

2021 PaddleNSW Harbour Series Rules

Overview

1. The 2021 PaddleNSW Harbour Series will be comprised of 4 races organised by the PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Committee and delivered by PaddleNSW affiliated clubs.
2. The objective of the PNSW Harbour Series is to provide a series of races in more protected waters that will provide for close and exciting racing, some potentially challenging conditions, and a pathway for those paddlers wanting to progress to more exposed open water paddling events.
3. The series is open to all paddlecraft including:
 - Skis – (Ocean Racing Skis and SLSA ‘Spec’ Skis)
 - Outrigger Canoes and Va’a
 - Sea Kayaks (with sealed compartments)
 - Stand-Up Paddleboards

Race Entry

4. All participants in the PNSW Harbour Series must be members of PaddleNSW. For paddlers intending to race the whole series, full PNSW membership is by far the best 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. Links to the membership registration sites are outlined on the on-line entry process.
5. All entries must be completed on-line, through Go Membership. There will be no facility for entry on the day of the race. Event and entry information will be provided on the PaddleNSW website at <https://paddlensw.org.au/paddlesports/harbour-racing>
6. Early Bird Entry (\$10:00 discount) is available until midnight on the Tuesday before the day of the race. All Entries will close at midnight on the Thursday before the day of the race.

Course Options

7. There will be two course options offered at each event; Long Course and Short Course. The average long course distance is approx 15km, and short course distance is approx 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 Categories

- 9 The following categories will be available to enter:
 - Single Ski: Male/Female - U19, Open (19-39), 40 – 49, 50 – 59, 60+
 - SLSA U19 spec ski..
 - Double Ski: U19, Open (19-39), 40 – 49, 50 – 59, 60+
 - Single Outrigger: Male/Female - U19, All Age
 - Double Outrigger: U19, All Age
 - Sea Kayak: U19, All Age
 - SUP : Male/Female - U19, All Age

Series Trophies:

Points will be awarded to boats based upon their finishing position within their entered category.

The boat finishing first will be awarded 100 points, second 99 points, third 98 points, etc.

Points will be accumulated within the entered categories, with a boat's best 4 results counting towards that boats Series total.

Where there are at least 3 or more boats having competed within a category, and each having completed at least 3 races, a trophy will be awarded to the boat with the highest pointscore in that category at the end of the Series.

Points are not transferrable between Categories or Distances.

Race Cancellation and Postponement

10 Safety is the prime consideration for Race Management. The triggering condition for a Race Committee review will be wind forecasts predicting wind strength on the course above 18 knots, not including gusts (as at 14:00 the day prior). The BOM *District and Marine Forecast* shall be the primary source, however the Race Committee reserves the right to use other forecasts as it sees fit to as closely as possible determine the likely conditions locally on the day.

If, after taking into account all other factors such as wind direction, water and air temperature, the Race Committee deems conditions to be hazardous to the "average paddler", it may decide to reschedule the race to a later date (the Reserve Date).

In the event of rescheduling, announcements will be posted on the PaddleNSW website, some social media pages, and via email notification (to the email provided on race entry) directly to all entrants by 16:00 on the day prior or as soon as possible thereafter.

11 Where a race is cancelled on the day of the event due to unforeseen circumstances, every effort will be made to reschedule the race to a later date (the Reserve Date), with entries transferred to that new date.

12 The Reserve Date for rescheduled events is Sunday 18th July 2021.

Compulsory Equipment

13 All paddlers must wear a Level 50 or 50S non-inflatable lifejacket that conforms with Australian Standards.

14 One paddler of every Ski or SUP must wear a leg leash at EVERY event. Paddle leashes or use of both paddle leash and leg leash together are not permitted for Ski paddlers.

15 All kayak paddlers are advised to wear a spray-skirt and use a paddle leash. Kayaks must have bulkheads and sealed compartments to provide buoyancy.

16 Paddlers must enter the water through an entry gate (two teardrop flags) where compulsory equipment and boat numbers will be checked. Failure to enter through the designated entry gates will result in a DNS (did not start) being applied

- 17 **Equipment will be visually checked again as paddlers cross the finish line.**
18. **Non-compliance with conditions 13-15 & 17 above will result in instant disqualification (DSQ) from the race and possibly also from the remainder of the series (at the sole discretion of the PaddleNSW Harbour Series Committee).**

Event Registration and Race Numbers

19. All paddlers must Check-In at the race registration desk, between 7.00am and 8.00am on the day of the event.
20. Paddlers doing their first event of the Series will collect their race number stickers at registration.
21. All craft will be required to affix 2x race number stickers, one on either side of their craft, with the number on a vertical surface, (not the top of the craft). It is to your advantage to make your number visible to the finish line staff, so the number must be able to be read from a distance.
22. 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

23. Under current Covid19 protocols, there will be no live briefing at registration. Paddlers are to make themselves fluent with the race details by reading the race briefing document sent to them before the event. Course details, safety requirements and starting/finishing procedures will be included. As every event is different, all paddlers are required to read this document.

Starts

24. The start line will be indicated in the race briefing notes. It will usually be between the inflatable chequered buoys which are also used for the finish line. Paddlers are required to stay 50m behind the buoys until their race has been called to the start. Any paddler who crosses the start line before the race has officially been started will incur a 2-minute time penalty.
25. Unless advised otherwise at the race briefing document, there will be 3 (three) starts. Starts will commence at 8.30am. Doubles and team craft (OC6's etc) will start first, then Long Course Singles up to 3 minutes later and then all Short Course craft up to 3 minutes later again..
26. A green flag will be raised 2 (two) minutes prior to each start. Paddlers are required to form into a line 50m from the start line. When the line is formed, a red flag will be raised and paddlers will move forward toward the orange buoys but will not cross the start line.
27. Each start will be signaled by the blast of an air horn or siren and dropping of the red flag.

On Water Etiquette

28. 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.

29. 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.
30. 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 until a safety boat has attended. Time lost while rendering assistance may be reinstated based on evidence provided.

Race Finishes

31. The finish line will be indicated in the race briefing notes, and all paddlers must cross between the finish line chequered buoys in order to have their time recorded.
32. Any paddler who withdraws from a race after the start and exits the course without finishing (DNF) must inform the Timekeepers or Race Officials at the race finish line, and must not pass through the finish gate.
33. Paddlers are not permitted to change their race distance after they have started the race. Paddlers who wish to change their race distance must seek approval from the Timekeepers or Race Officials at registration.

Disqualification

34. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship.
35. Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honorable means, or who breaks racing regulations will be Disqualified (DSQ) for the duration of the race concerned and may incur further penalty at the discretion of The Committee.
36. Physical violence will result in immediate disqualification for the duration of the race, and referral to the Committee (and PaddleNSW disciplinary committee 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

37. 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

38 By entering the race(s) all competitors agree to be bound by the Paddle Australia *Code of Behaviour Policy (2016)* (<https://paddle.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/20160620-POL-Code-of-Behaviour-Policy.pdf>) and *Member Protection Policy (2016)* (<https://paddle.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/20160618-POL-Member-Protection-Policy.pdf>). Any competitor found to have breached these Policies, as determined by the Harbour Racing Series Committee, will be disqualified from further participation in the Series for that season.

39 In accordance with clause 34, all competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship. Any competitor

who attempts to win a race by any other than honorable means, or who breaks racing regulations will be Disqualified (DSQ) for the race concerned and may incur further penalty at the discretion of The Harbour Racing Series Committee.

Club Championship (2020 onwards)

40 The two highest placed boats from each club in each category will earn points toward the Club Trophy. For points to be awarded to a Club, paddlers must identify the Club that they wish their points to be awarded to at the time of completing their entry.

41 Doubles and Team boats must select the same Club.