

1. The ***PaddleNSW Marathon Series*** comprises a number of ‘Divisional’ races run by the PaddleNSW Marathon Committee (‘the Committee’) and delivered by PaddleNSW affiliated clubs throughout NSW and the ACT.
2. In 2024 the Marathon Series will consist of eight (8) races.
3. The objective of the ***PaddleNSW Marathon Series*** is to provide a program of races for paddlers in ‘Time Divisions’ that match their paddling capabilities, and provide opportunities for, and recognize improvement in, paddler proficiency.
4. The ***PaddleNSW Marathon Series*** allows paddlers of all age groups, to paddle boats of any class, and is based primarily on paddlers’ abilities to paddle a range of distances within certain time periods or brackets.
5. The ***PaddleNSW Marathon Series*** is also seen as a development opportunity for paddlers wanting to compete at State, National and International levels, and aims to provide an opportunity for such development.

Race Distances

6. Race Distances will be as follows:

- a. 20 km Long Course (Divisions 1 - 7)
- b. 15 km Intermediate Course (Division 8)
- c. 10 km Short Course (Divisions 9 – 12)
- d. 5km Course (Division 13)

7. Host clubs must ensure their course layouts are accurate and no shorter than the required 20km, 15km, 10km & 5km distances.
8. Promotion will not take place automatically from shorter courses to longer courses.
9. Paddlers seeking promotion to the longer distances will need to meet pre-qualification times as follows:
 - a. Moving from 5km (Division 13) to 10km (Division 12) must be able to complete 5km in less than 40 minutes.
 - b. Moving from 10km (Divisions 9-12) to 15km (Div 8) must be able to complete 10km in less than 1hr:10 minutes.
 - c. Moving from 15km (Division 8) to 20km (Div 7) must be able to complete 15km in less than 1hr:45 minutes.
10. Paddlers promoted into Division 1 will be assessed by the Committee and a Panel of Division 1 paddlers to determine how many, if any, portages they are required to complete in their first Division 1 race. Reviews will be conducted after each race, and

paddlers will be advised of any change to portage requirements before the start of their next race. This is an initiative to help bridge the recognized gap between Divisions 1 and 2, and to assist paddlers to remain competitive in the transition. Paddlers who do not complete a portage must not take any personal advantage, or cause other paddlers any disadvantage, by doing so.

11. The 13 Divisions are based on time brackets, and not on boat type, or paddlers' age/gender.

Division	Distance	Time to paddle	Approximate Speed	Promotion / Relegation %
1	20km + Portages	<1:38	(>12.2kph)	4%
2	20km	1:38~1:45	(11.4-12.2kph)	4%
3	20km	1:45~1:50	(10.9-11.4kph)	3%
4	20km	1:50~1:55	(10.4-10.9kph)	3%
5	20km	1:55~2:00	(10-10.4kph)	3%
6	20km	2:00~2:10	(9.2-10kph)	5%
7	20km	2:10~2:25	(8.3-9.2kph)	6%
8	15km	1:15~1:55	(7.8-12kph)	n/a
9	10km	<0:55	(>10.9kph)	5%
10	10km	0:55~1:00	(10~10.9kph)	5%
11	10km	1:00~1:05	(9.2~10kph)	5%
12	10km	>1:05	(<9.2kph)	5%
13	5 km	00:32~00:45	(6.7-9.4kph)	n/a

(Portaging is mandatory for Division 1, and optional for other Divisions where courses allow for it)

12. There will be 4 Divisions for SUPs as shown below.

SUP Division	Distance
A	20km
B	15km
C	10km
D	5 km

Initial Division Ranking

13. Paddlers who are new to the series, and/or paddlers who have not competed in a PaddleNSW Marathon Series in the previous three (3) years, shall nominate themselves in the Division that they believe is most appropriate to their capabilities, and will use their first race as a 'Ranking' race (unless rule 18 applies), to confirm the most appropriate Division for future races.
14. New Doubles Team entries (any combination of paddlers who have not paddled together in a PaddleNSW Marathon Series event within the previous three (3) years) must also enter their first race as a 'Ranking' race (unless rule 18 applies), in a Division they believe most suited to their capabilities, but at a minimum, must compete in at least the next higher Division of the highest ranked individual paddler.

15. Any regular Marathon Series race can count as a ranking race.
16. Paddlers who have participated in the “PaddleNSW Marathon” series within the past two (2) years will be allocated to the Division determined by the result of their last event.
17. Regular doubles paddlers who elect to paddle a single, have the following options:
 - a. If they have paddled in a Single within the previous two (2) years they can enter the Division determined by the result of their last event in a Single.
 - b. If they have NOT paddled in a Single in the previous two (2) years they can either;
 - i. Enter in one (1) Division lower than the Division determined by the result of their last event in a Double.
 - ii. Enter in an appropriate Division as a ‘Ranking’ race (unless rule 18 applies).
18. The Committee may request that any Paddler or Doubles Team review their entry and select another Division, in the interests of all paddlers.
19. Paddlers/Doubles Teams entering in Divisions 1, 8, 9 and 13 shall not be required to paddle a ‘Ranking’ race.
20. Paddlers transferring between Divisions shall not be required to paddle a “Ranking” race, if transferring under the following conditions:
 - a) Transferring from Divisions 1-7 to Divisions 8, 9 or 13
 - b) Transferring from Divisions 4-5 to Division 10
 - c) Transferring between Divisions 6 & 11 (either direction)
 - d) Transferring between Divisions 7 & 12 (either direction)
 - e) If moving from Divisions 8, 9, 10 or 13, a paddler may enter a Division where the approximate speed guidelines align with the speed of their last race.
21. Personal Points will not be awarded to Paddlers/Doubles Teams in their ‘Ranking’ race, or to Paddlers/Doubles Teams who do not paddle in their correct or allocated Division.

Promotion and Relegation

22. The Committee reserves the right to review results and rankings and apply Promotions and Relegations after each race. The Committee, at its discretion, will make appropriate allowances for other influencing factors when reviewing results and considering re-rankings.
23. Appeals against re-ranking must be made, via email, to the PaddleNSW Event Coordinator and Marathon Committee Handicapper, (events@paddlensw.org.au) prior to the next race and within a week after results/re-rankings are published.

Promotion

24. Promotions will be determined by the Handicapper and will be based on comparison to a BENCHMARK time for the Division in each event.

25. The BENCHMARK time will be recalculated after each race and will be used to determine any promotions based on that race. This allows for the variability of course lengths and conditions (ie 'fast' and 'slow' courses).
26. The BENCHMARK time for each Division will be the MEDIAN time of finishing competitors in that Division. MEDIAN is defined as the time of the paddler in the middle of the finishing competitors. WebScorer automatically calculates and displays the percentage variance of each paddler from the MEDIAN.
27. Where the use of the MEDIAN time would, in the opinion of the Committee, produce an outcome that is inconsistent with the intent of the benchmarking system (ie to promote fair racing), the Committee may apply its judgement to make an alternate decision on promotion in accordance with rule 21.
28. Promotions, when determined, are mandatory. Paddlers must enter subsequent races in the higher Division.
29. Promotion rules do not apply to Divisions 1, 8, 9 & 13.
30. Paddlers/Teams in Divisions 2-7 and 10-12, whose finishing time is faster than their Division benchmark time by the percentages identified in the Promotion policy (and the Promotion/Relegation % column of the Division table) for two (2) races within the current and/or preceding Marathon Series (not necessarily consecutive races), will be promoted to an appropriate higher Division.
31. Paddlers/Teams in Divisions 3-7 and 11-12, whose finishing time is faster than the Division benchmark time of the next fastest Division by the percentages identified in the Promotion policy (and the Promotion/Relegation % column of the Division table) will be promoted to an appropriate higher Division.

Relegation

32. Relegations will be determined by the Committee and will be based on comparison to a BENCHMARK time for the Division in each event.
33. The BENCHMARK time will be recalculated after each race and will be used to determine any relegations based on that race. This allows for the variability of course lengths and conditions (ie 'fast' and 'slow' courses).
34. The BENCHMARK time for each Division will be the MEDIAN time of finishing competitors in that Division. WebScorer automatically calculates and displays the percentage variance of each paddler from the MEDIAN.
35. Where the use of the MEDIAN time would, in opinion of the Committee, produce an outcome that is inconsistent with the intent of the benchmarking system (ie to promote fair racing), the Committee may apply its judgement to make and alternate decision on relegation in accordance with rule 21.
36. Paddlers/Teams in Divisions 1-6 and 9-11, whose finishing time is slower than their Division benchmark time by the percentages identified in the Promotion policy (and the Promotion/Relegation % column of the Division table) for two (2) consecutive races, will be recommended for relegation to an appropriate lower Division.
37. Relegations, when determined, are generally RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY. Paddlers MAY enter subsequent races in the lower Division as determined by the Committee or may choose to continue racing in the higher Division.

38. Relegation rules do not apply to Divisions 7, 8, 12 & 13, however the Committee reserve the right to relegate paddlers who finish in a slower time than the upper limit in Divisions 7 & 8 into a Division with a shorter distance.

Starting order

39. Starting order shall be: Div 7, Div 6, Div 5, Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, Div 4, Div 8, Div 9, Div 10, Div 11, Div 12 & Div 13. Start order for all SUP Divisions will be determined by entry numbers and advised with the Start List and within the Race Briefing.
40. Where practical, each Division shall have its own start, at intervals determined by the Starter, taking into consideration issues such as course layout, weather conditions on the day, and others that influence the running and/or safety of the race.
41. Typically, Division 7 will start at -30:00 minutes, Division 6 will start at -20:00 minutes, Division 5 will start at -10:00 minutes, Division 1 will start at 0:00, and each Division thereafter at intervals of two (2) minutes or as determined for the course.
42. Any or all starts may be combined (depending on numbers) at the discretion of the Committee or the host club. Any amalgamations will be announced at the race briefing.
43. Starting order may be changed at the discretion of the Committee or the host club. Any change to the starting order will be announced at the race briefing.

Minimum Progress Requirement

44. For a 5km lap course paddlers in Divisions 5, 6 and 7 must finish 15km within 1 hour and 25 minutes after the Div 1 start (1 hour and 55 minutes after the Div 7 start).
45. For 5km and 10km lap courses, 15km and/or 20km SUP paddlers must complete their first 10km within 1 hour 15 minutes after their start..
46. All craft not meeting this minimum progress requirement will be required to retire from the race. They will be recorded as DNF and may be ranked into a different Division for their next race. If paddlers believe they will not be able to meet the minimum progress requirement they should consider entering a shorter distance. The Committee has discretion to adjust the minimum progress requirements based on race conditions.

Individual Points

47. Points shall be awarded to Boat/Team Entries as follows:
 - a. Every Boat/Team Entry's race time shall be ranked fastest to slowest in each Division.
 - b. The fastest boat in each Division will receive 100 points.
 - c. The second fastest boat in each Division will receive 99 points.
 - d. Third fastest boat in each Division will receive 98 points etc.
48. A Boat/Team Entry shall be defined as follows:
 - a. For a Single Boat entry – the name of the single Paddler on that entry

- b. For a Double Boat/Team entry – the combination of the two Paddlers names on that entry.
49. Every race (except a Ranking Race) shall contribute to a Boat/Team Entry's total Individual point score, with the lowest scoring races being dropped, and a maximum of the six (6) highest scoring races counting towards the final end of season total score.
50. In the case of Doubles entries, points will be awarded to the Boat/Team combination only.
51. If paddlers swap partners in Doubles during the course of the series the new combination will be treated as a new Boat/Team Entry, with points being accumulated separately from points already earned in a previous combination.
52. Points cannot be carried up or down between Distances.
Promoted/relegated paddlers will be able to carry up to 40% of their points (from a maximum of six (6) of the highest scoring races) up/down to the new Division.
Carry-up/down points will be calculated at the end of the season and added to the paddlers individual point score after the last race of the series.
53. Two (2) Individual Points will be awarded to Paddlers from Divisions 2-8 who elect to portage, and who complete all required portages, at those events where portage is offered.
These Points will be added to the individual point score after the last race of the series.

Club Points

54. The two (2) highest placed boats from each PaddleNSW Affiliated Club, in each Division, including the Ranking Divisions, shall earn points for their Club towards the Brian Norman Club Trophy. Points will be awarded based on finishing position within the Division, (100 points for 1st, 99 for 2nd, 98 for 3rd, 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 a Division, that boat will earn points based on final placing. (see example below)

Team winners » Div 5 (20km 1:55-2:00) - Overall

Place	Team name	Team members	Total points																								
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55. Doubles paddlers from the same Club only receive one set of Club points. Doubles paddlers from different clubs must nominate one Club to receive any points.

ICF Class Points

56. ICF Class boats (K1/K2/K4, C1/C2) in each Division (including Ranking Divisions) shall also be able to earn points towards the 'ICF Class Trophy', sponsored by PaddleNSW, to be awarded to the Club with the highest number of ICF Class points at the end of the series.
 - a. One ICF Class Point will be awarded to every ICF class boat that finishes in its Division.
 - b. Boat type must be specified on the online entry.

Prizes/Awards

57. Prizes may be awarded at the end of the Season as follows:
 - a. Highest points overall
 - b. Top 3 highest points in each Division
 - c. Most improved paddlers
 - d. Encouragement awards
 - e. Outstanding Paddlers – single or doubles
 - f. Veteran/Junior award
 - g. 100% Participation medal
 - h. Highest accumulated Club Points for the Brian Norman Club Trophy.
 - i. Highest accumulated Club Points for the ICF Class Trophy
58. To be eligible for prizes, a paddler MUST complete a minimum of five (5) races during the Series
59. If an event is cancelled during the race, all participants who have started, will be awarded the maximum points. No Club or ICF Class Points shall be awarded.
60. If a race is cancelled before the event begins, no points will be awarded.

NSW State Championships

61. The 2024 PaddleNSW State Marathon Championships will be conducted over three days and independently of the regular Marathon Series.
62. The State Championship races will be conducted under ICF guidelines, based on classes, genders and age groups and where possible, closely aligned to what is anticipated for National Championships. The boat classes will be 'ICF' (with Portage as required), and 'General', with no Portage requirement. Masters age groups will be in 10 year increments from age 35 to age 64 and 5 year increments from age 65. A 10 year

increment will be split into two 5 year increments if there are 3 or more paddlers entered in each 5 year increment.

63. Race distances will be comparable to the distances at National Championships.
64. Paddlers WILL NOT earn Individual Points or Club Points from State Championships for their Marathon Series pointscores.
65. Clubs WILL earn points from State Championships towards a newly formed Trophy – “The Tongway” – in recognition of Helen & David Tongway, long time Marathon participants and supporters. The Tongway will be awarded to the best performing Club with Points awarded for each event in accordance with Rules 52 & 53.

Lifejackets - (PFD's)

66. If applicable legislation requires that paddlers in a single craft must wear a lifejacket (ie no lifejacket exemption in place for the event), the Committee will apply that as rule to ALL paddlers whether they are in single or double craft.
67. For the avoidance of doubt, every paddler must have a lifejacket available for use on the day.
68. There may be some instances where lifejackets may not be required, and the Race Director and/or the Committee will advise if this becomes the case for any specific event and will advise if there are other rules that paddlers must follow.
69. Regardless of any other rule, ALL U14 paddlers **must** wear lifejackets.
70. All lifejackets must comply with legal requirements.
71. Inflatable lifejackets are not permitted.

Disqualification

72. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship. No anti-social behaviour will be tolerated.
73. 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.
74. 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.

Code of Conduct

75. 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 PaddleNSW Marathon Series event should be aware of his or her responsibilities within the Codes of Conduct.

Protests

76. A competitor who believes that another competitor has violated the Code of Conduct or should be subjected to a time penalty or disqualification is entitled to lodge a protest. Any protest should be made by notifying the Race Director within 30 minutes from when the last paddler involved in the incident completes the course or retires. There is a \$50 fee for lodging a protest which is refundable if the protest is upheld. Protests will be resolved as soon as possible after they are lodged – ideally before the results presentation following the race. Where this is not possible, those parties involved in the protest may be interviewed and/or requested to submit a written statement.

Interpretation of rules

77. The intention of the above rules is to provide a fair and enjoyable competitive environment for all paddlers. In situations not covered by the above rules, reference shall be made to ICF Canoe Marathon Rules, or Paddle Australia Marathon Competition Rules and/or Bylaws, as appropriate. For any situation, which is not specifically addressed by ICF or Paddle Australia Rules, the decision of the PaddleNSW Marathon Committee shall remain final.

Entry Fees

78. The entry fees for each race in the 2024 PaddleNSW Marathon Series shall be as follows:

Individual/ Team	Age	Early Bird	Standard	Single Event License for non-members of PaddleNSW
Individual	Under 18	\$10	\$20	\$11
	Adult accompanying U8 and/or U10	Free	Free	\$11
	18-24	\$25	\$35	\$22
	25-65	\$40	\$50	\$22
	66 and over	\$30	\$40	\$22

Paddlers requiring further information should direct any questions relating to PaddleNSW Marathon Series to events@paddlensw.org.au