
2019 Carbonology Sport Harbour Series Rules

Overview

1. The '2019 Carbonology Sport Harbour Series presented by PaddleNSW' comprises a series of 7x races, each with two distance options, organized by the PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Committee and delivered by PaddleNSW affiliated clubs.
2. The objective of the Carbonology Sport Harbour Series is to provide a series of races that enable paddlers to progress to more exposed open water paddling events
3. The series is open to all paddlecraft including:
 - Ocean Racing Skis
 - SLSA 'Spec' Skis
 - Outrigger Canoes and Vaa
 - Sea Kayaks
 - Stand-Up Paddleboards

Race Entry

4. All participants in the Carbonology Sport Harbour Series must be members of PaddleNSW. For paddlers intending to race the whole series, full PNSW membership is by far the cheapest option. For those who only wish to partake in one or two events, a guest membership (day licence) is available, offering membership of PaddleNSW just for the day of the event. This membership option is \$20.00 per event. Links to the membership registration sites are outlined on the on-line entry process.
5. All entries are on-line, through webscorer. All entry information is available on the PaddleNSW website at <https://paddlensw.org.au/paddlesports/harbour-racing>
6. Entry fees for PNSW members are \$45.00 and entries will close at midnight on the Thursday evening prior to the event. A \$10.00 discount will be offered for entries prior to midnight on the Tuesday prior to the event.

Course Options

7. Races distances will vary, with the average long course distance being around 15km, and short course distances around 10km
8. Paddlers should choose their course distance based on their level of experience, and their expected paddling speed. Any paddler who cannot paddle faster than 8.5km/hr for the long course distance event should enter the short course distance. SUP's may only enter the short course event

Race Classes

9. The following classes with female and male gender divisions (except doubles) will be awarded series trophies at the final event
 - Surf and Spec skis: U19, Open, 40 – 49, 50 – 59, 60+, Doubles
 - Other Classes: OC1 (Incl Va'a), OC2, Sea Kayak, SUP

10. For a trophy to be awarded, a minimum of 3x competitors must have completed the minimum 5x races to qualify for a series pointscore
11. Where a women's race category is not constituted, higher age classes may be combined down by the committee in order to achieve the required number of paddlers.

Race Cancellation and Postponement

12. Where forecast weather conditions published on the day prior to the race indicate a wind strength greater than 18kts, the committee may decide to reschedule the race to a later date. In this case, announcements will be broadcast on PaddleNSW and Surfski Australia Facebook pages, and via email notification directly to all entrants, by midday on the day prior.
13. Where a race is cancelled on the day of the event, every effort will be made to reschedule the race to a later date, and entries will be transferred to the new date. Where circumstances do not allow this, the race will not be rescheduled and entry fees will be forfeited.

Compulsory Equipment

14. All paddlers, no matter what craft is used, must wear a Level 50 or 50S non-inflatable lifejacket that conforms with Australian standards
15. All Ski and SUP paddlers must wear leg leashes. Ski paddlers must expect to wear leashes but may possibly be given an exemption by the race director on the day based on conditions.
16. Non-compliance with conditions 14 & 15 above will lead to instant disqualification from the race and the remainder of the series.

Event Registration and Race Numbers

17. All paddlers must sign on at the race registration desk, between 7.00am and 8.00am on the day of the event.
18. Paddlers doing their first event of the series will collect their race number panels at registration.
19. All craft will be required to affix 2x race number panels, one on either side of their craft, with the number on a vertical surface, (not the top of the craft). A sample craft will be on display at registration.
20. The number panels are individually printed and not able to be reprinted. They must remain affixed to the craft for the whole series. Other number panels should be removed or covered over to avoid confusion. Paddlers who change craft during the series will have to apply for a new number at registration.

Race Briefing

21. The race briefing will be held at 8.00am, adjacent to the race registration area. Course details, safety requirements and starting/finishing procedures will be provided at this meeting, and as every event is different, attendance is compulsory for all paddlers.

Starts

22. The start line will be between two large inflatable buoys. Paddlers are required to stay behind the buoys until called to the start by the race starter. The start boat will proceed along the start line prior to the start, and require paddlers to reverse if they cross the line prior to the start.
23. Unless advised otherwise at the race briefing, there will be 3x starts. Starts will commence at 8.30am. Doubles and team craft (OC6's) will start first, then long course singles then all short course craft.
24. Each start will be signalled by the blast of an air horn.
25. The start will be videod, and paddlers breaking the start will suffer a 2-minute time penalty.

On Water Etiquette

26. Paddlers should check either side for other craft when approaching turns, and must allow room for other craft that may be wash-riding or paddling alongside through the turn.
27. All competitors must give way to other waterways users during the event, especially sailing craft and powered vessels. If approaching another vessel, keep to the RIGHT, or pass behind that vessel. DO NOT TRY TO CROSS IN FRONT OF A POWERED VESSEL.
28. All paddlers are required to render assistance to another paddler who has capsized. The nearest paddler must remain with the capsized person until they either remount, or a safety boat has attended.

Race Finishes and Points

29. The finish line will be indicated at the race briefing, and all paddlers must cross between the finish line flags in order to have their time recorded.
30. Any paddler who dnf's must inform the timing staff at the race finish line, and not pass through the finish flags.
31. Paddlers are not permitted to change their race distance after they have entered the event. Paddlers who decide to change their race distance at the event will either be disqualified or dnf'd.
32. Series winners will be determined by the sum of a paddlers best 5 results.
33. Doubles paddlers will accumulate individual points irrespective of the combination.
34. Short course and long course points are not transferrable.
35. Doubles points are not transferrable to singles categories.

Disqualification

36. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship.
37. Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honorable means, or who breaks racing regulations will be disqualified for the duration of the race concerned, and may incur further penalty at the discretion of The Committee.
38. Physical violence will result in immediate disqualification for the duration of the race, and referral to the Committee (and PaddleNSW if deemed appropriate) regarding disciplinary action and eligibility for future races. All participants should be aware that physical violence is also a matter for common/criminal law and will be dealt with accordingly, in addition to any action taken by the Committee or PaddleNSW.

Interpretation of Rules

39. The intention of the above Rules is to provide a fair and enjoyable competitive environment for all paddlers. For any situation the decision of the PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Committee shall remain final.

Code of Conduct

40. PaddleNSW has adopted Paddle Australia's [Member Protection Policy](#). The policy contains a [General Code of Conduct](#) and additional requirements for athletes, officials, participants, volunteers, instructors, coaches, parents and spectators. Anyone attending a Carbonology Sport harbour Series event should be aware of his or her responsibilities within the Codes of Conduct.

Club Championship (2020 onwards)

41. The two highest placed boats from each club in each category will earn points toward the club trophy.
42. Doubles paddlers must nominate one club they wish their points to go towards. Doubles craft are entitled to one club point as is a singles craft.