

# Bahrain karting season kicks off

BIC to kick off new racing calendar with back-to-back Sakhir Rotax karting rounds this weekend

- SRMC season begins with back-to-back races
- Nearly 40 drivers confirmed for competition
- Events run Friday and Saturday from 2:15pm
- Free public entry at Bahrain International Karting Circuit

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, kicks off its 2025/2026 racing calendar this weekend with the first two rounds of the Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC).

BIC’s world-class grassroots motorsport facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC), will host the SRMC’s back-to-back events this Friday and Saturday (Editor’s note: 26 and 27 September).

The SRMC is a Rotax-powered championship with participants competing in five different categories, including the Micro MAX, Mini MAX, Junior MAX, Senior MAX, and DD2 Max.



Action from a previous round

The series features four rounds this season. They are being held as a prelude to the 2025/2026 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), the Kingdom’s premier karting championship, which kicks off at the end of October.

The SRMC is also taking place to help Bahrain’s top karters

warm up ahead of their highly anticipated participation in the upcoming Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals (RMCGF), which will be hosted by BIC and BIKC this 29 November to 6 December.

This weekend’s action in the SRMC is set to feature a field of nearly 40 competitors across

the various classes. Racing on both days is scheduled to begin with the free practices at 2.15pm. Qualifying practices will follow from 2.55pm, and then the pre-finals will take place from 3.50pm. That will set the stage for each category’s final, beginning with the Micro and Mini classes at 5.30pm. The po-

BETTER YOU KNOW

The Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge is being held as a prelude to two upcoming championships, including the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals which will be hosted in Bahrain later this year

dium ceremonies are scheduled for 8pm.

Competing in the Micro MAX category are Shiv Tummala, Charlie Page, and Abdulaziz Al Sarraf.

In the Mini MAX, last season’s BRMC Micro MAX champion Tariq Soofi is making the climb up a level, and will be racing against Faisal Alnajjar, Leo Saruhan, Rhys Daulat, Rayyan Najjar, Oliver Spencer, and Jude Andrews.

In the Junior MAX class, the grid features Khaled Najjar, Rashid Hilal, Leopold Juch, Demir Abali, Nathan Joseph, Ahmad Jawed, Luca Saruhan, William Lette, and Shun Sekiguchi.

The Senior MAX category promises to be the most competitive this SRMC campaign with the largest entry list of 15 karters. Defending BRMC Senior MAX champion Tye Mejia will be headlining the field, but he will face some tough competition against Luca Houghton, Mohammed Alhasan, Yousif Al A’ali, Najashi Rashdan, Vedant Menon, Laith Mourniah, Fahad Al Muqla, Mohammed Hilal, Farhan bin Shafeel, Filipa Dorres, Abdulla Fakhri, Rakan Al Fayezi, Ishaan Madesh, and Abdulla Abdulaziz.

The SRMC is rounded out by the DD2 MAX category, which features three drivers in Raoul Sadi, Musaad Al Bassam, and Abdulqader Qassim.

Following this weekend’s action, the SRMC wraps up its 2025/2026 schedule with another double-header on 17 and 18 October, when rounds three and four will light up the track.

That will then set the stage for the new BRMC season, which is set to feature eight rounds, flagging off on October 31 and continuing until April of next year.

This weekend’s SRMC events are open to the public. Entrance to BIKC is free of charge.

For more information on the SRMC, BRMC, or other events and activities at BIC or BIKC, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

## Muharraq host Ahli Jeddah in friendly



Muharraq celebrate winning the Khalifa bin Salman cup in June

- Champions test themselves before West Asia challenge
- TDT | Manama

Muharraq’s basketball team, winners of the domestic double last season, will take to the court tonight in a friendly against Saudi side Al Ahli Jeddah. The game is scheduled for 7:30pm at Muharraq Club’s arena in Arad.

Eyes on West Asia

For Muharraq, the friendly will serve as a tuneup towards the season in which they will compete in the West Asia Super League “WASL” against some of the strongest clubs from across the Gulf and Asia.

**Jeddah’s final stop**

Al Ahli Jeddah, meanwhile, are wrapping up their training camp in Bahrain with this encounter. The Saudis have already played friendlies against Nuwaidrat and Manama, and will use the Muharraq game as their last rehearsal before launching into the Saudi Basketball League campaign.

## “Hard work, discipline, and belief” - Bahrain’s Hamad Marhoon looks to replicate amateur success in the pro ranks

- Hamad Marhoon makes pro MMA debut
- Faces Algeria’s Ibrahim Chelabi
- Event set for Sept 27 in Riyadh

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After years of success in the amateur ranks, Bahraini mixed martial artist Hamad Marhoon will be taking his talents to the professional level when he makes his PFL debut at the PFL MENA Semifinals: Champions Collide card this coming Saturday, September 27th at The Arena in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

An IMMAF veteran with national championships to his name, Marhoon believes that the mindset that carried him to amateur success will also carry him to professional success.

“My philosophy can be summed up in three words: hard work, discipline, and belief,” Marhoon shared. “Those values have carried me through 24 amateur fights, through national championships, and to the IMMAF podium, and now they are carrying me into my professional debut on one of the biggest stages in the region.”

Marhoon will face off against undefeated Algerian Ibrahim



Hamad Marhoon (L) and Ibrahim Chelabi

Chelabi in his maiden professional assignment, and he understands that this fight is an opportunity to represent his home country.

“Taking part in the PFL MENA semifinals is nothing short of a historic opportunity for me, for Bahrain, and for every aspiring fighter in our region,” he said. “There was never a chance I would turn away from such a moment — this is the chance to represent my country and to prove that Bahraini fighters belong at the very highest levels of MMA.”

In order to represent his country the best that he can, Marhoon has made sure that his preparation is also at the highest level.

“My preparation has been intense and all-encompassing,” he explained. “Over the

past months I have trained with world-class professionals, sharpening every tool I have, from wrestling and grappling to striking and endurance. I’ve pushed myself through technical drills, sparring sessions, and conditioning programs designed to prepare me for any scenario inside the cage.”

Marhoon also paired that intense training with an impressive level of commitment, which includes staying off social media, which can be very difficult to do. “For me, the cornerstone of success is commitment. Even on the hardest days, when the body is sore and the mind is tired, I show up and I put in the work. That daily discipline has shaped me not just as a fighter, but as a person.”

“To maintain my focus, I deliberately keep myself away

YOU KNOW WHAT

To maintain his focus and avoid distractions, Bahraini fighter Hamad Marhoon said he deliberately stays away from social media, particularly on the hardest days of training

from the noise of social media — I don’t want distractions, I want clarity,” Marhoon continued.

Marhoon added that his opponent is no slouch, but he’s willing to step up to the challenge. “Facing Algeria’s Ibrahim Chelabi, an undefeated fighter with a one hundred percent finishing rate, is the kind of challenge that excites me and motivates me to show the very best version of myself.”

September 27th is gearing up to be a big night for Marhoon, and he’s ready to make his mark on the MMA world. “This fight in Riyadh is not just another match — it is the beginning of a new chapter, and I intend to seize it with everything I have. For Bahrain and for myself, I am ready to make history.”