

Wanna Race?

...Tot Rods at the Drags, the lowdown.

With the change in venue for both the Nostalgia Nationals and the Hot Rod Drags in 2018 we were keen to retain as many familiar aspects of the events as possible following the move to Santa Pod Raceway. One aspect that caused much head scratching was finding a way to continue to allow the use of Tot Rods on the strip.

Following a comprehensive risk assessment and, mindful of Santa Pod's experience of young drivers piloting Junior Dragsters, it will be possible to run Tot Rods at both the NSRA affiliated events, as long as a basic set of build standards and driver details are adhered to.

The preliminary agreement for a common build standard includes:

- * GX200/220 lawn mower engines only (so no, you can't use that spare Fireblade motor)
- * Roll cage must cover driver's head
- * Chassis must surround driver's legs
- * Roll cage and chassis must be a minimum of 3/4" CDS (stronger materials are permitted)
- * Fuel cell must be fit for purpose with lockable cap
- * Firewall between driver and engine compulsory
- * There must be an electrical kill switch both inside and outside the vehicle
- * Brakes must be kept in good working order
- * Maximum speed 55mph 11.99sec ET
- * Drivers age between 8-17 years only
- * Fire suit (single layer probane/SFI)
- * Approved helmet/neck brace/arm restraints compulsory
- * Drivers to have passed through training programme

Most of the requirements are easily achievable, many will already be part of a basic build spec particularly if construction is still ongoing.

Keep an eye on the thread on the NSRA Forum and the usual social media sources, for more detailed information, and feel free to post any specific questions on the subject and I'll answer as quickly as I can.

Let's keep the youngsters out there on the track and having fun.

Alan Martin and the Hot Rod Drags Team.