

# Motorised Activities



## Introduction

This is the first edition of the factsheet, which attempts to explain how motorised activities fit into the overall provision of activities in Scouting.

Further editions will be published in the light of experience. The publication of future editions will be notified in Scouting Magazine, Talking Points and the Activities Newsletter.

## Scouting Controls

The Scout Association insurance policies do not cover claims arising out of the ownership and or driving of motor vehicles. Before commencing any activity involving motor vehicles, you must contact Insurance Services of The Scout Association to extend the insurance cover. If the activity is being carried out at a commercial centre, it is important that the leader concerned also checks that the centre had adequate insurance cover; once again, Insurance Services of The Scout Association can advise if there is any doubt.

Having cleared the insurance hurdle, you should obtain the support of the District Commissioner and the parents. There are no exclusion clauses in The Scout Association rules. Remember however, that the Leadership Team has a "duty of care" for their members. They should be confident that the young people concerned are physically capable of undertaking the activity and understand the safety rules. All safety equipment must fit the participants correctly. There should be some restrictions that apply to specific activities covered later in this paper.

Please note also, that all these activities must not take place on public roads and that these are potentially hazardous activities, both to the drivers and any spectators. Vehicles and spectators must be properly segregated.

## Motor Cars

Motor car driving experience is probably only suitable for some older Scouts and Venture Scouts. Younger Scouts will be unable to see out or access the foot-pedals without cushions and blocks, which is unacceptable bearing in mind the earlier comment about the equipment fitting the participants properly.

Leaders and Instructors offering this type of activity must be competent drivers and ideally should have undertaken some form of Advanced Driving before considering this type of activity. Ideally a specialised youth driving scheme would be preferable to an under-resourced Scout activity.

## Motor Cycles

With the availability of a wide range of motorcycles both in physical size and engine size, this is an option that is worthy of consideration.

Safety equipment is a must and in view of the possibility of the rider falling off the motorcycle, is strongly recommended that some type of closely fitting overalls, which fasten securely at wrists and ankles, are worn in addition to helmets and gloves. There should be no loose pieces of clothing or scarves that could get caught in the machinery.

## Quad Bikes (All Terrain Motor Vehicles [ATVs])

In legal terms, these are any vehicles that are propelled by an internal combustion engine and are designed and constructed primarily for use in leisure activities on either:

- (a) all types of land surface, or
- (b) all types of land surface, other than any highway or any other road, or bridge over which a road passes, to which the public has access.

Such vehicles are usually referred to as 'Quad Bikes'. The national regulations specifically forbid the use of three-wheeled versions.

Excluded are those vehicles built primarily for agricultural or forestry purposes, those designed, constructed or adapted for use by the disabled or a two-wheeled motorcycle with a side car.

The regulations also specify that for under 12s, the maximum speed of the vehicle should be 15mph but the vehicle must have a regulator in operation that confines the speed to 10mph.

For those aged between 12 and 16, the regulations specify that the maximum speed of the vehicle should be 30mph but the vehicle must have a regulator in operation that confines that speed to 15mph. The vehicle must also have a sign in a prominent position that says:

**THIS ATV IS NOT SUITABLE FOR A CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS**

The label should be in red lettering and be legible and durable and should come before any other safety information.

The full regulations and conditions are contained in the 'All-Terrain Motor Vehicles (Safety) Regulations 1989'.

### **Scout Operation**

When operating All-Terrain Vehicles as a Scouting activity the following points represent good practice:

- All ATVs must be fitted with a kill cord which must be worn at all times.
- The operation must be under the control of a competent instructor or supervisor.
- There should be a written operating procedure.
- The track should have a re-gradeable surface to prevent the creation of ruts.
- The design of the track should avoid sharp corners.
- The operating authority (Campsite, District or County/Area) should carry out regular risk assessments of the operation.

- There should be an incident book to record any accidents, incidents or unusual occurrences.

### **Karting**

The leader concerned must first decide in conjunction with the young people concerned, whether the intention is to use this activity to introduce Motor Activities to the programme or to indulge in competitive racing.

If the intention is to race, this must be done under standard and controls of the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association (RACMSA), a starter pack is available from this Association. Racing should only be undertaken at a track which has been set out incorporating the safety features required by the RACMSA. The Scout Association camp site at Buckmore Park in Kent has one such track.

If the intention is to promote motor experience, there will only be a need for one kart, consideration will have to be given to the type of kart, with or without a gear box. A track or facility will be needed which segregates the driver from the spectators, and the correct safety gear will be needed, safety helmet, goggles, boots that support the ankle and overalls, preferably of PVC that fasten tightly at wrists and ankles. Once again no loose clothing or scarves.

### **Useful Addresses**

The Scout Association  
Insurance Services  
Lancing Business Park  
Lancing  
West Sussex  
BN15 8UG  
(01903) 755352

Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports  
Association (RACMSA)  
Motor Sports House  
Riverside Park  
Colmbrook  
Slough  
Berkshire  
SL3 0HG  
(01753) 681736

The Association of British Kart Clubs  
(To be confirmed)

Buckmore Park  
Activity Centre  
Maidstone Road  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME5 9QG  
(01634) 861295

Auto-Cycle Union  
ACU House  
Wood Street  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV212YX  
(01788) 540519

### **Publications Cross Reference**

The current edition of:

Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout  
Association  
Starting Karting - RACMSA  
All-Terrain Motor Vehicles (Safety) Regulations  
1989