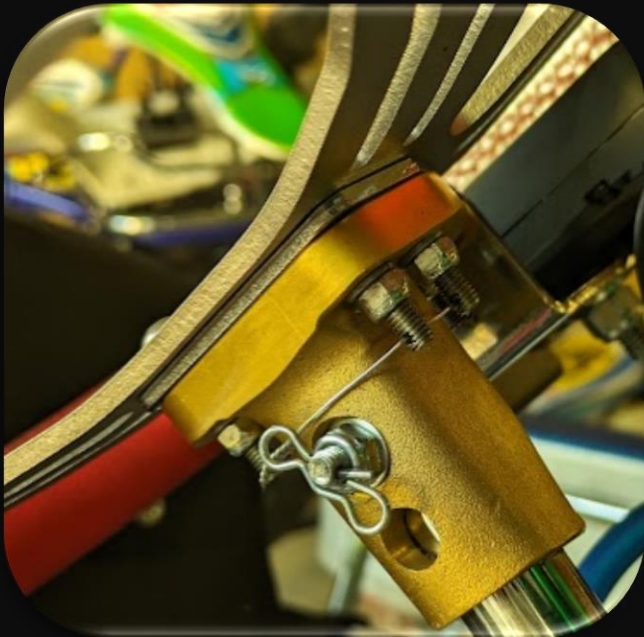
Shoes – closed toe shoes (karting shoes recommended)

Balaclava – (optional) use to keep long-hair inside suit



Safety Tech

All karts must pass safety tech before taking to the track for an OVKA event. Safety items include a number of bolts and fasteners which MUST be secured in a redundant way. An example safety tech form can be found at [OVKA.com/rules](https://www.ovka.com/rules)



Karting Tools

Karting requires some specialized equipment, some of which is necessary, some optional.



Air Pressure – Air Tank & Pressure Gauge

Tire Removal/Install Tools

Alignment Tool

Hex Wrenches & Sockets

Impact Gun

Torque Wrench

Safety Wire Pliers

Fuel Jug & Funnel

Kart Stand

Pop-Up Canopy



Costs

Karting can become expensive very quickly.
Know your big up-front costs & consumables.
Lower horsepower classes put less wear and tear
on tires & chains, and use less fuel.



Big Purchases

Chassis: \$1000 (used) to \$5000 (new)

Engines: \$700 (206) to \$3000 (new KA100)

Consumables (examples)

Tires: \$200/set

Chains: \$35

Carb Rebuilds: \$30

Engine Rebuilds: \$300-1200



Practice



Familiarize yourself with your kart's operations BEFORE heading to the track

- >Starting the engine, shutting off the engine, safe idling on kart stand
- >Check brake and throttle connections & safety items on the Tech Sheet

G&J Kartway is open Daily for practice

- >Weekdays will have fewer karts out for practice, more space to learn
- >Practice with friends or ask for help from OVKA members to get up to speed
- >Always run the track configuration for the upcoming OVKA race, never run bikes & karts together

Start Slow and Build Speed

- > Walk the track before practicing
- >Focus on eliminating time "coasting"
- >Develop "awareness" of where your kart is positioned and of other karts around you

Finding laptime takes time, there is no substitute for turning laps!



OVKA Race Days

Gates: 7:00am

Warmup Sessions: 2 Rounds (5 min) 9:00am

Driver's Meeting: 11:00am

Racing: Noon

Race Format

Qualifying: 5 min

Heat Race

Feature Race

Champ Race: 2-lap Qual, Heat, Extended Feature

Night Races follow same format, shifted later in the day.

New racers: Mark helmet with an "X" & start on tail for 3x Race Weekends (for YOUR safety)





Helpful sites

OVKA.COM – Facebook – Instagram (@OVKAKarting)

~Message us!!!

~Email the board

Comet Kart Sales – Greenfield, Indiana

Kartpulse.com

~Online forum

OVKA Classifieds Facebook Group

~Local Buy/Sell/Trade

Mondokart.com

~Online Store (Italy)

OVKA Part/Chassis/Engine Dealers

Pat Slattery

~Tony Kart Chassis

~Hoosier Tires

~Parts/Tools

~Woltjer 2-cycle Engines

Doug Cook

~Margay Chassis

~Hoosier Tires

Craig Bogan

~Boganator 206 Engines

A group of go-kart racers are lined up on a track, ready for a race. The racers are wearing helmets and colorful racing suits. The karts are also colorful, with various numbers and designs. In the background, there are several vehicles, including a white van and a white truck, and a few people standing around. The scene is set outdoors on a paved track with grass on the sides. A large, stylized text overlay reads "Q&A Session".

Q&A Session