

Welcome to the 75th edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews.

This weekly communication serves to keep clubs and organisations up to date on current events, handy tips to improve competition and safety, as well as any changes that may be taking place within the sport.

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 as to keep them in the loop. You are also encouraged to distribute this newsletter to your members. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

PREPARING FOR ELECTRONIC LICENCING



We've talked about this for 18 months, but change is finally in the air with regard to the replacement of licence cards in favour of an all-electronic system. We are at the final testing stage, which is bringing to light a number of tweaks and fine tuning of processes that need to be rectified before we can make the move.

The major change from an administration perspective is the pre-approval of licences by clubs before Speedway Australia issue the licence. To make this a smooth process for licence holders we've liaised with divisional bodies and have introduced the following changes: -

- Speedway Sedans Australia Licences will be directed to the nominated affiliated club for approval, rather than being posted to SSA state branches. This is a national replication of the system currently operating in Western Australia.

- Formula 500 licences will all be channelled to the relevant F500 state body for approval, rather

than any club in the state as was the case in WA. While this is an approach that is the direct opposite of the SSA, it does indicate that the Speedway Australia system is flexible enough to handle any kind of approval process, that is tailored to the needs of each divisional body.

- SKAA one day licences now include a \$10 SKAA levy, making them \$50 each.

More information will follow as we get closer to the big day, but we are committed to carrying on with the printing of licences in tandem with electronic cards. This will continue until we are 100% confident that the sport can handle the new arrangements.

SEATBELT RULES AND EXPIRATION DATES



Quite frequently we are asked by divisions and competitors as to whether they can extend the life of their safety harness/seatbelts beyond the mandated 2 years for their particular division. Many cite that their belts 'look like new' or that they've 'only been used a handful of times'.

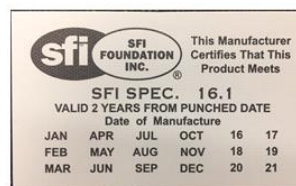
It's a common misconception that the replacement period for belts is mandated by Speedway Australia. This is not the case. Speedway Australia rules relating to seatbelts read as follows; -

14.1 Seatbelts

All racing divisions (except karts), must be fitted with a safety harness/seat belts of the lever latch style, which must be certified by an authoritative body (such as SFI) and must conform to all of their policies including fitment, care/maintenance and replacement period.

SFI is a non-profit organization established to issue and administer standards for all kinds of racing equipment used worldwide. Speedway Australia, together with many other motorsport sanctioning bodies across Australia use SFI standards to ensure all aspects of driver safety meet recognized levels of performance and quality – including driver restraint assemblies. The two-year replacement of seatbelts is a requirement set down by the SFI, through decades of research and scientific testing to ensure the safety of competitors using this equipment.

When purchasing Seatbelts for your race car, the manufacturer will supply product information pertaining to maintaining, fitting and replacing your belts. In the case of SFI Seatbelts, the manufacturer will also sew in an SFI label, certifying the product meets SFI 16.1 standards, together with an expiration date – which once passed, the seatbelt cannot be used. In the past, the manufacturers have used a punched-out month/year date of manufacture label supplied by the SFI. From 2017 however, SFI changed to the new label system (pictured) incorporating a single expiration date pre-printed on the label



SFI Labels Prior to 2017

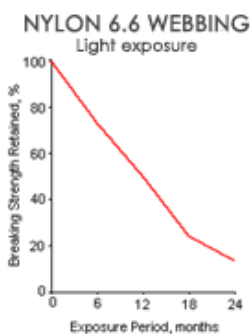


SFI Labels Available
Jan. 1, 2017

From 2017 however, SFI changed to the new label system (pictured) incorporating a single expiration date pre-printed on the label

SFI 16.1 standards mandate Seatbelts be replaced every two years because they degenerate over time. Exposure of seat belt webbing and thread to light causes degradation of the fibres and loss of restraint integrity.

The webbing used in motorsports restraints is typically made with DuPont Nylon 6-6 or a similar product. As shown in the graph (below), the webbing loses about half of its strength in one year.



With this kind of rapid deterioration, it is obvious why replacing the webbing every two years is essential to driver safety. Old and weakened belts are more likely to break under the loads imposed upon them in an accident situation. So, whilst your old belts may appear to be in good condition, in actual fact they're a disaster waiting to happen. Failure to properly restrain the driver in a crash would have devastating consequences, and one can only imagine what an insurance company's response would be should the driver have been using seatbelts which are past the expiration date – not to mention the knock on effect it would have on the entire sport.



SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA CONTACTS

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

General Enquiries	08 8139 0777	or	admin@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Tim Savell	General Manager		tim@speedwayaustralia.net.au
James Hadley	Youth Development Officer		james@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Liz Weaver	Track & Safety Dev. Officer		liz@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Adam Brook	Sport Development Officer		adam@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Ross Kirby	Sport Development Officer		ross@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Kirsten Knox	Licensing & Operations Admin.		kirsten@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Robin Pearce	Accounts		accounts@speedwayaustralia.net.au
Angela Warren	Office Administrator		angela@speedwayaustralia.net.au

