

Welcome to the 34th edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews, your weekly update on the sport, tips and points to remember. It is our intention to continue this weekly form of communication and we look forward to providing you this support in the weeks to come. Just a quick reminder that if any of the information in here needs to find its way to social media, we will do so via our Speedway Australia channels only.

With the suspension list attached to the document, this is not information every licence holder or club member should be receiving. However, please make sure that if you are the contact receiving this information for your organisation that you pass the information on to the rest of your committee to make sure your team can also be kept aware. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

NATURAL JUSTICE – 3 STEPS TO SUCCESS

This is a reminder that the concept of natural justice applies to all rules and regulations across the entire sport, unless specifically excluded in the relevant rule. We have noted this before (Speed eNews 22) but are mentioning it again because the season has started in most places and we keep hearing about well-meaning committee's failing to adhere to this concept.

From time to time there are club members that do misbehave, and a period of suspension or other penalty may be entirely warranted. However, if a committee makes a decision to penalise a club member without giving them a chance to know the charges against them or let themselves be heard in their defence, then there is a likelihood that the penalty could be overturned. Speedway Australia are happy to assist in this regard, providing advice to clubs to ensure they don't get into difficulty. It's better to get the process right first time, rather than rushing to judgement at a committee meeting and having to back down later.

As an example, we utilise the concept of natural justice with our Social Media Misconduct process, issuing a please explain letter to the alleged offender before a decision is made. However, when the misconduct is severe enough that a harsh penalty could be in the offing, the licence holder is stood down in the interim as provided for in rule 7.6.6(f). This is a great example of natural justice being specifically excluded, and another is when a competitor is sent to the rear of the field during a race (Rule 4.11.6). That decision is specifically not reviewable in accordance with Rule 8.3.2.

Any questions on this – please contact the Office!



BRINGING SPEEDWAY TOGETHER

NATURAL JUSTICE

There are three basic principles that apply to all disciplinary processes, unless specifically excluded in the rules

The defendant must:-

- Know the charges against them and the potential penalties
- Have the right to be heard in their defence
- Have a fair hearing.....not necessarily a fair outcome

No court will intervene if this process is watertight

LEVEL ONE OFFICIAL APPROVALS

Level 1 officials are those who can oversee State and National titles across all divisions of the sport. They are considered to be experienced and capable enough to deal with the high-pressure situations that can occur at these important events.

As we move into an era of nationally recognised training and reporting, our aim is to ensure that consistency and communication is a vital part of the process for approving and monitoring Level 1 officials. To that end, all appointments for Level 1 officials are now to be routed via the national body for all divisions that operates in multiple states. For example, this means that Level 1 approvals for Speedcars are ratified by Speedcars Australia, rather than via the respective state branches.



The Speedway Australia licensing system has not yet been upgraded to reflect this new approach, so in the interim these approvals will occur via email. We'll work with each body to ensure we have the right information in place to process approvals, ensuring officials can go about their business as per usual.

Officials graded Level 2, 3 and 4 can be signed off at a state or club level, depending on the organisational structure.

And of course, Speedway Sedans Australia have their own Officials card and approval process. This means that officials undertaking SSA duties must have their relevant paperwork in order, in addition to the Speedway Australia cards that are required for all other divisions.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Have you got a topic you'd like to see covered in our eNews? Something you're unsure about and think others might be as well?

We'd love to hear from you! This eNews is all about helping our clubs and tracks wherever possible and quite often more than one group has a query for the same thing.

Feel free to email anything you'd like clarified in an upcoming edition.



Speedway Australia Contacts

Please see below for the relevant contacts for all your Speedway Australia requirements.

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