

Mistakes that all novice karters make

There are few sports as thrilling as karting. It's fun whether you've been once, or hundreds of times, and part of the thrill is being allowed and encouraged to go as fast as you can – something that's very rare these days! However, there are some common mistakes which will hinder your speed.



1

A kart circuit is an intimidating place for new drivers, and this is made worse by experienced drivers flying past you at what seem like impossibly high speeds. Just ignore faster karts passing you. It's far safer to concentrate on your own driving and let them find their own way past. You will be much more predictable and easier to pass if you are doing your own thing.

2

Karts have very sensitive steering, so keep your hands at the 'quarter to three' position at all times and don't let go. Not only will this give you more precise control over the kart, but you'll be able to react to slides much faster.

3

Kart brakes act on the rear wheels only, meaning braking like you do in a road car simply won't work. The best way to brake in a kart is the opposite to on the road: you should hit the brakes hard initially so they almost lock, then as you get closer to the apex of a corner, gradually and smoothly release them.

4

Getting in a kart for the first time can be a sensory overload. Karts are extremely low to the ground, making everything feel twice as fast, but often people intensify this by looking only a few metres in front of the kart. As a rule, you should always look one stage ahead of where you are. So when braking, you should be looking at the apex, at the apex you should be looking at the exit, and at the exit you should be spotting the next corner. It seems small but it makes a massive difference.

Just remember, being a fast driver comes from driving better, not driving harder, so try to contain your excitement when you get on circuit and build your speed up gradually. Most of all, enjoy it. Not everyone will be an F1 champion, so having fun is far more important than being the best.

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