

# NAFLIC

*National Association For Leisure Industry Certification*

## **Standards & Related Documents Sub-Committee**

### **TECHNICAL BULLETIN - NOVEMBER 1996**

#### **141. Go-Kart Accident**

A recent accident, resulting in the death of an 8 year old child, occurred on a Go Kart circuit operated by a concessionaire at Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire.

We are aware that NAFLIC members are involved in the certification of many such circuits where they are provided, in amusement parks and similar locations, for use by the paying public.

We are not aware of the full details of the accident but some relevant issues come to mind.

- Speed limitations (typically about 16 mph but may need to be appreciably less if very young children are permitted).
- Age and / or height limits in relation to the dimensions and speeds etc. of the cars.
- Guarding of parts (axles, drive belts, chains, etc.) where hair or clothing may become entangled.
- Manning of openings for access of the cars to and from the track.
- Inaccessibility of maintenance / storage areas while the circuit is in use.
- Fixed barriers capable of containing the impact of cars at full speed. The design should avoid significant rebound.
- Fencing / barriers to exclude the public from the danger area.
- Track and car design to minimise the risk of overturning.
- Fenders to prevent wheel to wheel contact.
- Passenger containment including restraints.
- Track surfaces and maintenance.
- Provisions for operator override control of the cars.

We also draw attention to a publication by the National Karting Association (June 1995) - "Guidelines for the operation of indoor and outdoor circuits". Although this does not directly apply to us (i.e. it applies to "pro-kart", go-kart racing), it contains some advice which may be found useful.

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