

Greetings to all,

Last year the carrier of the insurance that many race stewards buy through Electrathon America (K & K) started talking about some changes in the way we deal with the minor parental waivers for our events. This year they sent out a list of items and I have contacted them several times and this is the latest clarification of what they want to guarantee the race insurance is valid. WE NEED TO HAVE ALL TEACHER, RACE STEWARDS, COACHES, ETC. HELP US COMPLY WITH THESE ITEMS TO INSURE THAT WE DON'T LOSE OUR INSURANCE WHICH WOULD END MOST IF NOT ALL OF OUR EVENTS/RACES ACROSS THE NATION.

1) On the 8 ½" X 11" 'Parental Consent, Release and Waiver' form, that we have used for years we need to be sure the following happens:

a) We must use the original cardstock form that they provide—we CAN NOT use photocopied versions. PLEASE EMAIL AIMEE HART AT 'haruko@pdx.edu' to let her know how many forms you will need and she will send them to you.

b) NEW!! If you have a series of races that occur over the year and they use K & K insurance then we can get by with just one 'Parental Consent...' form. On it the top line 'Description and Location of Events' it should have "'Your Area' ELECTRATHON EVENTS FOR 2010" inserted BEFORE the parent signs it and this needs to be on both sides of the form. If you want to have individual releases for each race or only have one race then of course you will have that event and date listed on the top line

c) NEW AND IMPORTANT CHANGE!!! All minors that drive, work on the cars, or go into the pit area AT ALL, are near the track outside of a 'protected designated spectator area,' must have these signed and we must keep them at all of the races (if it is for the full season of race) for the full year and then on file for the next 5 years. In other words every minor that teams bring to the race needs to have this form signed by their parents and on file. This includes the students teachers bring, any children with with your student's parents on site, ANYONE that is at the race under age 18 MUST have these on file (unless in the spectator area ONLY) in case of an accident or YOU may be held liable!!!!

d) NEW!!! The parental signature witness is very important. They said that they faced a lawsuit from a different venue that the parent claimed they did not sign the form and since the witness was the student themselves the insurance could not prove they signed it. The insurance carrier would like it to be witnessed by a notary but know that the cost is prohibitive. They DEFINATILY want us to have someone witness the parental and student's signatures that falls into one of the following categories: A race official, the teacher-coach for the program, a school employee (secretary, administrator, etc.) This witness needs to include their 'title' along with their printed name so that all will know who the witness is. They said this witness either needs to know the parents or see ID to verify they are who they say they are. This ID could be recorded also such as Oregon Driver's License #1235689

e) NEW!! If possible get both parents to sign that way there is no argument in court that one parent did not give permission but this is not required.

2) On the legal size 'Gang Release' forms that we sign before each race. They want us to use both types. There is the Standard one for ANY & ALL adult participants, helpers, observers, etc. that are not minors. There is also one for ALL minors to sign that has "Minors" in the heading.

a) These are to be done at EACH race and again held on file for 5 years. To be able to sign the gang minor release we need to be sure that we have the 'Parental Release' form properly filled out, signed, and witnessed on file at the race.

b) Maybe we can come up with a card that minors can carry that is given to them when they turn in their signed 'Parental Release' forms and they must show these at each and every race to sign the gang form or dig through the 'parental release' forms to find their own. If you are a race steward I would suggest that you figure out an organization system to keep the 'Parental Release...' forms easy to locate either by school or alphabetically. ANY SUGGESTIONS????

c) Be sure that this legal size form is not folded AT ANY TIME and encourage the minors, and adults to read the form before they sign it. Also be sure the person(s) gathering the signatures signs the bottom of EACH of the forms with their title and address. to make these valid. The carrier said that if the form is folded the signees could claim that it was folded when they signed and they were not given the opportunity to read it.

3) We need to try to make the pits area as secure as possible. They want us to have entrances and exits controlled and manned at all times. Then ANYONE that comes into the pits area for ANY reason MUST sign the gang release and if that person is a minor then they MUST have their 'Parental Release' form on file and sign the minor gang release form. I think I convinced the insurance carrier that our pits are fairly safe and there is little danger, but they said if a spectator was injured we might be liable beyond the policy unless we follow this rule. Some races are at real race tracks and this is fairly easy but, I know that in the NW at least most parking lot races have several pits areas and they are wide open. We want to try to keep them open so that we can teach the spectators what we are doing and try to get more of the public/businesses excited about what we are doing and alternative vehicles in general. So again if the Teachers/coaches, parents, students themselves, etc. can help us monitor this and try to get all to sign releases it would help us comply with this requirement. AGAIN ANY SUGGESTIONS?????

If you have any questions please email me and I will try to get answers ASAP back to you. Hopefully we continue to remain accident free not need to turn in an incident report or claim but just in case we need to be sure the teachers, parents, race stewards, sponsors, race sites, and Electrathon America itself are not held liable because we did not follow the above rules.

Have a great season, have lots of fun, and good luck,  
Mike Hodgert