

## ***MARATHON CANOE RACING CONSTITUTION - Rev: 2010***

### **1.1 Marathon Committee**

The Marathon Racing Committee is a technical committee of the Irish Canoe Union and is responsible for the organisation, development and administration of Marathon Canoe/Kayak Racing in Ireland.

The Committee consists of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Race Records Officer, PRO and Three (3) committee members. All officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Marathon Committee and the Chairperson is then ratified at the ADM of the ICU

#### **The duties of the members shall be as follows:-**

#### **1.2 Chairperson:-**

The Chairperson shall be responsible for:-

- Chairing all committee meetings.
- Ensuring that meetings are held as necessary.
- A minimum of 4 meetings and preferably 6 should be held in any racing year
- Implementing policy and ensuring action is taken on committee decisions.
- Representing the committee at ICU Council meetings.
- Preparation of yearly Government Grant Application in liaison with the Treasurer.
- Representing committee views at ICU board meetings

#### **1.3 Secretary:-**

The Secretary shall be responsible for:-

- Calling meetings and dealing with correspondence in conjunction with the chairperson.
- Arranging venue, date and time of meetings and notifying all committee members.
- Notifying all clubs of the date, venue and the time of Marathon AGM (21 days notice must be given).
- Taking minutes of all meetings and circulation to committee members.
- Notifying clubs of changes in Marathon Canoe/Kayak Rules and Regulations.
- The secretary shall delegate for the chairperson in his/ her absence

#### **1.4 Treasurer:-**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for:-

- All monies paid to the Marathon Committee.
- The Collection of levies for all ranking and non-ranking events.
- Preparing a Balance Sheet for the Marathon AGM and the ICU ADM.
- Preparation of yearly Government Grant Application in liaison with the Chairperson.
- General financial affairs of the Committee.
- The preparation and presentation of the financial accounts at committee meetings

**1.5 Race Record Officer:-**

The race Records Officer Shall be responsible for:-

- Production of a divisional list each year.
- Keeping all points and records of all ranking races.
- Promotions & demotions during the season.
- End of season ranking divisional lists.
- Notification of national champions.
- Keeping a record of **all** international results for selected Irish teams.
- The distribution and collection of national trophies.
- Maintaining in conjunction with the ICU and active comprehensive Marathon web site

**1.6 PRO:-**

The PRO shall be responsible for:-

- Obtaining publicity for Marathon racing via Press, Radio and T.V.
- Preparation of programmes for major events.
- Compiling Marathon news for ICU communications.
- Maintaining a database of active and potential participants and working with race and event organisers to communicate directly with clubs, club members, individuals and interested parties in marathon racing

**1.7 The Collective Committee shall be responsible for:-**

Production of fixture list each year for Marathon racing.

- A draft calendar shall be produced by the 31<sup>st</sup> October
- A confirmed calendar of events shall be produced by the 1<sup>st</sup> January
- Promotions and demotions will be ongoing throughout the Marathon year.
- The organisation of coaching and training sessions for junior and senior squads.
- Selection of international teams or the establishment for a selection committee to do same.
- Choosing the Best Run Marathon Race.
- The organisation and promotion of coaching courses for teachers and coaches at varied levels.
- Promoting the sport of Marathon Canoe/Kayak Racing.
- Identifying international events paddlers might be likely to attend during the course of the coming year and producing and publishing a Selection
- Policy to select the optimal team to attend such events, such policy shall be produced and published by the 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Such selection policies shall comply with ICU rules, regulations and guidelines.

## **2.1 Aims of the Marathon Racing Committee**

- To spread Marathon Racing throughout Ireland by encouraging and organising ranking and non-ranking races.
- To encourage a broad base of marathon paddlers in Ireland through the development of introductory training courses and specialised training weekends in Marathon Racing.
- To promote and improve the standard of Irish paddlers through International competition at home and abroad.
- To improve our International image by promoting good Irish International Marathon competition and by sending good standard teams abroad.
- To draft rules and make recommendations for the conduct of ICU National Marathon Races.

## **3.1 Marathon Racing General Meetings**

- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at least every 14 months and at least 1 month before the first race of the season
- The secretary shall notify the general marathon population of General meetings at least 21 days in advance using email (if provided), the Marathon website, the ICU website, via letters to club secretaries, via text message or any other useful or applicable means of communications
- Proposals should be submitted to the Marathon committee at least 14 days in advance of the General meeting
- Proposals shall be posted on the web site at least 7 days in advance of the General meeting
- Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) can be called if a minimum of 10 marathon paddlers sign the request for an EGM.
- All registered members of the Irish Canoe Union are entitled to attend, vote and run for committee positions.
- 1 member of the ICU is entitled to 1 vote , no proxy voting is permitted.
- The Marathon committee reserves the right to request evidence of membership of the ICU.
- Junior paddler over the age of 16 (on 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan of the year of the General meeting) can vote at general meetings or as per ICU rules
- A minimum of 20 people will be deemed to be a quorum for a General meeting (AGM & EGM)

## **4.1 General**

In the absence of a rule or the interpretation is not clear then ICU rules shall apply and in the event the query is not covered by the ICU rules then the Marathon Committees decision shall be final

## **5.1 Complaints & Appeals Process**

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- In the event a marathon paddler has a complaint or grievance a written complaint shall be submitted to the Marathon Committee Secretary within 30 days of the event.
- The committee shall then investigate the complaint requesting written reports from all parties involved.
- In the event the complaint involves a member of the committee they shall be excluded from the complaints investigation process.
- The committee shall report back to the aggrieved party within 30 days of receiving the initial written complaint.
- Initial efforts by the committee shall be to resolve the matter via conciliation
- Should the parties be unhappy with the outcome and require that the matter be escalated the matter shall be referred to the ICU for further deliberation.
- In the event the outcome from the appeal to the ICU is un acceptable to both parties then the matter will be referred to independent arbitration with both parties agreeing in writing in advance to accept the outcome of the arbitration as final and binding.
- All rules of natural justice shall apply to the process at all stages.
- A fee of 50 euro shall be payable to the Marathon Racing committee which be refundable should the complaint be upheld.
- All complaints shall be copied to the ICU office at the time of appeal.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **1.1 MARATHON RACING RULES (not part of the Constitution)**

### **1.2 The Ranking System**

Each year a series of Marathon Races will be run, known as Ranking Races for which points will be awarded to both individual competitors and their club. These ranking events are used for producing the ranking list for Marathon Racing at the end of each season.

That at least one member of the Marathon Committee attend each ranking race to observe the organisation of the race and to adjudicate on any issues or disputes that may arise.

To advise the organising club and to report to the Marathon Committee on any issue which may have arisen and require a committee decision.

After each race the Marathon Committee will draw up a brief report on the organisation of that race and share the report with the organising club.

The Ranking Race System consists off:

Open K2 Is run over the long course

Divisions 1, 2 Is run on a long course and will consist of those competitors who have been promoted or demoted from other divisions.

Division 3 Is run over the short course and will consist of those competitors who have been promoted or demoted from other divisions.

Division 4 Paddlers entering a ranking race for the first time (in K1) will normally enter the ranking system at this level.

Paddlers may enter the system in the higher divisions (K2, 1, 2 & 3) where deemed appropriate by the committee member on duty or their delegate subject to confirming to the race organisers they are safe and competent to do so.

The remaining race classes are run over the short course and include

Open short course K2 / T2

Mens General Purpose (G.P.)

Womens General Purpose (G.P.)

Boys General Purpose (G.P.) U.16 - Boy's , only paddlers younger than 16 on first day of January, when entering a race of that year.

Boys General Purpose (G.P.) U.18 - Boy's , only paddlers younger than 18 on first day of January, when entering a race of that year

Girls General Purpose (G.P.) U.16 - Girl's, only paddlers younger than 16 on first day of January, when entering a race of that year.

Girls General Purpose (G.P.) U.18 - Girl's, only paddlers younger than 18 on first day of January, when entering a race of that year

### Open Canadian

Points are awarded to **all** finishers in each class and count towards the Irish Marathon Racing Championships.

The highest ranked crew in each of the following categories will be considered the national ranking champions at the end of each racing year:

Veterans national champion class winner to be calculated on the best time in the short k1 classes of Div 3 Male/female, only if entered under vet's on race day (this will not be a new racing class and will not impact on the results in div 3) it is only to clarify a Veterans national champion. Points to be calculated as with any k1 class 15,13,etc..

The Ribadesella Trophy will be awarded to the club with the highest number of points.

The McLean Trophy will be presented to the club finishing second in this competition.

The club finishing with the highest number of points for **juniors** will receive the Junior Club Trophy.

Clubs wishing to run a Ranking Race must apply to the Race Records Officer by 1st October of each year.

Clubs wishing to run non-ranking marathon races must apply to the committee for a permit 2 months before the proposed date

Competitions are granted ranking status only on the condition that they are run in a manner acceptable to the Marathon Committee.

The organisers must enforce all current rules and regulations applicable to the competition, including those of the ICF, ICU and Marathon committee.

Ranking status is given to races for the coming season at the discretion of the Marathon Committee and is published in the Annual I.C.U. / Marathon Calendar

The committee reserves the right to withdraw ranking status of a race if, in the opinion of the committee, the race is not run to an acceptable standard

## **2.1 Ranking Points**

Competitors in K boat classes are awarded points as follows:

First Place	15 points
Second Place	13 points
Third Place	12 points
Fourth	11 points

**And so down with each finisher being awarded one point**

Competitors in GP & Canadian classes are awarded points as follows:

First Place	15 points
Second Place	13 points
Third Place	12 points
Forth Place	11 points

**And so down with each finisher being awarded one point.**

Junior series races, all class are awarded points **ONLY** for overall club totals points

First Place	6 points
Second Place	5 points
Third Place	4 points

**And so down with each finisher being awarded one point**

## **K2/C2/T2 Classes**

Points are awarded for both paddlers in these classes except

Where a crew consists of a Junior and Senior competitor, points awarded will only count to the senior points competition

**best six ranking race results**, out of the total number of races held in each season will be taken into account for the individual championship points.

Where a div has no competitor with six races the person with the highest points will be deemed the divisional winner

## **3.1 Race and event entry fees**

The race entry fees for ranking races shall be agreed at each AGM and for 2010 shall be no greater than :

- 10 euro for each senior paddlers
- 5 euro for each junior paddlers
- The levy payable to the marathon committee shall be 5 euro for seniors and 2 euro for juniors
- The committee shall have the power to determine fees for other non ranking events for the course of the year
- The committee shall have the discretion to waive fees following a request by the organiser to do so.
- A race organiser shall submit race levies within 30 days of the ranking race or marathon event unless otherwise agreed with the marathon committee.

## **4.1 Promotion and Demotion**

Promotion from a lower to a higher division will take place at the discretion of the Records Officer.

The following criteria will be taken into account when deciding on promotion.

2 wins

1 win and 2 second places

Should a division become 'log-jammed' the committee has the power promote a competitor(s) based on;

The number of races won and the number of second places

The time take to complete a course and the wining margin

The age and experience of the competitor

The number of races completed

Other relevant factors

**Demotion will be at the discretion of the committee, eg finishing last in a class more than twice.**

A paddler may appeal to the Committee, in writing if he or she wishes to be promoted or demoted.

The Application should include an outline of the reasons behind the request.

Those eligible for GP Boys & GP Girls (junior) are those under the age of 18 on the 1st of January of the Marathon racing calendar year.

Where the committee feels it inappropriate to promote a competitor from the short course to the long course or where such a promotion has successfully been appealed. The committee may allow that competitor to remain in division 4 while imposing a time handicap, which will be added to their finish time at ranking races.

Paddlers who are ranked in the Long Course divisions 1 and 2, may paddle down to ***DIVISION 3 ONLY*** on the short course, in a plastic G.P boat. **WAVEHOPPERS EXCLUDED**

In this circumstance there will be no individual points accrued.

However, points will be accrued towards the Ribadesella trophy.



## **5.1 RACE REQUIREMENTS**

As per the ICF requirements

## **5.2 Prizes**

The organisers must undertake to award prizes for 1st and 2nd places as a minimum. The Committee suggests the organiser places a greater emphasis on junior or lower division prizes.

## **5.3 Competitors**

- Only members of the I.C.U. or members of I.C.F. affiliated unions may participate in I.C.U. Marathon events.
- Competitors in all classes must use the numbers allocated to them by the Records Officer.
- Paddlers may race for only one club in any one season. However, having left a club a paddler may continue to compete as an individual member of the Irish canoe union
- Failure to comply with the above will mean loss of points to the individual and his/her club.

## **5.4 Numbers**

- Numbers should be firmly fixed to the Canoe/Kayak.
- Number should be clearly seen.
- Competitors must use their correct racing number.
- All other numbers must be removed.

## **5.5 Safety**

All competitors must wear I.C.F approved life jackets of I.C.F. approved buoyancy aids (minimum 6kg lift).

The organiser and marathon committee member retain the right to refuse race entry if they believe the buoyancy aid to be inadequate or defective.

It is a requirement that any competitor seeing another in real danger should render all assistance in his/her power. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification for life.

Each Kayak/Canoe must carry an adequate amount of buoyancy (bow and stern) properly secured to render it unsinkable and to support a paddler in difficulty, and a proper and secure footbar.

Each Kayak/Canoe must shall have adequate end toggles, grab lines or deck lines if appropriate for the design of boat

Organisers must provide adequate rescue at weirs and other danger areas.

An appropriate rescue boat must be provided at places where there is a high risk of danger such as exposure.

Danger areas must be stressed clearly at the briefing and if necessary portage signs and warning should be erected at individual obstacles.

A rescue Canoe should follow all short course classes over the course.

Reasonable and adequate first aid provisions must be available at the finish of each race.

Approved helmets must be worn by paddlers using enclosed Kayaks and Canoes such as slaloms, white water racers etc., where weir and rapid shooting takes place.

The normal Marathon Racing season is from March to October inclusive. Races run outside this period need prior sanction from the Marathon Committee.

If conditions warrant, the organising club in consultation with the Marathon Committee may alter the course on the day of the race.

The Marathon Committee or organising club retain to right to cancel an event if they feel there is a genuine risk to participating competitors, only after all alternatives have been exhausted.

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The race organisers should arrange a pre sweep on the race course a suitable time in advance of the race appropriate to the race course conditions.

It is the race organisers responsibility to ensure all race participants including those who do not complete the course are accounted for and off the race course This should be by way of sweeper craft and recording craft withdrawing mid race..

It is the responsibility of the race organisers to have details of the nearest hospital / medical centre and doctor on call as well as having adequate means to contact an ambulance if required.

It is the responsibility of the race organisers to have a minimum number of experienced and qualified first aiders in attendance along with adequate first aid supplies at the race in the event an accident occurs.

## **6.1 Racing Rules**

Competitors must race in a fair manner. The only means of propulsion shall be by paddle. Competitors while racing must at all times and where feasible follow the natural course of the water.

When a Kayak/Canoe is overtaking another Kayak/Canoe it is the duty of the overtaking craft to keep clear of the Kayak/Canoe being overtaken. On the other hand the craft being overtaken is not allowed to alter its course to make difficulties for the overtaking craft.

Competitors who wash hang Kayaks/Canoes not in the race or powered craft is not permitted and those doing so may be disqualified.

When portaging a section of the river not specified by the race organisers by any for the following items, (a) notification, (b) briefing or (c) portage sign, the competitor must follow the natural course flow the water.

Competitors who capsize may receive assistance in or from the water, personally or with their equipment at the point of capsize. This excludes any assistance at a race portage. Spare paddles and repair equipment may be passed by supporters to competitors.

Protests may be made to the organisers in writing not later than 30 minutes after the announcement of the results. Failure to comply with this condition will invalidate the protest.

Where the protest is made against the race organisers or published results the protest must be made in writing and be received by the Marathon Race Records Officer within 21 days of the race.

Should any paddler(s) break the start, the line shall be recalled and the said paddler(s) warned. Should any paddler subsequently break the start line they will be disqualified. In the event of a general break a recall shall be summoned and all paddlers shall be required to return to the aligner. Any competitor(s) disregarding a recall or a reasonable instruction from the race organiser may be disqualified at the race organiser discretion.

Further penalties for a competitor displaying disregard for instructions from the race organiser or a member of the Marathon Committee shall apply, subject to the ICU rules of appeal

## **7.1 The Race Organisers**

Race notices giving details such as name, address and phone no. of organiser, date, course, organising club, start and finish locations, time of entries, briefing and starts, classes, distances, entry fees, description of course and sketch map of same with accessible points by road etc. should reach **all** affiliated club secretaries, the Marathon Racing Officer, The Marathon Race Records Officer at least **30 days** before the event.

Ideally all these details should be submitted to the marathon committee by 1<sup>st</sup> March for inclusion on the marathon web site and for circulation to all active clubs and interested paddlers.

### **The race organisers must provide the following officials:-**

- Officials to take race entries at both the long and short starts.
- Safety officer
- Briefing officer.
- Aligner and Starter.
- Timekeepers(at least 3).
- Marshals (check portages, turning points,. weirs etc.)
- Protest committee (two from the organising club, a scrutiniser and one member of the Marathon Racing Committee.
- Adequate rescue personnel

The Marathon Racing Committee will provide two scrutinisers for all ranking races to see that they are run in a safe, efficient, well organised manner and that the Marathon Racing Rules are adhered to.

Before each race a clear and precise briefing must take place to indicate to competitors directions of turns, compulsory portages, weirs, obstacles and any other relevant information. The aligning line, start line and finish line of the race must be clearly marked by sets of flags, buoys or signs.

## **8.1 Race Details :**

### **Long Start**

- Open K2
- K1, Div 1,2

Starts maybe adjusted according to numbers and water conditions.

### **Short Start**

- K2/T2
- K1, Div 3 & 4
- GP, Men's, Women's, U.16 Boys, U18 Boys & U.16 Girl's U 18 Girls
- Open Canadian

Starts maybe adjusted according to numbers and water conditions.

There shall be **not more than 5 minutes or not less than 3 minutes between starts,** subject to this condition not causing congestion or crowding at obstacles

Starts should be scheduled to avoid excessive delays between the first finishers and final finishers to avoid excessive waiting on prize giving.

Competitors should be at the start area at the time stated in the race notice.

The bow of all Kayaks at the start should not cross the aligner line.

When the aligner is satisfied all is correct, he/she shall give permission for the boats to move slowly to the start line, where the starter shall give the starting signal, which may be a "shot" or the word "go". The use of a loud hailer is recommended. Where possible dead starts should be enforced.

Organising clubs must enforce a fair start line.

Organisers may provide refreshment for competitors which should be available immediately on completion of the race.

Clubs failing to run Marathon Ranking Races in a manner deemed satisfactory by the committee are liable to lose ranking status for the following year.

## **9.1 Race Results**

Race organisers should focus on calculating the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 positions of each class to reduced delay in issuing race results after the race is completed.

*Prize giving should ideally be within approximately 1 hour of the first finisher.*

Results should be tabulated on a spreadsheet and be sent by email to the Marathon Racing Records Officer within 2 days of the event and not later than 7 days. Results should also be posted on the marathon website and the organisers club websiteevent .

Race results should be recorded on the official marathon racing committee file/folder and returned to the Marathon Race Records Officer and Levies forwarded to Marathon Officer.

Race results must list all finishers, ranking and non-ranking together with their place, times, club, racing number and division.

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