

NSW CANOEING INC – MARATHON COMMITTEE
DIVISIONAL RACING RULES 2008

The format for the 2008 NSWCI Marathon 10 Series shall continue to be Divisional Racing, with a few amendments to last year's rules. Please take the time to become familiar with the rules, because the changes are important.

Membership cards will continue to be checked this year, so please make sure you bring them along to registration! Your membership card is essential for your first race at least.

2008 is a 10 race series, with all results and a minimum of 5 counting for the prize pool.

1. There will be 9 Divisions. Rankings are based on speed, NOT boat type, or paddler age/gender. Non-competitive paddlers must participate in Division 9.
2. Re-ranking will be by the following manner:
 - a. The median time for each Division will be determined at each race
 - b. Paddlers whose time is faster than the median for the next higher division will be re-ranked to the higher division.
 - c. Paddlers whose time is slower than the median for the next lower division will be re-ranked to the lower division

This will allow for consistent and unbiased re-ranking regardless of the time-slot guidelines, and takes into account conditions on the day, and the overall speed of the whole field.

3. Course distances shall be set as follows:
 - a. Divisions 1,2,3,4,5,6 = 20km
 - b. Divisions 7 & 8 = 15km
 - c. Division 9 = 10km

Host Clubs must ensure their course distances are accurate and within 1% of the specified distance.

4. Every paddler's FIRST race for the season (regardless of which race that happens to be) will be used to determine their ranking for the next race. No points will be awarded for any paddler's first race.
5. The following table represents the approximate "Time Slot" for each Division (speeds in brackets are approximate).

Division	Time to paddle 10km	Time to paddle 15km	Time to paddle 20km
1	n/a	n/a	< 1:40 (= >12kph)
2	n/a	n/a	1:40~1:45 (=11.5~12kph)
3	n/a	n/a	1:45~1:50 (=11~11.5kph)
4	n/a	n/a	1:50~1:55 (=10.5~11kph)
5	n/a	n/a	1:55~2.00 (=10.0~10.5kph)
6	n/a	n/a	> 2.00 (= <10.0kph)
7	n/a	< 1:25 (= >10.5kph)	n/a
8	n/a	> 1:25 (= < 10.5kph)	n/a
9	>1:00 (= <10kph) Plus all non-competitive paddlers	n/a	n/a

6. Re-ranking (up or down) shall be at the sole discretion of the Marathon Committee and will be assessed as per Rule 2.
7. Appeals against re-ranking must be made to the Committee prior to the next race after any re-ranking results are published. Appeals can be made in any form, ie, email, phone, etc.

8. The 10km & 15km distances are available to any competitive paddler who legitimately cannot manage the greater distance, eg, juniors, vets, novices. Promotion will not take place automatically from Div 9 to Div 8 or from Div 7 to Div 6 if the paddler does not wish to compete over the greater distance. However, disqualification may occur if paddlers are considered to be unfairly using the shorter distance to accumulate points when they are perfectly capable of paddling the greater distance.
9. Paddlers ranked in any 15km or 20km division must continue to paddle those distances throughout the season. If they choose to paddle a shorter distance (due to illness or injury for example) after having previously entered a 15km or 20km division, they will be deemed to be non-competitive for that race and no points shall be awarded.
10. Starting orders shall be in Divisional order, ie, Div1, Div2, Div3, Div4, Div5, Div6, Div7, Div8, Div9. In other words, every division shall have its own separate start. Starting intervals should be no greater than 2 minutes.

Starts may be combined (depending on numbers) at the discretion of the Host Club. Divisions 1, 2, & 3 must NEVER be combined. Starting order may be changed at the discretion of the Host Club.

11. Points shall be awarded as per the following system (pay attention because it's completely different from previous years!):
 - a. Every boat's race time shall be ranked fastest to slowest in each Division
 - b. The fastest boat in each division receives 50 points
 - c. The second fastest boat in each division receives 49 points
 - d. Third receives 48 points, etc, etc
12. Individual paddlers receive the points in team boats. Eg, if a double comes 8th, each paddler receives 43 points.
13. All paddler's points shall be retained and carried through regardless of re-ranking or whether in singles, doubles, or quads. The rationale behind this change in point scoring system is to differentiate between each & every paddler, thereby creating competition throughout the entire field and across the divisions.
14. Team boats may compete at any time. Any K4 shall automatically compete in Division 1 regardless of the ranking of the individual paddlers in the crew.
15. Doubles teams must compete in at least the next higher division of the highest ranked paddler.

(Basically, it is very difficult to prevent individuals from paddling a double once or twice to maximise their individual points. Any alteration of the points system to dissuade this will also be a disadvantage to regular doubles paddlers. We rely on paddler's sense of fair play and "spirit of the game" in their actions).

16. Boats in each division shall earn points for their Club towards the Club Trophy as follows:

1 st Place	8 Club points
2 nd Place (only if from another Club)	6 Club points
3 rd Place (only if from another Club)	4 Club points
4 th Place (only if from another Club)	2 Club points

Doubles paddlers from the same Club only receive one set of points. Doubles paddlers from different clubs receive points for each Club.

This system worked very well last year, and provided a very close and hotly contested competition for the Club Trophy.

17. Results from all 10 races will be used to determine eligibility for prizes. Prizes shall be awarded at the end of the Season as follows:
 - Highest points overall
 - Highest points in each Division
 - Highest points in each Division per gender/age (Open, Vet65, Juniors; male & female)
 - Most improved paddler in each Division (other than placegetters)
 - Highest accumulated Club Points for the Club Trophy

There may also be lucky draw prizes at each race drawn from the boat numbers allocated on the day. Entrants must be present to claim these prizes.

18. Paddlers must have completed at least 5 races to be considered for the End of Season prizes.

19. The Series Presentation will take place at a date and venue to be advised.

The Marathon Committee hope you enjoy the 2008 Marathon 10 Series. GOOD LUCK and HAPPY PADDLING!!!