

RULES	Sport Operations
TITLE:	PA Sprint & Paracanoes Competition Rules
AREA:	Sports Services
RESPONSIBILITY:	Sports Services Manager
RELATED POLICIES:	ICF Sprint Racing Rules ICF Paracanoes Rules PA Competition Policy PA Policies & Bylaws
DRAFTED BY:	PACSPTC
DATE APPROVED:	TBC
APPROVED BY:	Paddle Australia
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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide additional rules to the ICF Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe Competition Rules, for the conduct of national canoe sprint competitions in Australia.

2. APPLICATION

These rules are to be read in conjunction with the current ICF Canoe Sprint Competition rules and the ICF Paracanoe Competition rules and relevant PA policies as well as the Competition Briefing document issued for each competition.

ICF Competition Rules should take precedent as the overarching competition rules. These PA Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe Rules offer variants to those rules to cater for national competition requirements in Australia and Australian Championship competitions.

These rules do not override any PA Policies and Bylaws as determined by Paddle Australia and these rules should be applied to national competitions within Australia.

In situations not covered in any of these rules, the decision of the Chief Official or Competition Committee at the competition shall be final, subject to appeal to the Jury.

3. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Submissions for new rules and or amendments/deletions can be submitted by Accredited Officials, representatives of the State Paddling Associations, Accredited Coaches, PA Staff and the PA Athletes Commission.

Submissions must be received no later than the end of the month prior to the next review date and can be submitted to any current member of the PACSPTC at the time, to then be tabled for review.

Any submissions will be reviewed in line with the advertised next review date commencement period, with the aim to have the next iteration of rules available prior to the commencement of the next season of competition.

Should a rule be identified which needs to be incorporated prior to that review date, these will be communicated in the Competition Briefing until such time as they can be incorporated in this document.

Any alterations to these rules are to be endorsed by the PACSPTC and subject to the procedures of PA.

4. DEFINITIONS

These are key definitions which are the locally used terms, which may differ from meanings as outlined in ICF Competition Rules

Word/Phrase	Meaning
ICF	International Canoe Federation
PA	Paddle Australia Limited (ABN 61 189 833 125)
PACSPTC	Paddle Australia Canoe Sprint Technical Committee
SPA, SIS/SAS	State Paddling Association, State Institute/Academy of Sport
Competition	Begins at the scheduled start time of the first race until the completion of the last event, including Medal Ceremonies for Canoe Sprint or Paracanoe competitions within Australia
Start of Competition	The start of the first race at the competition (and where designated, the start of the first race at the competition of a designated day)
Athlete/Competitor	a financial member of Paddle Australia (PA)
Age Group	The age group in which an athlete / competitor is eligible to race in
Race	The specific race that athletes will contest, such a U18 WK1 500/MK2 1000
Developing Categories	Paracanoe, Canoe, M/V 65+ Kayak for Men and Women are considered as development classes

Words not defined in these Rules have the meaning ascribed to them in the Constitution and Policies of PA, unless a contrary meaning appears from the context.

CHAPTER ONE GENERAL REGULATIONS

5. COMPETITIONS AND COMPETITORS

5.1. COMPETITORS

- 5.1.1. Competitors are required to meet the requirements as outlined in the PA Competition Policy and adhere to all relevant PA Policies, Bylaws and Documents.

5.2. AGE GROUPS

5.2.1.

Age as at 31st December	Age Group
10 or younger	U10
12 or younger	U12
14 or younger	U14
16 or younger	U16
18 or younger	U18
23 or younger	U23
24 or over	Seniors/Open
35 or above	Masters/Veterans

Example: a person turns 18 at the commencement of a canoe sprint competition during the year, they are eligible to enter Under 18.

- 5.2.2. Not all age groups will be available to be contested at every competition.
- 5.2.3. All competitors aged 12 or under must wear an approved personal flotation device / lifejacket in all races, irrespective of which age group they may be racing in.
- 5.2.4. Competitors may only race to their own age group and the next available age group above, at the discretion of the Competition Committee (this would mean that athletes can be U16 & race in U16 & U18). This does not apply to U23 athletes who are eligible to enter Senior/Open races.
- 5.2.5. Irrespective of age group entered, the finalised race schedule at a competition may not be conducive for competitor/s to enter multiple age categories and competitor/s may need to choose a single age group in which to compete.

5.3. PROGRESSIONS

- 5.3.1. ICF progressions will be used for Olympic and Selection races.
- 5.3.2. PA progressions will be used for all other races, unless by special request by the High Performance (HP) Team or venue / schedule limitations. Refer Appendix 1.
- 5.3.3. 9 lane and 8 lane variations will be utilised based on the capacity of the venue and/or if circumstances exist which prevent using 9 lanes.

5.4. AMALGAMATIONS

- 5.4.1. Where there are not sufficient entries or starters to contest a certain race, competitors can be moved into a relevant race.
- 5.4.2. Juniors (18 and under) will not be amalgamated; races may be scheduled to start at the same time.
- 5.4.3. Masters age groups will not amalgamate any further than ten (10) years; races may be scheduled to start at the same time.

CHAPTER TWO BOAT CLASSES

6. BOAT CLASSES

6.1. AUSTRALIAN BOAT CLASSES

6.1.1. Some Australian boat classes may be unique to Australia that are accepted in competition. In addition to ICF regulations:

- Guppies / Tornado's / Mini Sonic
- Surf Skis as per ICF Ocean Racing Competition Rules
- Stand up Paddleboard as per ICF Stand Up Paddling Competition Rules
- Australian Touring Kayaks (TK) & Canoes (TC)

6.1.2. Kayaks with under stern rudders will be allowed weed deflectors in front of the rudder. Weed deflectors can be no longer than 200mm (20cm) and cannot be deeper than the rudder. Weed deflectors cannot be fitted to any other location on the kayak.

6.1.3. Not all boat classes will be available to be contested at every competition.

6.2. MINI KAYAKS / CANOES (LIGHTNING / GUPPY / MINISONIC ETC)

6.2.1. All boat designs that fall within these specifications shall be raced as a single class and must adhere to the following specifications:

6.2.2. Age Groups

- Races are run across U10 & U12 in male and female classes.

6.2.3. Entry Fee

- If eligible athletes choose to race in a high age group (U14), they must pay Junior entry fee.

6.2.4. Construction

- **C1/K1: Maximum length (cm): 420 | Minimum weight (kg): 12**
- Boats must have only one (1) hull (monohull construction) and only a single keel line. Multihull and Catamaran styles boats are not allowed.
- The length of a kayak or a canoe must be measured between the extremes of the bow and the stern.
- The hull section and longitudinal lines of the hull of the kayak and canoe must not be concave (horizontally and vertically respectively).
- The deck construction may not be higher on any horizontal point than the highest point of the front edge of the first cockpit.
- All boats must be built symmetrically upon the axis of their length.
- No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the boats which can give the athlete an unfair advantage. The use of hull lubricants is not permitted.
- No part of the boat (including the seat and the footrest) may have moving parts which can be used to help propel the boat in a way which would give athletes an unfair advantage (approved existing moving seat systems already in use are accepted).

- They must be available to all athletes (no exclusive patents) & costs must be reasonable.
- There must be equal chances for all athletes.
- They must be safe and environmentally sound.

6.2.5. Kayaks

- May have a maximum of one (1) rudder, which must be placed under the hull of the boat.
- Must be designed for athletes to sit-in (Kayak type) not a sit-on top design (Surf Ski type).
- Kayaks will be allowed weed deflectors in front of the rudder. Weed deflector can be maximum 20 cm long and cannot be deeper than the rudder.

6.2.6. Safety Equipment

- The boats must be constructed so that they remain buoyant when filled with water.
- No part of the athlete's body should be attached to the boat or paddle in any way.
- All athletes must wear appropriate life jackets/PFD's
- Distances are 100m (float up) & 200m (start gates)

CHAPTER THREE ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

7. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

7.1. PA CANOE SPRINT OFFICIALS

7.1.1. **Foundation Official.**

Entry level, necessary to officiate at club and State level competitions.

To gain a PA Canoe Sprint Foundation Official accreditation a person needs to complete:

- [Community Officiating General Principles](#) course.
- Working with Children Check (likely to be free in each state for volunteer roles).
- Attain 85% or higher in the PA Canoe Sprint Foundation Official online theory exam.
- Provide evidence of any officiating experience at canoe sprint competitions.

7.1.2. **National Official.**

Essential for performing leadership roles at PA Canoe Sprint Championships.

To gain a PA Canoe Sprint National Official accreditation, a person needs to complete:

- [Community Officiating General Principles](#) course.
- [Play by the Rule Child Protection](#) course.
- Working with Children Check (likely to be free in each state for volunteer roles).
- Hold a Paddle Australia Canoe Sprint Foundation Official accreditation.
- Attain 85% or higher in the PA Canoe Sprint National Official online theory exam.
- Present logbook or supported evidence of officiating roles at any level for the past four years.

7.1.3. **International Technical Official.**

Essential for officiating at World Cups, World Championships, other ICF Canoe Sprint competitions, Olympic and Paralympic Games and possibly for other international competitions.

To gain an ITO accreditation, a person needs to:

- Apply to the PACSPTC.
- Be nominated by PACSPTC to the ICF to sit the exam.
- Attend the nominated location for the exam.
- Refer to the ICF Canoe Sprint Competition Rules for further information.
- Determination of passing the ITO exam sits with the International Canoe Federation.

7.1.4. Officials' accreditation is renewed every 4 years. Individuals will be required to submit logbook or other evidence of roles undertaken in officiating at competitions at any level.

- 7.1.5. It is recommended that national canoe sprint competitions have PA Nationally accredited Officials in the roles of Chief Official, Deputy Chief Official, Chief Judge, Competition Manager and Starter.

7.2. COMPETITION BRIEFING

- 7.2.1. A Competition Briefing will be provided, containing information about canoe sprint competitions, which should include:
- Time and place,
 - Boat Classes and Age Groups,
 - Race distance/s,
 - Start times,
 - Entry fees, and
 - Any other relevant information about the competition or venue.
- 7.2.2. The Competition Briefing will be published on the website dedicated to the competition and the document becomes a part of these rules for that national competition.

7.3. COMPETITION ADVISORY GROUP

- 7.3.1. The Competition Advisory Group (CAG) is responsible for the organisation of National Competitions and will be appointed by the PACSPTC.
- 7.3.2. The CAG will keep the PACSPTC informed as to the progress of the organisation of the competition and defer key decisions to the PACSPTC.

7.4. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

- 7.4.1. The Competition Committee will be appointed by the PACSPTC.
- 7.4.2. The Competition Committee will be kept informed as to the progress of the organisation of the competition if they are otherwise not members of the CAG.
- 7.4.3. The Competition Committee is responsible for the conduct of the competition and will approve key aspects of the competition prior to the competition commencing, such as the final schedule, competition briefing, team leaders briefing.
- 7.4.4. A member of the Competition Committee will undertake a final course inspection on the day prior to the start of competition.
- 7.4.4.1. Any alterations to the schedule, course layout, venue layout etc deemed necessary as a result of this inspection, and which may impact the delivery of the competition will be advised at the Team Leaders Meeting.
- 7.4.5. A member of the Competition Committee will conduct the Team Leaders Meeting on the day prior to the start of competition.

7.5. SAFETY

- 7.5.1. Safety is paramount at National Competitions. A Risk Management Plan will be produced for any National Competitions and be made readily available to the Competition Committee members
- 7.5.2. Medical (first aid) and on water safety will be present at National Competitions.

7.6. ANTI-DOPING

- 7.6.1. Anti-Doping testing may be conducted during competitions. Representatives from [Sport Integrity Australia](#) conduct testing. Competitors are expected to cooperate fully with their requests. Any competitor unsure of their obligations should seek clarification from their Team Leader or a Competition Committee member.

CHAPTER FOUR RACING REGULATIONS

8. RACING REGULATIONS

8.1. ENTRIES

- 8.1.1. Entries will be received via the advertised 'on-line' system for the competition.
- 8.1.2. No further entries will be received after the advertised close of entries.
- 8.1.3. A preliminary program will be posted on the website dedicated to the competition.
- 8.1.4. A final entry list will be confirmed after the Team Leaders Meeting.
- 8.1.5. K4 crew entries must be submitted no later than 1 hour prior to the advertised start time of the first race, on the day they are scheduled. Crew combinations must be sent to sprint@paddle.org.au by the nominated Team Leader.
- 8.1.6. Entries for long distance (any distance over 1000m) races will continue to be accepted during the competition, up until 60 minutes prior to the first race on the day that the race is scheduled.
- 8.1.7. Competitors must have all fees owing paid in full prior to competing in their first race at each National Competition.
 - 8.1.7.1. Should a competitor be found to have raced without having paid their fees, their results may be declared null and void. This will include any crew boat entries in which a competitor may have competed in prior to payment.

8.2. WITHDRAWALS, SCRATCHINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 8.2.1. A competitor may only withdrawal from the competition up to 48 hours before the start of the competition. Where this occurs and payment has been made, the PA Refund Policy will apply.
- 8.2.2. A competitor/s withdrawal of an entry to a Competition will be considered final and no renewed entry of the same competitor/s will be permitted.
- 8.2.3. Within 48 hours of the start of competition, a competitor may only scratch from a race/competition due to a medical episode.
 - 8.2.3.1. A medical certificate must be supplied to the Chief Official to scratch from a race or competition. Where a competitor scratches from a race, they will be considered scratched from the remainder of the competition until medically cleared to be reinstated and a medical certificate is provided to this effect.
 - 8.2.3.2. Competitors are not permitted to scratch from semi-finals or finals without the consent of the Chief Official.
 - 8.2.3.3. Where an athlete has been cleared to compete, they are not be eligible to continue in any further races (semi's/finals) if the heats for that race have been completed.
 - 8.2.3.4. A competitor who fails to properly scratch from a competition or show for their scheduled races will be deemed disqualified and the appropriate fees will be incurred.

- 8.2.4. Competitor/s may be disqualified from a race or the competition in line with ICF Competition Rules, or as prescribed within this document.
 - 8.2.4.1. Upon payment of the prescribed reinstatement fee the competitor/s may continue to participate in other races at the competition in which the competitor is entered, otherwise they shall remain disqualified for the remainder of the competition.
 - 8.2.4.2. Where a competitor is disqualified and is not present (no show), or has no other races remaining in the competition, the competitor shall not be allowed to enter a subsequent national competition unless the prescribed reinstatement fee has been paid.
 - 8.2.4.3. The reinstatement fees will be outlined in the Competition Briefing document for the competition.
- 8.2.5. At venues where Competitor/s are not able to paddle around an island to the starting area and must paddle up the course, Competitors **MUST** bring their boats to a complete stop at least 100m away from athletes who are either on the start line and/or mid-racing. Competitors must not start paddling until the entire field as a courtesy to other competitors racing.
 - 8.2.5.1. Failure to come to a complete stop may result in disqualification of the offending competitor/s from their next scheduled race.

8.3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS

- 8.3.1. Competitor/s should expect races to start on time in accordance with the published race schedule and be prepared to race at the advertised times, unless as announced during competition, competitors should expect.
- 8.3.2. Competitors should always follow the instructions of the Starter or other Officials, including instructions to move to another lane for a race and/or be requested to remove their boat number.
- 8.3.3. Competitors should advise the Starter prior to their race being called for a start that they have lost their number or do not have the correct lane number once the roll call has taken place.
- 8.3.4. Competitors are not to access the course for practice or warm up within twenty (20) minutes of the scheduled start of competition each day. Use of the course for practice or warm up during scheduled or non-scheduled breaks in the program is not permitted.
- 8.3.5. Competitors must wear the officially recognised Club, State or SIS/SAS uniform.
 - 8.3.5.1. International Competitor/s should wear their country or club uniform as appropriate, based on the permission provided to compete. International competitors who do not have their national or club uniform are required to wear a plain white racing top during competition. The top may cover an existing paddling suit.
- 8.3.6. Competitors must not congregate in their boats in the vicinity of the finish line to minimise interference to the finish line judges.

8.4. TEAM LEADERS

- 8.4.1. State Paddling Associations must advise the PACSPTC of the name and contact details, including phone and email, of their appointed Team Leader/s no later than the close of entries or fourteen days, whichever is the earliest, before the start of

competition. SPA's are able to provide Team Leader/s to represent Junior/ Senior ages groups, or a SIS / SAS if required.

- 8.4.2. Team Leader/s will represent all competitors entered from their respective State Sporting Association. It is the responsibility of the Team Leader/s to inform competitors from their State of their contact details and to relay information to all competitor/s and clubs from their respective State.
- 8.4.3. Team Leader/s are requested to bring their State's set of Boat Numbers for use by All competitors entered from their respective State. The boat numbers must be to ICF regulations.
- 8.4.4. A member of the Competition Committee will meet with the Team Leaders no later than the afternoon prior to the first day of competition. The Team Leader's meeting will cover, but is not limited to:
 - Course Details
 - Safety Details
 - Confirmation of competitors with unpaid entries
 - Program including amalgamations
 - Any other key information pertaining to the competition
- 8.4.5. Any instructions provided by the Competition Committee at the Team Leaders meeting, or during the competition form part of these rules.
- 8.4.6. Race scratches will not be accepted at the Team Leaders meeting, with the exception that a competitor is no longer attending the entire competition.
- 8.4.7. Where it is necessary for the Competition Committee and/or Jury to advise competitor/s of any matter, this will be done through the Team Leaders throughout the competition.
- 8.4.8. The Competition Committee uses technology such as WhatsApp where possible to communicate with Team Leaders during competition, though may still call Team Leader/s to the tower if deemed necessary.

8.5. SHARING CREW BOAT INSTRUCTIONS

- 8.5.1. At venues where Competitor/s are required to paddle around an island to the starting area, approval must be sought by the Team Leader from the Chief Official for competitor/s to 'paddle up the course'.
- 8.5.2. Approval will be granted, providing that there is sufficient time for the competitor/s change over to occur and to reach the start line with little disruption to the race schedule.
 - 8.5.2.1. There should be at least 5-10 minutes between the two races in which the boat is to be used (based on distance and age/ability of competitors) to suitably reach the start line in time.
 - 8.5.2.2. Where there is insufficient time or where races immediately follow each other, alternative boats must be used.
- 8.5.3. Where K4 races are scheduled back-to-back, a minimum of 10 minutes will be automatically scheduled in the program to allow for change over and paddle ups.
 - 8.5.3.1. Approval is not required in these instances; however, competitors should predetermine any seat/footplate changes needed prior to the first race so that transitions are minimal.

8.5.3.2. K4 races will be held for a maximum of 5 minutes from the scheduled start time, only where the Team Leader has notified the Competition Committee prior to the start of competition on the day of the race.

8.5.4. At venues where Competitor/s are not able to paddle around an island to the starting area and must paddle up the course, approval is not required.

8.6. PROGRAM AND CREW ALTERATIONS

8.6.1. Any alterations that are identified to the program after the Team Leaders meeting must have the approval of the Chief Official and will be communicated via the Team Leaders.

8.6.2. The composition of team boats may be altered in accordance with the current ICF rules, up until 60 minutes before the start of competition on each day. Notification of such alterations must be given in writing by the Team Leader/s to the Chief Official.

8.6.3. Crew alterations can only be made between competitors eligible to race in that age group, unless approved by the Chief Official in cases where an athlete has had to scratch due to a medical event.

8.7. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

8.7.1. For Protests, please refer to the ICF Canoe Sprint Competition Rules and ICF Paracanoe Competition Rules.

8.7.2. For Appeals, please refer to the PA Competitions Policy.

8.7.3. Protest & Appeal fees will be outlined in the Competition Briefing document for the competition.

CHAPTER FIVE

SPECIAL RULES FOR PADDLE AUSTRALIA CANOE SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS

9. AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

9.1. AGE GROUPS

- 9.1.1. Championship races will be offered from U12 and above at Championship competitions.

9.2. LONG DISTANCE RACES

- 9.2.1. Course layout for long distance race will be determined by the will be created based on the specific venue layout.
- 9.2.2. Portages will be included in the 5km distances but not 2.5km races.

9.3. MEDALS AND MEDAL CEREMONIES

- 9.3.1. Medals will be awarded as per the PA Competitions Policy.
 - 9.3.1.1. Developing categories of Paracanoe, Canoe and M/V65+ Kayak will be awarded medals to all placing athletes for the respective races regardless of the number of entrants.
- 9.3.2. Medal Ceremonies for the presentation of medals will be scheduled as soon as practicable after the completion of races, or in designated breaks.
- 9.3.3. Team Leader/s are expected to ensure that the competitor/s from their representative State are presented no later than 10 mins prior to the commencement of the medal presentations.
- 9.3.4. Competitors are expected to be present in suitable attire (Club or SIS/SAS uniforms, no hats or sunglasses)
- 9.3.5. Where competitors are not present for their designated Medal Ceremony, they will potentially forfeit the right to a medal, which will be determined at the discretion of the Competition Committee. If the Competition Committee determines that medals can be collected, this must be done prior to the start of the last race of the competition

9.4. RAJ AWARD

9.4.1. **Raj Award**

The best all-round Junior athlete competing at the Nationals.
Donated by Gerry Brayne (Former National & International Official).

Nominations for the RAJ Award can be made by any Official or Team Leader at the competition and submitted to the Chief Official no later than 10am on the last morning of competition. Nominations must outline how the nominee exemplifies the characteristics outlined below and any other information that they deem necessary.

A panel of Officials (a minimum of three, including a Competition Committee member, the Chief Starter and the Chief Boat Control Judge) will assess all nominations in

determining whom they consider the best all-round Junior athlete. Key characteristics include

- Attitude: to other competitors and officials, their coaches, AND fellow members of their team.
- Apparent dedication to the sport, the training required, and willingness to help others.
- Overall deportment which must show that an individual has pride in their appearance and encourages others to aspire to this standard.

These criteria shall be considered before the ability to win races. Winning races, without the qualities stated does not automatically qualify any Junior for consideration for this award.

The decision of the panel will be final.

10. APPENDIX 1: PA PROGRESSIONS

10.1. 9 LANE VARIATIONS

Boats	System	Heats	Semi	Finals
10-18	Plan A	2 x 9 1..4->Final + Fastest 5 th	-	A: 1 x 9
19-27	Plan B	3 x 9 1->A Final; 2..7->Semi Final	2 x 9 1..3->A Final; 4..7->B Final	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
28-36	Plan C	4 x 9 1..6->Semi-Final + 3 Next Fastest	3 x 9 1..3->A Final; 4..6->B Final	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
37-45	Plan D	5 x 9 1..5->Semi-Final + 2 Next Fastest	3 x 9 1..3->A Final; 4..6->B Final	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
	Plan D2	5 x 9 1..5->Semi-Final + 2 Next Fastest	3 x 9 1..3->FA; 4..6->FB; 7..9->FC	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9 C: 1 x 9
46-54	Plan E	6 x 9 1..4->Semi-Final + 3 Next Fastest	3 x 9 1..3->A Final; 4..6->B Final	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
55-63	Plan F	7 x 9 1..5->Semi-Final + Fastest 6 th	4 x 9 1,2->FA +Fastest 3rd; 3,4->FB +2 Fast 5 th	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
64-72	Plan G	8 x 9 1..4->Semi-Final + 4 Next Fastest	4 x 9 1,2->FA +1NF; 3,4->FB +2F5; 5,6->FC +3NF	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9 C: 1 x 9
73-81	Plan H	9 x 9 1..4->Semi-Final	4 x 9 1,2->FA +1NF; 3,4->FB +2F5; 5,6->FC +3NF	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9 C: 1 x 9