

Welcome to the 153rd edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews.

## **NATIONAL TRACK UPGRADE SURVEY**



Speedway Australia's attention in recent times has weighed heavily toward assisting tracks with government and community grant applications, with many venues throughout Australia receiving significant cash injections to assist with everything from major infrastructure projects to sporting goods and administrative assistance.

Last year Speedway Australia achieved a whopping 81% success rate for all applications submitted on behalf of tracks, resulting in over \$1.15m of new funding for 25 affiliated venues. The result of this was tracks benefiting from new pit and canteen buildings, walls and catch fences and concrete pathways, through to flags and first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and even cash assistance toward operational expenses.

2021 will see us ramp up these efforts significantly, with a goal to see every venue around Australia reaping the rewards. With Federal, State and

Local government grants becoming increasingly available post COVID, we look to generate a comprehensive database of the needs and wants of each and every track, ensuring we are ready to piece together applications for whatever applicable programs arise.

So how can you help us to help you? Simple, we've put together a short, three-question survey to gauge the 'wish list' for your venue. Tell us what your plans are for 2021 and beyond, with an emphasis toward what infrastructure (be that track safety, or amenities) and operational assistance would best benefit your venue.

The survey shouldn't take more than a minute or two, with a link to the survey [available here](#).

## **MARSH UPDATES FOR SPEEDWAY INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Marsh have advised of a further enhancement to their communication system for tracks, as our Account Manager Rhian Greaves explains; "Marsh is extending its Task tracking systems to Speedway tracks to assist with supporting your Insurance program and race meeting management. The system will assist us with prioritising and servicing inbound and outbound requests made by you to Marsh. You will notice shortly, a new receipting reference number AUMSH-XXX when communicating with us", he said.



As per last week's notification, a new centralised email address has been set up to deal with the speedway insurance program. "Tracks are encouraged to send all enquiries directly to the [speedway@marsh.com](mailto:speedway@marsh.com) email, for our system to register your enquiry. Should you need to contact us, your reference number will allow us to get straight to your enquiry."

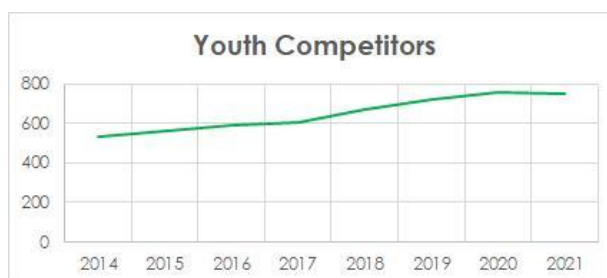
## YOUTH SPEEDWAY GRIDDING UP FOR SUCCESS



While working on the next phase of our Kids to Grids youth training, we've been diving into the statistical breakdown of youth in our sport. Despite the pandemic having an affected on all aspects of life throughout the nation, our youth numbers have remained stable, with some states and classes showing year on year growth.

As you can see from the table (below), Youth competitor numbers are up over 39% through the last eight years. With 2021 numbers a mere six licences down, we can be confident the future of our sport hasn't taken a major hit during these unprecedented times.

In terms of individual classes, SSA Junior Sedans continue to be the dominant choice throughout the nation and have shown slight growth over the past two years. Combined with RSA Junior Sedans also improving numbers, it appears Sedans are going from strength to strength. Although WA Junior Quarter Midgets recently rebranded to Formula 125s, we've included the two classes for an accurate comparison. Interestingly, the percentage of dual-registered competitors has grown from 6.5% in June 2019, to 7.9%.



STATE	2019	2021
WA	171	198
VIC	164	159
QLD	161	145
NSW/ACT	74	109
TAS	76	57
NT	44	49
SA	27	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>748</b>

The age of youth competitors has stayed relatively similar to previous years, with no major changes occurring in age rules for classes. However, with the addition of Junior Outlaw Karts it is anticipated that we'll see further growth in the lower age groups. The gender breakdown has stayed consistent with 71% male and 29% female. This continues to be much higher than the 88% to 12% split for all ages of competition.

Western Australia continues to lead the way in youth Speedway with further growth and a larger gap to other states in terms of overall numbers competing. New South Wales has also shown steady growth, while Queensland

numbers are slightly down.

In terms of Kids to Grids, more than 150 people have already signed up for the FREE Beginner level of training on our new website [www.kidstogrids.org](http://www.kidstogrids.org). Many of these have gone on to complete both the further development and high-performance levels as well which covers more in-depth aspects of the sport. Remember, the beginner level covers everything a rookie in the sport needs to be aware of, so feel free to share it with anything looking at getting into, or already starting in youth Speedway.

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