

## **NORTH TEXAS KARTERS ELECTS TO WITHDRAW FROM HOSTING THE 2 AND 4 CYCLE IKF SPRINT GRAND NATIONALS**

**TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA** – In an unfortunate and abrupt chain of events, the International Kart Federation has learned the North Texas Karters club and track contracted to host the 2018 IKF Sprint Grand Nationals has elected to pass and forgo the opportunity. Per their most recent emergency board meeting, effectively immediately, the IKF Grand Nationals event scheduled for 27-30 June, 2018 is canceled. All entries collected will be refunded immediately by NTK and the event will be assessed and rescheduled to a different venue, at a later date.

“Canceling is something we just don’t do,” explained interim IKF stakeholder and SKUSA owner Tom Kutscher. “While this isn’t a SKUSA event, it’s no secret our companies are aligned philosophically based on the recent press highlighting our joint efforts. I’m truly empathetic to the racers, their travel plans, and the weight of this decision by the North Texas Karters. In 20+ years of doing SKUSA, we’ve never canceled an event in this manner, ever. I’m as shocked and disappointed as anyone to learn of their decision.”

The agreement to proceed forward with running this year’s 2018 IKF Grand Nationals event was one of the few remaining, pre-negotiated deals the previous IKF board enacted. “To be honest,” remarked SKUSA’s Tom Kutscher “when looking at the IKF’s contracts we inherited, this one stood out as a concern. But in the interest of taking people at their word, we inherited the IKF under the presumption that the NTK club would be willing and prepared to host the 2018 event. Certainly they have their reasons financially or logistically why this makes sense to cancel. All we can do now is respect their decision and move forward as a new organization to find a suitable replacement.”

Based on the unforeseen announcement, the new IKF have convened an emergency advisory group to weigh in on rescheduling the event. “IKF racers deserve an event worthy of a Duffy, especially in light of the recent cancellation,” remarked SKUSA’s Tom Kutscher. “IKF are mindful of the ramifications of the news coming out of North Texas and they’re immediately convening to find a suitable replacement.”

The International Kart Federation apologizes to all racers, families, and stakeholders affected by the NTK decision. The regrettable news just underscores the vision of the new IKF ownership and reinforces the motivation to do better by future IKF racers. Expect further news to emerge based on these events, and a more reliable infrastructure in scheduling and hosting contracts to prevent any such occurrence from happening again.

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**(IKF) International Kart Federation** - The International Kart Federation was the first kart racing organization in the United States, founded and still based in California in 1957. In 1971 it was joined by the World Karting Association, which originally focused more on the Eastern and Central United States.