

2019 Wildwater National Championships

Official Program (4 Jan 2019)

Please note – times subject to change, updates as necessary will be posted at the Slalom Course Shelter and advised at daily Official Briefings

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Log Danger at Entrance to Lake Parangana

The major floods in 2016 and subsequent smaller flood events have changed the river course in places between the traditional Classic race finish and Lake Parangana and deposited significant logs and tree snags where the river enters the lake. These logs/snags pose a danger to paddlers and may totally obstruct the entrance to the lake, especially at lower lake levels.

In early 2018 a near drowning occurred at this point when a paddler was trapped by a log. As we have no control over, or visibility of the lake level, which can change substantially from day to day, all paddlers are strongly discouraged from paddling down to Lake Parangana.

Classic Finish Line Moved Upstream to Slalom Course.

Due to the erosion caused by significant flooding in 2016 and again through 2017 and 2018 the traditional end for the Classic Race is no longer usable as a race finish and the exit eddy is smaller and requires a higher level of skill to break-out into it safely.

Consequently, the finish for all races will be at the finish line for the Lower Slalom Course/Rapid Sprint Course, approximately 500m upstream of the traditional Classic finish point.

Competitors may exit the river at the finish pool pontoon and walk up the lower stairs to the road, or continue on to the traditional race finish if they wish.

If continuing to the traditional race finish, please note, there will be no rescue below the race finish pool and should competitors decide to use the lower exit they should wait and paddle down with other competitors for safety.

Competitors exiting at the race finish pool should note that the car park at this point is small and will be for officials use only. There is a built path connecting this small car park with the Slalom Course picnic area for use.

Rapid Sprint Course

The Mersey course provides for two Rapid Sprint options – as in 2016 the shorter, lower course will be used. The start is roughly adjacent to the steps descending from the slalom course picnic ground (i.e. – above Gemini Rocks) and finishes at the normal Rapid Sprint/ Lower Slalom Course finish.

Scrutineering

Officials will be scrutineering boats for width, length, weight, handholds and airbags. Airbags are compulsory.

Self-Scrutineering of competitors boats will be available at the slalom course shelter from Thursday 3 Jan to enable competitors to rectify any issues prior to Official Scrutineering on the first race on the Friday.

Scrutineering of PFD uplift and helmet suitability will occur at the classic race start car-park below the Rowallan Bridge prior to the Pre-Australian Classic Race start.

Random equipment scrutineering may be conducted at competitors finish each race. They must be prepared to exit at the Race finish pool to facilitate this if called upon by the scrutineer to do so.

Pre-Australian Classic Selection Race and Seeding

Previously advertised as a seeding race, this has now been designated as a Selection race for the Australian Wildwater Junior, Under 23 and Senior Teams and renamed accordingly.

The results will be used to seed the Australian Championship Classic Race and Rapid Sprints, however, as a number of competitors are seeking selection in two individual classes the race schedule will be adjusted to facilitate this necessitating a departure from strict reverse seeding for all athletes.

Competing in Multiple Classes

As has been noted by a number of competitors, there was a discrepancy between the initial Event Guide as published which did not provide for competitors to enter two individual events, and the later published Selection Policy, which did.

The race schedule has been consequently adjusted to facilitate paddlers competing in two individual events (C2 is classed as an Individual event, not a team). This has extended the time required to conduct each race and consequently the time rescue are required on water and officials in position.

We have made no judgement as to which is a competitor's preferred event. If a competitor is for example competing in both K1 and C1 and is scheduled to race C1 first then K1 later in the event schedule but wishes to reverse this order they must get prior approval no later than 13.30 (immediately following the Official Briefing) on Friday 4 January.



Boat Sharing

In consultation with Paddle Australia it has been agreed that, as these races are National Championships and selection events, competitors can reasonably be expected to have their own equipment and to not have to share.

Consequently, the organisers will not be making special provision for boat sharing beyond allowing (at the Start Officials absolute discretion) competitors the opportunity to slot into the race earlier, in a different order, to facilitate their shared boat becoming available for a later paddler, or later than their allocated start.

However, races will not be unduly delayed beyond the start time for the final paddler to accommodate boat sharing – paddlers starting out of sequence must be on the water and ready to start by the time the last scheduled paddler starts, otherwise a DNS will be recorded.

Race Bibs

Competitors will be issued a separate Bib for each class in which they are competing. It is their responsibility to ensure they are wearing the correct bib number for the class in which they are competing.

Competitors will be required to return their race bibs at the end of each race for reallocation for the next days racing (but not between runs 1 and 2 of the Rapid Sprint).

Paddlers choosing to continue downstream to the traditional Classic race finish rather than exit in the finish pool must first remove their race bib and pass it to an official.

Lost Bibs

Any lost Bibs will incur a fee of \$50. Paddle Australia will invoice the Paddler to whom the Bib was allocated.

Teams Entries

Teams entry forms will be provided at the Shelter at the slalom course. These must be completed and submitted prior to 17.00 on Friday 4 January.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that all Team members agree to be in that team.

Each Paddler may enter only ONE Team event in the Classic and ONE team event in the Rapid Sprint.

First Aid

A trained first aid officer will be available throughout competition days. They will be stationed near the slalom course (race finish or picnic shelter). They will have access to a fully stocked first aid kit and be in radio contact with other officials.



Competitors and supporters are reminded that they are responsible for their own minor first aid – minor cuts, abrasions, insect bites, etc and should come suitably equipped – official first aid will only be provided for more serious injuries.

In the unlikely event that an Ambulance is required, the First Aider will call an Ambulance via Satellite phone. As not all states have reciprocal agreements regarding Ambulance costs you are encouraged to have appropriate travel or other medical insurance that covers any such fees.

Rubbish

Note: there are no rubbish facilities in the Mersey Regional Forest Reserve – anything you bring in you must take out. Please come equipped with your own garbage bags for this purpose. Officials will not be collecting other people's rubbish.

Farewell Barbecue

Rapid Sprint medal presentations will be conducted at Arm River Camp on the Sunday afternoon along with a free barbecue (BYO drinks).



Race Schedule – note times subject to change

Wed 2 Jan	<p><u>Water on 10.00 – 16.00</u></p> <p>Open Practice – <u>no rescue on course</u></p>
Thur 3 Jan	<p><u>Water on 8.00 – 17.00</u></p> <p>Open Practice – <u>no rescue on course</u></p> <p>Scrutineering scales and measures available for self-scrutineering at Slalom Course Shelter from 14.00.</p>
Fri 4 Jan	<p><u>Water on 9.00 – 16.00</u></p> <p>9.00-13.00 - Open Practice – <u>no rescue on course</u></p> <p>10.00 – Start List posted at Slalom Course Shelter</p> <p>10.00-13.00 - Official Boat Scrutineering at Slalom Course Shelter (Weight, Length, Width, Airbags, Handholds etc)</p> <p>13.00 - Competitor Briefing and Bib Issue at slalom course upper picnic/parking area.</p> <p>13.30-14.30 - PFD and Helmet Scrutineering at top car-park – near Classic Race Start (prior to competitor getting on for Pre-Australian Classic Selection Race)</p> <p>14.15 - Officials and rescue in place for race start.</p> <p>14.30 – Pre-Australian Classic Selection Race</p> <p>16.30 – Results posted at Slalom Course shelter</p> <p>17.00 - Start List for National Championships Classic Race posted at Slalom Course Shelter</p> <p>17.00 – Team Entries Closed (Classic and Rapid Sprint)</p>

Rescue: In all practice sessions competitors are responsible for their own on-water safety including paddling in groups, knowing how to self-rescue and how to assist other paddlers in should they require it. Rescue will be in place at strategic points on-water and throw-bagging from land during race sessions. However, outside these rescue points paddlers must take responsibility for self-rescue and assisting other paddlers should they require it. Further safety instruction will be provided at the Competitor Briefings.



Sat 5 Jan	<p><u>Water on 8.00 – 16.00</u></p> <p>8.30 – Officials/Volunteers/Safety Briefing at Slalom Course at slalom course picnic site</p> <p>9.00 – Competitor Briefing and Bib Allocation, at slalom course picnic site</p> <p>9.45 - All officials in place and rescue on water and moving to rescue spots</p> <p>10.15 - WW Classic Race – National Championships</p> <p>14.00 - WW Classic Teams Race – National Championships</p> <p>15.30 - Presentation of Classic Medals at slalom course picnic area</p> <p>16.00 - Competitor Briefing for Rapid Sprint</p>
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Sun 6 Jan	<p><u>Water on 8.00 – 16.00</u></p> <p>8.30 – Officials/Volunteers/Safety Briefing at Slalom Course at slalom course picnic site</p> <p>9.15 - All officials and rescue in place</p> <p>9.30 - Rapid Sprint Run 1</p> <p>11.00 - Rapid Sprint Run 2</p> <p>12.45 - Rapid Sprint Teams - one run only. 2 Min intervals</p> <p>13.30 - Free BBQ and Rapid Sprint Presentations, at Arm River Camp</p>
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ADDENDUM:

ICF Boat Specifications:

K1 – Max Length: 4.50m Min Width: 0.60m Min Weight: 10Kg

C1 – Max Length: 4.30m Min Width: 0.70m Min Weight: 11kg

C2 – Max Length: 5.00m Min Width 0.80m Min Weight: 17kg

Weight is the DRY weight of the boat. Airbags are taken to be part of the boat. The spray deck is considered an accessory and not part of the boat

In addition to the ICF rules above, all boats must be free from sharp edges which may endanger rescue personnel, and have adequate hand loops at each end to facilitate rescue.

PFD, Helmet and Footwear requirements:

PFDs must be in good repair, of appropriate design for canoe/kayak racing, and have an uplift buoyancy sufficient to float 6.12kg weight.

Inflatable lifejackets/vests or yokes are not permitted.

Helmets must be of a suitable design for canoe/kayak and be in good repair.

Competitors must wear shoes/booties on their feet with a thicker sole to protect the feet in case of capsize and exit. They must fit in such a way that they will not come off in a capsize and exit.

Variations from the ICF Rules:

The organising committee reserves the right to vary the event conduct where strict compliance with the ICF rules are impractical and where such change does not disadvantage any particular class of paddler.

For example – the requirement for a hand-held start or a standing start may be waived if, due to the nature of the river, and/or the river bank, a hand held or standing start position is impractical.