

## Student by day, F4 driver by night: Cohen Kokotovich's double life



Helena Ristevski

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At just 17 years old, Year 12 student and Sydney-based karter Cohen Kokotovich has made his debut in the world of Formula 4, turning heads with his lightning-fast lap times and fearless overtakes. With a new seat secured for the 2025 season, the young Australian is one step closer to his dream of reaching Formula 1.

### The Beginning

Cohen's motorsport journey began in karting at the age of 14 in 2021. Within a year, he was competing at both state and national levels with the Velocity Kart Shop Team, before making the leap to Formula 4 in 2024.

"I've always been into motorsport, ever since I was young," Cohen recalls. "What really got me going was the Top Gear Festival back in 2014. It was the first time I saw an F1 car in real life — Daniel Ricciardo did a donut right in front of me. I was dumbfounded. It was the coolest thing I'd ever seen."

Despite starting later than many of his peers — many of whom began racing at age six — Cohen's rookie years in both Junior and Senior categories saw him claim multiple race wins and podium finishes.

“Because I started at a later date, I definitely had to be on top of it, and do a lot to catch up. To do that, I really focused on having that time in the seat, and getting my hours up — compared to the guys that started at 6.”

His first senior race, a Rotax Pro Tour event, proved a steep learning curve.

“I went from racing restricted junior karts to an unrestricted senior car with a lot more power. When I first got in, I thought, *this thing really has some kick*. I had to dial it back and learn a whole new driving style.”



## The Balancing Act

As a Year 12 student at Trinity Grammar, Cohen juggles an intense racing schedule with the academic pressures of his final school year.

“I’m racing almost every weekend, so it’s a constant balance. I would say there is quite a bit of pressure between racing, school and training. It’s a balance. Between year 12 which is obviously a big year with assessments and commitments, as well as racing and the commitments that come with that. That’s the thing with motorsport is just you out there — every performance counts. You have to be on your A-game 24/7.”

Training plays a major role in his success. Cohen spends hours in the gym building endurance and reflexes, and sharpens his skills with simulator sessions.

“I split my week between racing and school. Mondays and Wednesdays I’m on a heavy program with Focused Driving Development — gym work and sim training. Then I fit school around that. On weekends, it’s back to the track.”

While his social life is limited, his passion for all things automotive never takes a back seat.

“Outside racing, I’m still around cars. My mates and I work on each other’s cars, go for cruises, or head to meets. If it’s not cars, it’s motorbikes. If it’s not motorbikes, it’s boats. My life basically revolves around engines.”

“Even sitting in class, all I can think about is going to the track when I’m at school. I’m always just motivated to get there” said Kokotovich.

## Rising Through the Ranks

In his rookie year, Cohen impressed on the international stage at Malaysia’s Sepang International Circuit, securing a seat in the Tatuus Gen2 Formula 4 car for AGI Sport in the 2025 Australian Championship. Competing against drivers from Australia, India, Macau, Japan, and Azerbaijan, he is set to return to Sepang in September for another shot at international competition.

Before then, he will tackle the Australian Karting Championships, the AU4 Kart Championship in Abu Dhabi, and the prestigious SKUSA SuperNationals in Las Vegas — events that attract hundreds of drivers eager to impress scouts.

“As experience comes, so does my aggression on track — willingness to chuck the car in. One of my favourite quotes from Ayrton Senna (former F1 driver) is: The moment you don’t go for a gap, you’re no longer a racing driver. In other words — the moment you don’t go for an opportunity is the moment you’re not fully committed; and it resonates with me, because I certainly take every opportunity I can get on the track. I make the most of it, and I’m willing to put a move on other drivers as well” said Cohen

## The Reality of Racing

Cohen doesn’t shy away from describing the brutal nature of karting.

*“It’s a lion’s den out there. You need to keep the pace, because the moment you switch off, you get left behind. There’s always 5-10 karts behind you. You need that forward momentum, otherwise you’re gonna be eaten alive!”*

He draws parallels to professional drivers like Liam Lawson, who was dropped from the Red Bull program in May after only two races without a podium.

“It really shows how cut-throat motorsport is,” Cohen says.



## Eyes on the Ultimate Prize

Now signed to race under the Ferrari Driver Academy x Asia-Pacific program in late 2024, Cohen's sights remain firmly set on Formula 1.

However, if his rapid rise through the junior ranks is any indication, *Cohen Kokotovitch* is a name to watch. It may not be long before the young Australian finds himself competing in the world-renowned championship that is Formula 1.