

Harbour Racing

2024 Series Rules (V1.1 March 2024)

Overview

1. The 2024 PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Series (HRS) will comprise of 5 races organised by the PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Committee (the HR Committee) and delivered by PaddleNSW (PNSW) 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 the Webscorer event registration system. There will be no facility for entry on the day of the race.
6. ALL paddlers must complete an individual 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 6pm on the Thursday 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.

Post Race Presentation

10. The Host Club will hold a post-race presentation.
11. Race Medal winners will be determined at the discretion of PNSW and the Host Club. Typically, a medal will be awarded to the fastest paddler where there is a Constituted Class.
12. PNSW and/or the Host Club may, at their discretion, present additional race prizes.

Series Point Score & Prizes

13. Points will be awarded to boats based upon their finishing position within their entered Course Option and, where applicable, Age Category:
 - a. Long and Short Course (excluding SUP):
 - 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. Short Course - SUP: all ages
14. The boat finishing first will be awarded 100 points, second 99 points, third 98 points, etc.
15. Points will be accumulated within the Categories, within the Course Options over the Series, with a boat's best 3 results counting towards that boat's Series total.
16. Where a paddler chooses to paddle in different Categories or Course Options, Points are not transferrable between Categories or Course Options.
17. **Paddlers must have competed in at least 4 races to be eligible for a Series Prize.**
18. Series Results: a prize (typically HR branded merchandise) will be awarded at the final race of the Series to:
 - a. Long and Short Course (excluding SUP):
 - i. The eligible male and female Single Ski paddler with the highest point scores in each Age Category
 - ii. The eligible Double Ski teams with the highest point scores
 - iii. The eligible male and female OC1 paddler with the highest point scores
 - iv. The eligible OC2 and OC6 / Dragon Boat team with the highest point scores
 - v. The eligible male and female Other Craft paddler with the highest point
 - b. Short Course – SUP: The eligible male and female SUP paddlers with the highest point scores
19. Paddlers who participate in all races in the Series will be acknowledged at the Presentation at the final race and will receive a digital Certificate of Achievement from PNSW.
20. The HR Committee and/or the Host Club may, at their discretion, present additional Series prizes.

Race Cancellation and Postponement

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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

26. **All paddlers must wear a Level 50 or 50S non-inflatable lifejacket that conforms to Australian Standards.**
27. **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.
28. **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.**
29. **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.
30. **Equipment will be visually checked again as paddlers cross the finish line.**
31. **Non-compliance with conditions 26-28 and 30 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

32. From 2023
 - a. The HR Series will no longer use race number stickers. Old HR race stickers should be removed from your craft prior to competing in the current Series.
 - b. Paddlers will receive a Race Number Card at check-in for use at that race only.

33. The Race Number Card should be firmly affixed to the top surface at the rear of your craft. It must be easily visible to the Timekeepers and Race Officials.
34. **Paddlers need to supply their own race number holder.**
35. Paddlers **MUST RETURN** the Race Number Card as soon as they complete the race to the registration desk.

Race Briefing

36. 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.
37. Host Clubs may, at their discretion, provide a digital race briefing or course map.
38. An on-site race briefing will be held at 07:50 (max 10 mins). This will include recognition of traditional owners.

Starts

39. 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.
40. The HR Committee reserves the right to change the start order, waves and times at its discretion.
41. Unless advised otherwise in the race briefing document, there will be 3 (three) start waves.
 - 8:25am Wave 1 – Long Course:
 - Female 50+ and older
 - Male 60+ and older
 - All Juniors
 - All OC1 & 2, and Sea Kayak
 - 8:35am Wave 2 – Long Course:
 - Female Open & 40+
 - Male Open, 40+, & 50+
 - All Double Skis
 - 8:38am Wave 3 – Short Course:
 - All craft, all ages (including SUP)
42. Fast Wave 1 paddlers may, at the discretion of the HR Committee, be granted an exception to start in Wave 2. This will be granted based on the paddler's previous HR race times which must be competitive with Wave 2 times.
43. The Race Starter will:
 - i. Call the paddlers in the wave to make their way towards the start line

- 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
- iii. Signal race start by the dropping of the green flag and a single blast of an air horn.

On Water Etiquette

- 44. 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.
- 45. 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.
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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

- 48. 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.
- 49. 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.
- 50. 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

- 51. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship.
- 52. 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.
- 53. 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

54. 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

55. 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

56. The two (2) highest placed boats from each Affiliated or Partner Club, in the Long Course, Short Course and Short Course – SUP, shall earn points for their Club towards The PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Club Trophy. Points will be awarded based on finishing position within the Course Option, 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 Course Option, only the two highest placed boats will earn points. Where a Club is represented by only one boat in any Course Option, that boat will earn points based on final placing.
57. Ski Doubles, OC2, OC6 / Dragon Boat paddlers from the same Affiliated or Partner 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.

Entry Fees

58. The entry fees for each race in the 2024 PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Series shall be as follows:

Individual / Team	Age	Early Bird	Standard	Paddle Australia Single Event Non-Member Fee payable by Paddlers that not a member of PaddleNSW
Individual	U18	\$10	\$20	\$11
	Adult	\$45	\$55	\$22

59. For event and paddler insurance purposes, all paddlers must hold an active Paddle Australia membership or pay a Paddle Australia Single Event Non-Member Fee per event entered. Non-Member Fees will be charged as part of the registration process. Alternatively, you can join Paddle Australia/NSW by selecting a Club on the Club Finder map in the Paddle Australia Membership & Events System ([HERE](#)). This will give you insurance 24/7 worldwide for 12 months.

60. RacePass:

- With RacePass you get a discount for paying upfront for multiple races in the Series. You can choose which races to enter at a later time.
- Participants can prepay for 3 or 4 races in the Series with a single payment.



- c. The RacePass discount:
 - i. 4 races will receive a discount of \$4:00 per event (\$16:00 for the Series).
 - ii. 3 races will receive a discount of \$3:00 per event (\$9:00 for the Series).
- d. RacePass Refunds and Transfers:
 - i. Refunds and Transfers are not applicable if the paddler withdraws from a race for injury, illness or other personal reason.
 - ii. Where a race has been postponed, entries will be transferred to the new race date.
 - iii. Where a race has been cancelled by PaddleNSW or the host club paddlers will receive a refund as HR Refund Policy.
 - iv. At the end of the Series, a refund of unused RacePass credits is not possible.
 - v. Transfers will not be made into another Series.

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