

Harbour Racing

2022 Series Rules (V9 June 2022)

Overview

1. The 2022 PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Series (HRS) will comprise of 6 races organised by the PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Committee (the HR Committee) and delivered by PaddleNSW affiliated clubs.
2. The objective of PNSW Harbour Racing 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 Racing 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 and prefer to forgo the PNSW 24/7 Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance protection whilst training, a Single-Event Membership is available at the time of event registration, offering membership of PaddleNSW for just the single event.
5. All entries must be completed on-line, through JustGo, the Paddle Australia Membership and Event registration system. There will be no facility for entry on the day of the race.
6. ALL paddlers must complete the event registration (*BOTH paddlers in Doubles craft*)
Event and entry information will be provided on the PaddleNSW website at <https://paddlensw.org.au/paddlesports/harbour-racing>
7. Early Bird Entry (\$10 discount) is available until midnight on the Monday before the day of the race. All Entries will close at midnight on the Wednesday before the day of the race.

Course Options

8. There will be two course options offered at each event; Long Course and Short Course. The Long Course distance is approx. 15km, and Short Course distance is approx. 10km
9. SUP's may only enter the Short Course event.

Race Divisions

10. The following Divisions will be available to enter:

- **Division 1 – Open Long Course (approx. 15km):** for paddlers who are able to maintain a consistent pace through the long course of 6min 30sec per km or faster (>~9.5kmh)
- **Division 2 – Intermediate Long Course (approx. 15km):** for paddlers who are able to maintain a steady pace no less than 8min per km (>~7.5kmh)
- **Division 3 - Short Course (approx. 10km)** – for all craft other than SUP
- **Division 4 - Short Course SUP (approx. 10km)**

11. In the interests of fairness to all participants, the HR Committee will review the results after each race and will advise any paddler who should enter a different Division in their next race. The HR Committee will review the actual Median times for Div 1 and 2 listed below, and, if appropriate, adjust these parameters to ensure they reflect the actual race results and are fair for all paddlers.

- a. Division 1 paddlers who have a pace slower than the Division 1 Median time +15% will be reclassified to Division 2 for the next race of the Series.
- b. Division 2 paddlers who achieve a pace faster than 13% of the Division 2 Median time will be reclassified to 1 for the next race of the Series.

Series Point Score & Prizes

12. Points will be awarded to boats based upon their finishing position within their entered Division and, where applicable, Age Category:

- a. Division 1, 2 and 3: –
 - i. Single Ski - U18, Open (19-39), 40 – 49, 50 – 59, 60+, 70+
The last year a paddler can compete in the U18 Age Group is the year of their 18th birthday.
 - ii. Double Ski – all ages
 - iii. OC1 – all ages
 - iv. OC2 – all ages
 - v. OC6 / Dragon Boat – all ages
 - vi. Other Craft – all ages
- b. Division 4 (SUP) – all ages

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

14. Points will be accumulated within the Categories, within the Divisions over the Series, with a boat's best 4 results counting towards that boat's Series total.

15. Where a paddler chooses to paddle in different Categories or Divisions, Points are not transferrable between Categories or Divisions.

If a paddler is reassigned from Division 1 to 2 (as per Rule 11) gains no advantage, they will take their points with them. If necessary, the HR Committee will consider a manual adjustment to the points. This will ensure a paddler does not gain a points advantage over the existing paddlers in the Category.

16. Paddlers must have competed in at least 3 races to be eligible for a Series Prize.
17. Series Results: a prize (HR branded merchandise) will be awarded at the final race of the Series to:
 - a. The eligible male and female Single Ski paddler with the highest point scores in each Age Category in Divisions 1, 2 and 3
 - b. The eligible Double Ski team with the highest point scores in Divisions 1, 2 and 3
 - c. The eligible male and female OC1 paddler with the highest point scores in Divisions 1, 2 and 3
 - d. The eligible OC2 and OC6 / Dragon Boat team with the highest point scores in Divisions 1, 2 and 3
 - e. The eligible male and female Other Craft paddler with the highest point scores in Divisions 1, 2 and 3
 - f. The eligible male and female SUP paddlers with the highest point scores in Division 4

Race Cancellation and Postponement

18. 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 16:00 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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, with entries transferred to that new date.
22. The Reserve Date for rescheduled events will be determined by the HR Committee in consultation with the Host Club and the PNSW Event Coordinator.

Compulsory Equipment

23. **All paddlers must wear a Level 50 or 50S non-inflatable lifejacket that conforms to Australian Standards.**
24. **One paddler of every Ski, Outrigger Canoe, Va'a 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.
25. **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.**

26. **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.
27. **Equipment will be visually checked again as paddlers cross the finish line.**
28. **Non-compliance with conditions 23-25 and 27 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 HR Committee).

Event Registration and Race Numbers

29. All paddlers in the 2022 series will receive a new race number. Paddlers will use the same number for the entire series.
30. All paddlers must Check-In at the race registration desk, between 7.00am and 8.15am on the day of the event.
31. Paddlers doing their first event of the Series will collect their race number stickers at registration.
32. Entrants (excluding SUPs) will receive 2 race number stickers, one for each side of the front of the boat. The stickers should be applied to 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.
33. 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 need to apply for a new number at registration.

Race Briefing

34. 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 the Briefing.
35. Host Clubs may, at their discretion, provide a digital race briefing or course map.
36. When COVID 19 protocols permit, an on-site race briefing will be held at 07:50 (max 10 mins). This will include recognition of traditional owners.

Starts

37. The start line will be indicated in the race briefing notes. Some races may start the race between the inflatable chequered buoys which are also used for the finish line. Paddlers are required to stay 50m behind the buoys until the 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.
38. Unless advised otherwise in the race briefing document, there will be 3 (three) starts.
 - 8:25am Division 1 – Open Long Course (Wave 1)
 - 8:27am Division 2 – Intermediate Long Course (Wave 2)
 - 8:30am Divisions 3 & 4 - Short Course (Inc SUP) (Wave 3)

39. The Race Starter will:

- i. Hold up a Wave Number card (1, 2, 3) to indicate the which wave is about to start
- ii. Raise a green flag giving the paddlers in that wave a 1-minute warning to come up to (but not cross) the start line

40. Race Start will be signaled by the dropping of the green flag and a single blast of an air horn.

On Water Etiquette

41. 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.
42. 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.
43. 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 until a safety boat has attended. Time lost while rendering assistance may be reinstated based on evidence provided.
44. If Race Director or any of the safety boats wave a red flag, the race has been stopped and paddlers must follow the direction of the Race Officials / Safety boat crew.

Race Finishes

45. 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.
46. 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.
47. 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

48. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship.
49. 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 HR Committee.
50. Physical violence will result in immediate disqualification for the duration of the race, and referral to the HR 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 HR Committee or PaddleNSW.

Interpretation of Rules

51. 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 HR Committee shall remain final.

Code of Conduct

52. 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 the *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 HR Committee, will be disqualified from further participation in the Series for that season.

Club Championship and The PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Club Trophy

53. The two (2) highest placed boats from each Club, in each Division, shall earn points for their Club towards The PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Club Trophy. Points will be awarded based on finishing position within the Division, on the same scale as Individual points are awarded (100 points for first place, 99 for second, 98 for third, etc.). Where a Club is represented by more than 2 boats in any Division, only the two highest placed boats will earn points. Where a Club is represented by only one boat in any Division, that boat will earn points based on final placing.
54. Ski Doubles, OC2, OC6 / Dragon Boat paddlers from the same Club only receive one set of Club points. Doubles, OC2, OC6 / Dragon Boat paddlers from different clubs must nominate one Club to receive any points.

For more information contact harbour.racing@paddlensw.org.au