The Manitoba Karting Association (MKA) has been around since the mid-1980’s and the kart track is located just outside Gimli, Manitoba (off of Highway No. 8 at Minerva Road).

We run a 10 race schedule for our karting season that starts in May and goes to September.  All of our race and practice days are listed on our website- [www.manitobakarting.ca](http://www.manitobakarting.ca).

Typically, the Saturday of a race weekend is a practice or “Test & Tune” day where drivers go out on the track to test their karts and tune them or make changes based on their testing.  Then on Sunday is the race day format which starts with a short practice or warm up, followed by qualifying (4 laps are run to get your best lap time).  Then there is a short lunch break followed by a drivers’ meeting where our Race Director goes over important points with the drivers and also those that have volunteered to be race course or flag marshalls or starting grid marshalls, for example. All of our members are expected to provide a volunteer commitment to enable us to run our races efficiently and safely under the direction of our Race Director. We start the racing with a pre-final of either 10 or 15 laps, depending on the age group of the drivers, and then a final which is either 15 or 22 laps. The race day usually runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  We have one race weekend near the end of our season in September where we also run what is called an “Enduro” race and the format is chosen by members and the race day fees for that event are donated to a charity selected by the club.

The rules that the MKA follows are set by a national karting organization (ASN Canada FIA) and there are both technical and sporting rules that apply to the sport of kart racing.  There are different kart racing classes based on age and kart engine type. Drivers can start as young as 8 years old and then up to senior age groups- we have drivers in senior classes that are over 50 years of age, for example.  The classes are also differentiated by type of kart engine- there are 4 stroke and 2 stroke engines that are run.  Currently we have eight different classes and some classes have 3 to 4 drivers entered and others have well over 10 drivers.  It depends on who your members are at any given time.  We have a number of new member families this year and as a result, there is a good group of young racers between the ages of 8 and 17.  However, we have some new senior drivers also.  The race events are fun, yet competitive- there are points to be earned and at the end of the season we host a banquet when awards are presented.  During the season we also host social events such as pot luck suppers at the track and there are certainly friendships made amongst members.

New potential members are welcome at any time- they can come out on a race weekend to the Gimli track and talk to members and observe- there is no cost for admission.  This is a really good way to see firsthand what karting is all about.  Potential new kart racers can also take a kart out on the track for a demo drive on a practice day.  People are also welcome to attend our monthly association meetings- the 3rd Tuesday of the month and this is posted on our website.  We are a welcoming club and have very experienced members who are willing to help orient new members to karting.

Our main goal is to keep growing as a club by being welcoming ambassadors for the sport of karting in Manitoba.  We also plan to make some improvements to our track and facilities at Gimli to ensure continued success of the MKA for our members into the future.