

E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas & DEKM Rotax Grand Finals 2018

From 24th November to 1st December 2018, visitors to the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals witnessed the first ever e-kart racing action. At the International Circuit Paladino in Brazil, the E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas headed the on-track program to begin the week, with the DEKM Rotax Grand Finals 2018 then scheduled from the next Wednesday.

E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas made its debut on November 25, where for the first time in Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals history the 14 FIA-selected competitors representing 13 different nations, lined up for their initial taste of this amazing e-karting technology in the Non-Qualifying Practice followed with Qualifying Practice and the Pre-Final in the Rotax THUNDeR kart.

In the all-important Final Monday, Brazil's Sergio Roberto da Silveira Crispim took the victory on his home circuit ahead of Karim Bock Hussein (DOM) and Juan Jose Rodriguez Diaz (COL). The Top 3 would join 4th placed Guillermo Gabitto Britz (PAR) as part of the DEKM Rotax Grand Finals the same week alongside the 12 German Championship drivers contesting the title.

"We are proud to welcome the DEKM together with FIA Americas' first electric kart championship," said Peter Ölsinger, Vice President of Finance and Rotax Propulsion Systems and General Manager RIC TECH GmbH. Both racing series will be combined in Brazil using the BRP-Rotax and IET S.p.A. jointly developed Rotax THUNDeR E-Kart. The DEKM has already completed its successful opening season with the revolutionary racing package and was thus able to set a milestone in karting."

The starting grid of the **DEKM Rotax Grand Finals 2018** consisted of 12 participants from the German Electric Kart Championship together with the 4 best-placed drivers from the E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas, totalling 16 competitors in all. Beginning from Wednesday, there were 5 Non-Qualifying sessions and 2 Official Qualifying sessions, where the best lap of each driver would determine their start position for the Pre-Final Friday afternoon.

Pole position for the DEKM Rotax Grand Finals 2018 was set by Germany's Lukas Horstmann with a time of 55.135 seconds. Although the 17-year old had missed the second qualifying session due to being unwell, his best lap Thursday secured a front row grid alongside Brazil's Sergio Crispim. It was impressive to see the DEKM drivers up to speed on the unfamiliar Paladino circuit and the local drivers adapting so quickly to the Rotax THUNDeR kart, with times within around 1 second.

E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas contender Sergio Crispim took first place in the race and therefore, also the first grid position 1 for the final. Although DEKM champion Philipp Britz (GER) drove really well to finish in front of the Brazilian, a spoiler penalty saw him relegated back to 4th place.

Local hero Sergio Crispim went on to win the Final in convincing style Saturday with a dominant flag-to-flag victory, taking his second historic winner's podium at the 2018 Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals in his home country of Brazil and marking the end of the first DEKM season.

Oliver Schielein, promoter of DEKM and managing director of IKmedia GmbH said, "It was a fitting end to the first DEKM season. Another milestone in karting was set with the E-Karting Cup of FIA Americas. We are still at the beginning, but the DEKM is a racing series definitely to be expected in the future both nationally and internationally. The implementation of DEKM would have been unthinkable without our strong partners. BRP-Rotax in particular has an incredible know-how with many years of experience in karting." He added, "A big thank you to BRP-Rotax for the invitation to Brazil for the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals - the world's biggest kart event!"