

SPRINT RACING SECTION

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

Issue date: 1 January 2020

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide the Rules that govern:

- a) Sprint Racing (named Canoe Sprint by the International Canoe Federation)
- b) The conduct of that Racing

It follows as closely as possible the wording and sequence of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Sprint Competition Rules taking effect from 1st January 2019. However, it also contains some additional regulations or changes to those rules as determined from time to time by British Canoeing Sprint Racing Committee.

The following words, acronyms and abbreviations are referred to in this document:

BC British Canoeing (the Governing Body for Canoeing in Great Britain)

BOA British Olympic Association (the National Olympic Committee for Great Britain)

ICF International Canoe Federation

IOC International Olympic Committee

NOC National Olympic Committee

SRS Sprint Racing Section of BC (responsible to BC for the control of Sprint Racing competitions in canoes and kayaks over distances up to and including 5000 metres)

SRC Sprint Racing Committee (elected by the Sprint Racing Section to carry out the objectives of the Section on a day-to-day basis).

RC Regatta Committee (a sub-committee of the SRC responsible for organising and conducting National Championships and other competitions on behalf of BC)

Aims and Definition of Sprint Racing

The aim of a canoe sprint competition is for people to race each other in kayaks and canoes over a clearly defined unobstructed course in the shortest possible time according to the rules. The course should be as flat and still as can be obtained. Although the course length may be any distance up to and including 5,000 metres and competition organised for any craft, the official events and distances recognised by BC and ICF are the following:

For men and women:	K1, K2, K4, C1, C2, C4,	200, 500 and 1000 metres
	K1, K2, K4, C1, C2,	5000 metres or 2500 for some Junior events
Paracanoe, men and women	Kayak KL1, KL2, KL3	200 metres
	Va'a VL1, VL2, VL3	200 metres

Table of Contents

Part I - GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. International Competitions
2. National Status Competitions
3. Club Regattas
4. Competing outside of the United Kingdom
5. Membership of more than one club or change of club
6. Athlete Eligibility and Sponsorships
7. Classification of Paddlers
8. National Championship Title and Trophies

Part II - CLASSES AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

9. Limitations
10. Trademarks
11. Construction
12. Boat Control

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

Part III - ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

13. **Officials, Competition Committee and Competition Jury, Duties of Officials**
14. **Invitations**
15. **Entries and Racing Colours**
16. **Regatta Programme**
17. **Heats and Finals**
18. **Team Leaders' Meeting**
19. **Alterations to Entries and Withdrawals**
20. **Alterations in the sequence of events**
21. **Courses - Marking Signs - Layout**
22. **Boat numbers**
23. **Instructions for Competitors**

Part IV - RACING REGULATIONS

24. **Means of Propulsion**
25. **Start**
26. **Paddling on the Course**
27. **Pacing**
28. **Competitions for Long Distances**
29. **Finish**
30. **Tasks of Competitors after the Race**
31. **Penalties**
32. **Protests**
33. **Appeals**

Part V – SPECIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

34. **Open & National Championship Medals, National Championships and Trophies**

Part I - GENERAL REGULATIONS

There are three levels of competition: - International, National Status and Club/Regional.

1. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 The ICF has ruled that all International Competitions must take place in accordance with the ICF Canoe Sprint Competition Rules. All competitions organised by either BC or a BC Club are considered international if competitors of a foreign country are invited to participate.
- 1.2 These competitions must be supervised or managed by at least one accredited official in possession of a valid ICF Canoe Sprint Official card.
- 1.3 **Foreign Nationals** (Complies with ICF GR 3).
 - 1.3.1 No member of a foreign Federation or club may compete or be invited to compete in an open or national competition within the United Kingdom without permission from the RC.
 - 1.3.2 Only athletes who are members of a club or associations affiliated with a National Federation have the right to participate in an International competition.
 - 1.3.3 An athlete having satisfied 1.3.2 and having obtained the (written) consent of the athlete's National Federation is permitted to compete individually in an International competition.
 - 1.3.4 A competitor may take part on behalf of BC provided they are domiciled in the UK, if he/she obtains the authorisation of his/her Federation of origin. This authorisation has to be sent before 30th November prior to the year concerned to the ICF Headquarters with a copy to the Chairman of the ICF Canoe Sprint Committee.
 - 1.3.5 If he/she has lived for 2 (two) years or more in the UK, the approval of his/her Federation of origin is no longer required.
 - 1.3.6 An athlete cannot compete for more than one (1) National Federation in any calendar year in canoeing.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

2 NATIONAL STATUS COMPETITION

- 2.1 All competitions announced as National Status competitions shall be held in accordance with BC Sprint Racing Competition Rules.
- 2.2 National Status Competitions are those at which promotions within the National ability classes takes place.
- 2.3 National Status Competitions are organised on behalf of BC.
- 2.4 All competitors at National Status Competitions must be registered with the RC and must be a BC, SCA, Canoe Wales, or CANI members or, if racing in a Junior Intermediate or D class or Mini Sprint Series, a member of a club with a registered youth section and is affiliated to the BC.
- 2.5 Organisers of National Status Competitions shall declare the competition is being held under BC rules.
- 2.6 National Status Competitions require permission from the SRC. Applications shall be directed to the Secretary of the SRC. Such permission would require:
 - 2.6.1 Observance of BC Sprint Racing Competition Rules.
 - 2.6.2 Inclusion the words "Under BC Rules" on all printed matter issued in connection with the competition.
 - 2.6.3 Compliance with Part III Rule 13.5 regarding Regatta Officials.
- 2.7 National Status Competitions will be included in the official BC Calendar of events.
- 2.8 Within 14 days of the close of a competition a completed regatta programme with the official results, shall be sent by the Organisers to the Secretary of the SRC.

3 CLUB AND REGIONAL REGATTAS

- 3.1 BC members are allowed to participate with non-BC members.
- 3.2 No promotions will be made at Club or Regional Regattas. Performance will not affect National Ranking.
- 3.3 The Rules and Classes may be altered to suit the event requirements.
- 3.4 Organisers of Club & Regional Regattas can include their event in the Handbook Competition Calendar (at no charge) and may place an advert in the Handbook for the event on payment of the appropriate fee.
- 3.5 Club & Regional status competition can be included in the official BC Calendar of events.
- 3.6 Organisers are asked to encourage all who take part to become BC members. Where fees are charged, BC members should be charged a reduced fee.
- 3.7 To ensure uniformity, organisers are asked to follow BC Sprint Racing Competition Rules as far as possible. Organisers are asked to make it clear in all literature what the event rules will be. Within 14 day of the close of a competition a completed regatta programme with the official results should be sent to the Secretary of the SRC
canoesprint.secretary@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk
- 3.8 British Canoeing's information paper 'Running a local Sprint Regatta' is available from the SRC website on this link: <http://canoeracing.org.uk/sprint/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Running-a-Sprint-Regatta-Final-Edit.pdf>

4 COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

- 4.1 No Club or member of a Club or individual member of BC may compete at a Canoe Sprint event outside the United Kingdom without permission from the SRC. See Rule 1.3.3

5 MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN ONE CLUB OR CHANGE OF CLUB

- 5.1 When a competitor is a member of two or more clubs, they shall, by **March 1st** have declared the name of the club in whose colours they will race under for that year.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

- 5.2 A competitor joining a second club after March 1st must continue to race for his/her first club, unless prior consent of his/her old club has been obtained. The consent shall not be withheld in the case of a change of residence from one area to another.

6 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY AND SPONSORSHIPS

- 6.1 The rules of the International Canoe Federation or the National Olympic Committee shall apply to all matters relating to Amateur Status. At present there are no regulations specific to Amateur Status other than as broadly listed in 6.3.
- 6.2 **Foreign Teams** may receive compensation/assistance authorised by BC to cover financial expense to participate in an UK competition. Under no circumstances shall any payment exceed the sum of actual expenditure.
- 6.3 **A Competitor May Not:**
- 6.3.1 In the practice of sport and in the opinion of BC manifestly contravene the spirit of fair play in the exercise of sport, particularly by the use of doping or violence.
- 6.3.2 Have allowed his/her person, name, picture or sport performance to be used for advertising, except when BC or its Committees enter into a contract for sponsorship or equipment. All payments must be made to BC and not to the individual.
- 6.3.3 Participate in any competition on condition of a financial consideration.
- 6.4 **A Competitor May Accept**, financial support during a period of preparation and/or actual competition which shall be limited by the rules of BC and its Committees:-
- 6.4.1 Assistance administered through the BOA or BC Performance Programmes: living expenses, insurance cover in respect of accidents, illness and disability; personal property, sports equipment and clothing; cost of medical treatment, physiotherapy and authorised coaches.
- 6.4.2 Compensation authorised by his/her NOC or BC Performance Programmes, in the case of necessity, to cover financial loss resulting from his/her absence from work or basic occupation in the Olympic Games and sports competition or other canoeing activities. In no circumstances shall payment made under this provision exceed the sum which the competitor would have earned in the same period. The compensation may be paid with the approval of BC or BOA at their discretion.
- 6.4.3 Prizes won in competition or other canoeing activities, within the rules established by BC and its Committees and the ICF.
- 6.5 In all cases which are not covered by the above regulations (6.2 and 6.3), the corresponding rules of the ICF or the BOA shall apply.
- 6.6 **Procedures to be undertaken by those seeking, obtaining and disbursing sponsorships, sports scholarships and awards.**
- 6.6.1 Details of all personal sponsorship arrangements, sports sponsorships and other awards, offered to or negotiated by individuals or organisations, must be submitted by beneficiaries to the BC Committee responsible for administering the particular activity, for registration and approval. When doubt exists regarding the appropriate Committee to whom information should be furnished, BC Headquarters will arrange for the necessary action to be undertaken.
- 6.6.2 A central registry of all personal sponsorship arrangements will be maintained by BC Headquarters, and will be available for inspection by authorised officers of BC.
- 6.6.3 The term "personal sponsorship arrangements negotiated by beneficiaries" shall include:
- 6.6.3.1 **Payments made to athletes selected through the UK Sport Performance Matrix and administered by BC Performance Director.**
- 6.6.3.2 **Sponsorship provided by individuals (not family), commercial, industrial, and public authorities, National and Regional Sports Aid Foundations, Local Authorities, Trust Funds, Educational Institutions and agencies, Clubs and other miscellaneous supportive groups.**

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

7 CLASSIFICATION OF PADDLERS

- 7.1 **Junior:** A Junior is a competitor under 18 years of age at the beginning of the current calendar year. A Junior will have junior ability racing status unless promoted to senior ability racing status. Each Junior ability status competitor will be nominated to compete in one of the Junior ability classes as laid down from time to time by the SRC. Juniors who have Senior ability status may race in their appropriate Junior age group in age group designated events, for international selections or National Championship.
- 7.2 **Senior:** A Senior is a competitor who is over 18 years of age at the beginning of the calendar year, will have Senior racing status. Each Senior status competitor will be nominated to compete in one of the Senior ability classes as laid down from time to time by the SRC.
- 7.3 **Master (Veteran):** The first year a paddler can compete in a Master event is the year that his/her thirty-fifth (35th) birthday falls in, provided he or she is not already nominated to compete in Men's A or Women's A who, irrespective of their age cannot compete in Master events.
- 7.4 **Promotions:** Entry into and promotion between classes will be at the discretion of the SRC which will be based on results gained in competition at National regattas and venues nominated by the SRC. An athlete may, on application by his Team Leader with the SRC's agreement, revert to a lower class.
- 7.5 **Mixed Events:** Mixed events where male and female competitors take part in the same boat are permitted.
- 7.6 **Status:** Status in Kayaks has no bearing on status in Canoes and the converse. Similarly, the status in the Paddle-Ability class and/or the Paracanoe classes has no bearing on the status in the ability Kayak and/or Canoe classes, e.g. a Senior A class competitor in Canoe may be in a different Senior class in Kayak.

8 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TROPHIES

- 8.1 In order to be eligible to win a National Championship title a Competitor must:
Be a British Citizen and be a current member of British Canoeing including, SCA, CW & CANI, (Juniors registered with family membership, do not need full individual British Canoeing membership) and not currently representing or in the selection process to represent another country; or
- 8.1.1 Have been resident in the United Kingdom and a member of British Canoeing, including, SCA, CW & CANI (Juniors registered with family membership, do not need full individual British Canoeing membership) for at least 2 (two) calendar years. For clarification, the residency shall be calculated as being the 2 years immediately preceding January 1st in the year of the relevant competition
- 8.2 In entering a National Championship, competitors agree to abide by BC Eligibility Policy and comply with the requirements and procedures of the National Championships organisers.
- 8.3 If a Competitor is not a British Citizen and has not been Resident in the United Kingdom and a member of British Canoeing, including, SCA, CW & CANI for the necessary 2 (two) years (in accordance with 8.1.1. above) and there are exceptional circumstances then they may apply to the Head of Governance and Compliance requesting discretion to be exercised. Any applications should be submitted at least four weeks prior to any National Championships event in which they wish to compete.
- 8.4 Decisions are final and in the absolute discretion of the British Canoeing Chief Executive who shall consider each case on its own merits and decisions do not create a precedent for any future cases.

N.B. see also Part V - Special Rules for National Championship Events

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

Part II - CLASSES AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

9 WEIGHT AND DIMENSION LIMITS

Athletes are responsible to ensure their boats conform to the technical requirement below to compete in a competition. Penalties as described in Part IV, Regulation 31 will be imposed when rules are not complied with.

	Paracanoes		K1	K2	K4	C1	C2	C4
	Kayak	Va'a						
Max length	520	730	520	650	1100	520	650	900
Min weight	12	13**	12	18	30	14	20	30
Min width	50*							
Measurements in cm, weights in kg.								
* Measured 10cm from bottom of hull. ** Including hull, alma & iatco (spreaders).								
Note: The length of a kayak or a canoe shall be measured between the extremes of the stem and the stern. Stem-bands or other projections of the stem or stern, if any, are to be included. Any rudder forming a continuation of the length of a kayak is not to be included in the measurement. The weight of a boat shall not include any loose fittings, any fixed absorbent material must be dry.								

10 ATHLETE IDENTIFICATION AND TRADEMARKS

- 10.1 Boats, accessories and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols and written text.
- 10.1.1 All advertising materials used should be placed in such a way that they do not interfere with athletes' identification and do not affect the outcome of the race.
- 10.1.2 If an athlete's name is displayed, it shall be placed on each side of the boat under the cockpit.
- 10.1.3 Athletes should wear clothing in compliance with the club or NF Team uniform colours registered with the SRC, or those of the national federation they represent if competing as an invited international athlete.
- 10.1.4 The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks is not permitted.
- 10.1.5 Images, symbols and written text unrelated to sport funding or political messages are not permitted.
- 10.1.6 No part of the athlete's body should be attached to the boat in anyway. Such attachments must be removed.

11 CONSTRUCTION

- 11.1 The boat must be constructed so that it remains buoyant and floats in a horizontal position when filled with water while supporting the crew. Boats inherent buoyancy must be supplemented by additional and visible fixed flotation material or by the provision of sealed bulk heads.
- 11.2 All boats must be built symmetrically upon the axis of its length.
- 11.3 The hull section and longitudinal lines of the hull of the kayak and canoe must not be concave (horizontally and vertically respectively).
- 11.4 The deck construction may not be higher on any horizontal point than the highest point of the front edge of the first cockpit.
- 11.5 No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the boat which give the athlete an unfair advantage. The use of hull lubricant is not permitted.
- 11.6 No part of the boat (including the seat and the footrest) may have moving parts which can be used to help propel the boat in a way which would give athletes an unfair advantage.
- 11.7 A boat or athlete may be equipped with a device which provides real time feedback on performance for use by television or sport presentation. Devices may be used by the athlete for analysis following a race but in no circumstances, may the device be used to provide real time feedback to the athlete during a race.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

Kayaks

- 11.8 Kayaks shall have one rudder. The rudder must be placed under the hull of the boat.
- 11.8.1 The boat must be designed for athletes to a sit-in (Kayak type) not a sit-on top (Surf Ski type).
- 11.8.2 Weed deflectors can be a maximum 20cm long and cannot be deeper than the rudder.

Canoes

- 11.9. Canoes must be symmetrical along their longitudinal axes.
- 11.9.1 Steering rudders or any guiding apparatus directing the course of the canoe are not allowed.
- 11.9.2 C1 and C2 boats may be entirely open. The minimum length of the opening shall be 280cm and the edge of the side of the craft (gunwale) can extend maximum 5cm into the craft along the whole opening. The boat can have a maximum of 3 strengthening bars with a width of maximum 7cm each.
- 11.9.3 C4 canoes may be entirely open. The minimum length of the opening shall be 390cm and the edge of the side of the craft (gunwale) can extend maximum 6cm into the craft along the opening. The boat can have maximum 4 strengthening bars with a width of maximum 7cm each.

Innovations

- 11.10 Significant innovations in equipment including, but not limited to, boats, related equipment and clothing, must meet the requirements and conditions concerning innovation contained in the ICF Canoe Sprint Racing Rules

12. Boat Control

- 12.1 The length of a kayak or a canoe shall be measured between the extremes of the stem and the stern. Stem-bands or other projections of the stem or stern, if any, are to be included. Any rudder forming a continuation of the length of a kayak is not to be included in the measurement
- 12.2 No alterations in canoes and kayaks are permitted after the measuring and weighing and before the competition has taken place.

Before Weighing the Boat:

- 12.3 All loose fittings shall be removed. Permanent knee rests attached in a definitive way to the floorboard and buoyancy attachments consisting of water absorbing material must be absolutely dry or removed.

Part III - ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

13 Officials

Duties of the Organising Committee

- 13.1 An Organising Committee is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition. The Organising Committee shall, in particular:
- 1) Fix the date and the programme of the regatta in agreement with the SRC.
 - 2) Draw up and distribute the advance programme including the date and time of the team leaders' meeting.
 - 3) Make available a stretch of water and technical equipment conforming to the present Sprint Racing Competition Rules.

13.2 Competition Committee

The competition will be managed by a Competition Committee consisting of:

- 1) Chief Official
- 2) Chief Judge
- 3) Deputy Chief Judge

For National status competitions two members of the competition committee must be registered Regatta Officials of the BC Sprint Racing Section.

For an international regatta, two members of the Competition Committee must be in possession of a valid International Canoe Sprint Official card.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

13.3 Duties of the Competition Committee:

- a) Direct and supervise the competition.
- b) Postpone the competition and decide, if possible, when the competition can resume in the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- c) Decide on matters concerning disqualification in cases where the rules have been broken during the competition.
- d) Hear any protests that may be made and settle any disputes that may arise.
- e) Hear the opinion of the Course Umpire who controlled the race in which the infraction was said to have occurred, before any decision is made regarding an alleged infraction of the rules.
- f) Make decisions based on the BC Sprint Racing Competition Rules and the Terms and Condition of Participation. Penalties as described in Part IV, Regulation 31.
- g) Penalties in accordance with BC Rules or the SRC Disciplinary Regulations may also be imposed i.e. disqualification for a longer period than the duration of the competition in question.
- h) Should a competitor be injured during a heat, the Committee may allow him to participate in another heat.

13.4 If its nature and extent demand, each competition shall be held under the supervision of the following officials:

Chief Official	Aligner(s)
Chief Judge	Starter(s)
Deputy Chief Judge	Course Umpire(s)
Competition Manager	Turning Point Umpire(s)
Boat Controllers	Finish Line Judge(s)
Announcer	Media Officer

If circumstances permit, one person may function in two of the above positions.

13.5 The Chief Official, Chief Judge, Deputy Chief Judge, Competition Manager, Starter, Umpires, should, if possible, be registered BC Regatta Officials.

13.6 Unauthorised persons must not enter any official's area unless the Competition Committee or the Jury send for officials or team officials in order to solve problems.

13.7 The National Champion Competition Jury:

- a) A protest made during the competition must be handed in by the Club's Team Leader to the Competition Committee not later than 20 minutes after publication of the results.
- b) An appeal against a decision of the Competition Committee must be addressed to the Chairman of the Jury and handed in not later than 20 minutes after the Team Leader has been informed, in writing by the Chair of the Competition Committee, of the decision against the competitor or crew and has signed the receipt.
- c) Final authority for National Championship Competitions shall rest with a Jury composed of a Chairman and four members
- d) The members of the Jury shall be appointed by a quorum of the SRC prior to the commencement of the competition. (In the event of a quorum not being present, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or another official of the SRC and two Committee members may appoint the Jury).
- e) The Chairman of the Jury will be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the SRC or an elected SRC member.
- f) Subordinate to this Jury are the Chief Official and other officials shown in Rule 13.2.
- g) The decision of the Jury is final.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

13.8 Duties of Officials

13.8.1 **The Chief Official**, who is also the Chair of the Competition Committee, will decide on all matters arising during the actual competition, which is not dealt with in these rules. *With the confirmation of the Competition Committee, may disqualify any competitor who behaves improperly or who, by their conduct or speech, shows contempt towards the competition officials, other competitors or onlookers (see Rule 31.6).* All officials are responsible to the Chief Official.

13.8.2 **The Chief Judge** will:

- a) Cooperates with the Chief Official and substitutes for the Chief Official where necessary.
- b) Collect the forms necessary for the administration of the competition.
- c) Formulate the decisions of the Competition Committee passed in the subject-matter of any protests and arrange to have an accurate record made.

13.8.3 **The Deputy Chief Judge** will:

- a) Cooperate with the Chief Official and the Competition Manager and will handle the administrative tasks of the competition.
- b) Check the personal identification documents of the competitors and their age if necessary.
- c) Keep in contact with the responsible IT person in case of computer data processing.
- d) Check the results, race by race during the competition and prepare the list of the boats qualified to the next phase of the competition.

13.8.4 **The Competition Manager** will

- a) Keep in constant contact with the organisers to solve any problems arising
- b) Supervises the races and is responsible for ensuring that the competition schedule is followed without unnecessary delay.
- c) Complete the competition administration for the races (competition schedule, drawings, results technical documents, boat control, press, protest etc.).
- d) Ensure that the announcer gives all the necessary information about the races such as the start order, the name of any athletes failing to start and the results.

13.8.5 **The Boat Controller(s)**

- a) The ID Controller(s) must only allow athletes to compete in the race whose identification has been checked and whose body number conforms to the rules. They will also check for any performance enhancing foreign substance on the boat and any forbidden devices as mentioned in Part II. The Official in charge must inform the Competition Committee in the case of a missing boat. (International competitions only).
- b) Post -race Boat Controller(s) will check boats after races. Three (3) boats could be selected at random from the participants in the races for boat control after the finish. For National Championship finals the first 4 boats will be called to boat control. Should any of the boats not fulfil the BC requirements in Part II, they can be excluded (DSQ) from the competition.

13.8.6 **The Starter(s)** will:

- a) Decides all matters concerning the start of the races,
- b) Be solely responsible for false starts.
- c) Ensure that the starting equipment is in working order.
- d) Communicate with the Competition Committee before each race. After having received a signal from them that all is ready, order the boats to their places.
- e) Utilise English in all communications with the athletes, plus other languages if possible and deemed appropriate in the circumstances (Internationals only)
- f) Carry out the start according to the Racing Rules.
- g) Ensure that the circumstances at the start are free from any hindrance.

13.8.7 **The Aligner** the duty of the aligner is to bring the boats to the starting line with the least possible delay. Their duties will be to check the uniformity of the competitors including their attire as well as the number on the back and the boat (lane) number.

If an automatic starting system is in use the aligners (international events) will be positioned in two separate boats behind the starting line. They will have an unobstructed view inside the system's boats.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

When all boats are aligned and completely inside the boots the aligner will raise a white flag signifying to the starter that they are in position to start. When the boats are not in the boots, the aligner shall raise a red flag. If there is no automatic starting system, the aligners may be repositioned

13.8.7 **The Course Umpire(s)** will:

- a) Ensure that during a race the rules are complied with.
- b) Show a white flag after the race has completed if there is no infraction of the rules to report
- c) Show a red flag and a lane number after the race has completed if there is an infraction of the rules.
- d) Report immediately any infraction to the Competition Committee if the rules are broken.
- e) Present a written report to the Competition Committee within 10 minutes in such a case.
- f) Follow the 1,000m races in a motorboat: The races should be accompanied by two (2) Course Umpires in two (2) separate catamaran type boats.
- g) No follow the 200m races: Two (2) Course Umpires in two (2) separate motorboats will be positioned before the start line. Two (2) Course Umpires in two (2) separate motorboats will be positioned behind the finish line.
- h) For the 500m races either system as used for 1,000, or the 200m races may be adopted for the course Umpires to do their task. The Chief Official will decide on the most appropriate system to be used, based on their opinion of the course features.
- i) Follow and judge the race also from the Finish Tower: as instructed by the Chief Official.
- j) Be completely unhampered during the race: No one except the Umpire and the driver shall be admitted to the boat reserved for him.
- k) Stop the competition: passing all boats in the race and waving the red flag or using a sound signal until all boats have stopped paddling in the case of hindrances. Report immediately the infraction to the Competition Committee. After this all boats shall return to the start.
- l) In long distance races with many athletes more than one Course Umpire will be nominated.

13.8.9 **The Turning Point Umpires**, when a race is run along a course with one or more turning points, one or more Umpires and one recorder must be stationed at every turning point, where they gain the best view of the turn.

- a) The Turning Point Umpire shall see that the competitors turn according to the rules. The recorder shall make a list of all who pass the turning point.
- b) Immediately after the race, the Turning Point Umpire shall report to the Competition Committee as to who has turned and if any infraction of the rules has taken place.

13.8.10 **The Finishing Line Judges** will:

- a) Be placed in a position where all lanes at the finish line can be clearly seen.
- b) Time each race with at least two (2) stopwatches. When stopwatches have not recorded the same time, the slowest time will be taken as correct. The stopwatches are to be started when the electronic or optical signal from the start is received.
- c) Decide the order in which the boats have crossed the finishing line when there is no Photo Finish system.
- d) Use a simple majority to decide a dispute in the absence of a Photo Finish system and where the Finish Line Judges differ regarding determining the places of two (2) or more boats. In the case of equal voting the Chief Judge has the casting vote.
- e) Determine the results and compare them with the photo finish results. If there is a Photo Finish system. The photo finish will be decisive.
- f) Record the position of the athletes in the boat with a video camera at the time of arriving at the finish line. The Chief Finish Line Judge will decide with the recording whether the athlete in his/her boat upon arriving or not and report it to the Competition Committee.
- g) One (1) of the Finish Line Judges will; be appointed as Chief Finish Line Judge who will:
 - i) Ensure that the timing equipment is working correctly. They may divide the work amongst the Finish Line Judges.
 - ii) Compare the official times/positions with the other Finish Line Judges at the end of each race and immediately inform the Deputy Chief Judge on them.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

- 13.8.11 **The Announcer** shall, on the instructions of the Competition Manager, announce the start of each race, the order of the starting and the position of the competitors during the race. After the race is finished, he/she will announce the results.
- 13.8.12 **The Media Officer** must supply all the necessary information to the representatives of the press, radio and television about the race and its progress. He/she is authorised therefore to ask for information from the different officials who must procure for him/her as soon as possible the copies from the official results.
- 13.8.13 **It is the Officials' obligation** to perform their tasks in conformity with the Sprint Racing Competition Rules.
- a) Every judge has the obligation to check their equipment necessary to perform their tasks is in working order. In the case of a shortcoming is found, it must be reported to the Chief Official or Competition Manager.

Unauthorised persons must not enter any Officials' area unless they are called for by either the Competition Committee or the Jury.

14. Invitations

An invitation to an Open Regatta shall contain the following information:

- a) Time and place of the regatta.
- b) Situation and plan of the course.
- c) Classes and distance of the races.
- d) Sequence and starting times of races.
- e) Whether the races are to be held on still or running water, up or down stream and minimum depth of water.
- f) Amount of entry fee.
- g) Address to which entries should be sent and the last date for receiving entries. This date shall not be earlier than 14 days prior to the first day of the competition.
- h) Conditions/terms of participation

15. Entries

- 15.1 Entries for Open National Regattas can only be made in accordance with the regulations given in the invitation. An entry shall, however, always contain the following information:
- a) Name of club or federation to which competitors belongs.
 - b) Classes and distances in which the competitors propose to compete.
 - c) Name, sex, age, citizenship, national federation/BC membership number of competitors
 - d) Similar details of reserves if any.
 - e) All entries should be in writing (Online). Where verbal communication is used, it must also be confirmed in writing by the given deadline (midnight on the due date). In the event of conflicting information, the information with letterhead and/or signature will take precedence.
 - f) Late entries are not normally accepted. The acceptance of late entries shall be at the discretion of the Competition Committee who may charge up to double the entry fee.
 - g) **Racing Colours**
When making the entries, Clubs/squads must have given the colours of the uniform to be worn by the competitors, these colours must not be changed during the competition. ***N.B. Every sprint racing club must register their racing colours with the RC (and any changes planned). All competitors must always wear the correct club/squad colours and for them to be visible at all times while racing.***
- 15.2 The Regatta Committee will accept entries up to the entry deadline which conform with the Sprint Racing rules and conditions/terms of participation. The Regatta Committee can reject or delete from the competition, entries of participants if it is found they have failed to observe the Sprint Racing rules and/or the conditions/terms of participation.

16. Regatta Programme

- 16.1 Not later than 48 hours before the first race of the regatta, the programme shall be available, giving the names and citizenship/clubs of the competitors and the results of the draw.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

17. Heats and Finals

- 17.1 At least three kayaks or canoes must be entered before a race can be held. If the number of entries in races up to and including 1,000 metres is so great that heats are necessary, the number of kayaks or canoes in each heat and in the final must not exceed nine (9).
- 17.2 The division of competitors into heats shall be determined by drawing lots.
- 17.3 For National regattas the procedure for selecting competitors to race in finals will be based on one of two criteria: either by time or by positions as obtained in heats. The criterion used for each event will be decided by the SRC and published in advance of the event and in the programme
- 17.4 Where the width of the course permits, eight or nine kayaks or canoes shall participate in the final if more than this number has been entered in the entire event, as follows:
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 3 to 9 entries | Direct final. |
| 10 to 18 entries | Two heats, one Final |
| 19 to 45 entries | Required number of heats (3-5), two Finals |
| 46 and more | Required number of heats (6 or more), three Final |
- 17.5 When making the draw, the difference between the number of competitors in the heats of the race shall not exceed one. If the number of competitors in the heats varies, the earlier heats shall have the largest numbers.
- 17.6 Any crew which has not taken part in a heat as instructed shall not be allowed to compete in the final. The composition of a crew which has qualified for semi-finals or for the final must not be changed
- 17.7 Heats and the final shall be run on the same stretch of water.
- 17.8 For races of more than 1,000 metres, heats shall not be held, and all boats taking part shall start simultaneously.
- 17.9 Should the width of water not permit a simultaneous start, starts at regular intervals shall be permitted.

18. Team Leaders' Meeting

At least 1 hour before the first race of the competition, the team leaders' meeting is to be held. At this meeting the names of team leaders should be confirmed. The organisers will describe the regatta course and all other arrangements, which should be adhered to for the duration of the competition. The Chief Official will describe the competition programme and ask for any changes to the entries.

19. Alterations to Entries and Withdrawals

- 19.1 Notification of any alterations in the crews after the Team Leaders meeting must be given in written form to the Regatta Secretary's Desk at least **one hour before the race**.
- 19.2 The withdrawal from a race is considered final and no renewed entry of the same crew is allowed.
- 19.3 Every competitor whose entry has been confirmed, at the time of the team leaders meeting or subsequently not deleted via the Regatta Secretary's Desk is obliged to take part in their event.

20. Alterations in the sequence of events

The sequence of races given in the programme and the intervals between races as given in the racing programme are binding on the organisers. Alterations cannot be made unless the respective Team Leaders at the competition give their consent.

21. Course, Markings and Layout

The course consists of up to nine lanes, number one shall be on the left then number two and so on. *When there is television coverage of an event, the lane numbering may be in the opposite direction – from right to left, so that the list of competitors and their lanes shown on the television screen match the appearance of the races to be televised.*

- 21.1 For National Regattas and where possible for other competitions the turning points shall be marked by at least six flags (or buoys) which shall be readily distinguishable and shall, if possible be diagonally divided with one half in red and the other half in yellow.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

- 21.2 Both the start and the finishing lines shall be marked with red flags or buoys, at the points where these lines intersect the outer limits of the course.
- 21.3 Before the start of the races the racing course shall be measured and marked by means of clearly visible flags mounted on buoys.
- The course at the start shall permit a clear width when possible, of at least 9 metres for each lane.
 - For National Regattas the starting and finishing lines shall be at right angles to the course.
 - The finishing line shall be at least 45 metres long and be marked by two flags. The Finishing Line Judges must be placed as near to the finishing line as possible.
 - For National Regattas races up to 1,000 metres, the course must be straight and in one direction.
- 21.4 For races exceeding 1,000 metres turning points are permitted. For National Regatta races exceeding 1,000 metres the following conditions should be fulfilled, if possible:
- The distance between the starting line and the first flag of the first turning point (1st leg) shall be straight and at least 1,859.25 metres.
 - The distance between the last flag of the first turning point and the first flag of the second turning point (2nd leg) shall be straight and maximum 1759.25 metres.
 - The distance between the last flag of the second turning point and the first flag of the third turning point (3rd leg) shall be a maximum of 500 metres.
 - The specifications of all other stretches shall be in accordance with point "c".
 - The radius of each turn should, if possible be at least 40.5 metres.
 - Both the start and the end of the race shall be in front of the Finishing Tower.
 - The red flags of the finish line shall be placed as much to the outside as possible in order to get the widest feasible finish line.
 - Any starting pontoons are to be removed.
- 21.5 For competitions, including the National Championships, these conditions should be complied with, unless a special dispensation for the course has been obtained from the SRC through the Secretary.

22. Boat Numbers

All kayaks and canoes shall carry a vertical number plate made of non-transparent material marked with black numbers on white or yellow background indicating the lane. The numbers on the plate must measure 15 cm in height and 25 mm in thickness. The plates shall be placed on the centre line of the afterdeck or thwart. The size of the number plate shall be 18 x 20 cm. Any personal numbers provided by the organisers shall be placed on the competitor as required by the organisers.

23. Instructions for Competitors

Written instructions shall be available for competitors at least 2 hours before the start of the competition, containing the following information:

- Detailed information on the courses and their markings
- Starting time
- Starting line
- Finishing line
- Competitors racing number (if used)
- Type of boat control
- Position of any award ceremony

Part IV - RACING REGULATIONS

24. Means of Propulsion

- 24.1 Kayaks shall be propelled solely by means of double-bladed paddles.
- 24.2 Canadian Canoes shall be propelled solely by means of single-bladed paddles.
- 24.3 The paddles may not be fixed to the boat in any way.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

25. Start

- 25.1 Competitors shall be on the water at the start area, not less than three (3) minutes prior to the specified time of their race. The start area is defined as being the area of water within 100 metres before the starting line.
Two minutes before the defined starting time the competing boats must take the lane allocated.
- 25.2 Competitors shall be at the start area in time to allow satisfactory preparation for the start.
- 25.3 The start must commence without reference to any absentees.
- 25.4 If competitor(s) fails to start a final having taken part in the heat without a valid reason approved by the Competition Committee, will be penalised. A competitor, who arrives too late at the start, shall be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn and may be penalised under this rule.
- 25.5 When signalled by the Starter, the competitor will take the start position designated so that the bow of the boat is on the start line. When an automatic starting system is employed the competitor will place the bow of the boat in the starting boot. When all boats are properly aligned, the aligner, if used, will then raise a white flag.
- 25.6 If the Starter is not satisfied with the line-up he/she will call "STOP", and hand over to the Aligner for repositioning.
- 25.7 The starting command will be "Ready – Set – Go" ("Go" can be a shot or strong signal). At the "Ready" command the competitors begin their preparation to paddle. At the "Set" command the competitors place their paddle in the catch position. The competitor must not paddle forward or this action will be deemed to be a false Start. The boat must not move forward at this point in the starting procedure. The Starter when satisfied with the competitors positioning and attention will say "Go" (or shot or powerful sound). The competitors must only react to the start command/signal "Go" and are not permitted to anticipate it. The competitors can paddle only upon hearing the starting signal/command "Go".
- 25.8 In the event of a false start, the Starter must immediately give a powerful sound signal. On hearing this signal all competitors must stop paddling and follow the Starter's instructions for a new start. Before the new start, the Starter must identify the offending crew/s and give them a warning. In the event of a second false start by the same crew the boat will be disqualified from the race and must leave the starting area and the course immediately.
- 25.9 The Starter may also recall competitors for a new start in the event of any unforeseen circumstance – a malfunction of the starting equipment for example. In such a case the same powerful sound signal must be given. If a malfunction of the starting equipment was caused through a boat making a false start, the crew must be given a warning, even though that boat may not have crossed the start line. If the malfunction was not the cause of any competitor making a false start, no penalty shall be imposed.
- 25.10 The Starter will start the race when he/she is satisfied that everything meets with his/her approval. He/she will report any disqualification to the Chief Official.

26. Paddling on the Course

- 26.1 In races up to 1,000 metres, competitors must keep the whole of their boat within the five (5)-metre wide central area of their lane from the start to the finish of the course. Upon any deviation, the boat must go back immediately to this central area of the lane.
- 26.2 If a boat fails to actively return and/or gains an advantage in the race the boat may be disqualified from the event.
- 26.3 A boat which leaves its allocated lane must be disqualified from the event.
- 26.4 If a race is declared null and void, no change of the composition of a crew is permitted at the new start.
- 26.5 If there is a capsize the competitor or crew is eliminated from the race.
- 26.6 The Course Umpire has the right to interrupt a correctly started race if unforeseen hindrances arise. The Course Umpires with a red flag and sound signal may affect such an interruption. Competitors must immediately stop paddling and await further instructions.
- 26.7 If a paddle is broken a competitor cannot be provided with a new one by a supporter.
- 26.8 Paracanoe races only: Spray decks must not be used unless permitted by the Chief Official due to severe water condition

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

27. Pacing

- 27.1 Taking pace or receiving assistance from boats not in the race or by any other means is not permitted.
- 27.2 When a race is in progress, it is strictly forbidden for any crews not taking part in the race to interfere or impede the race by proceeding over a part of the marked course, this includes creating wash even from outside the marking buoys.

28 Competitions for Long Distance

- 28.1 Races of more than 1,000 metres, competitors may deviate from their lane providing they do not impede other competitors.
- 28.2 When a race is run on a course with turning points these shall be passed to port (i.e. in an anti-clockwise direction).
- 28.3 A competitor will not be disqualified for touching a turning buoy, unless, in the opinion of the Turning Point Umpires, an advantage has been gained there from. In making a turn, the boat shall follow as closely as possible the course as marked by the buoys at the turning points.
- 28.4 If there is a capsized competitor or crew is eliminated from the race if he/she or they are not able to get in the boat without outside help.
- 28.5 Any competitor who unnecessarily deviates from their course may be disqualified. is responsible for a collision or who damages the canoe or kayak or paddle of another can be disqualified and can be required to pay damages.
- 28.6 Group Racing and Overtaking
- When a boat is overtaking another boat, it is the duty of the overtaking craft to keep clear of other competitors at all times.
 - When a boat is racing in a group of competitors it is the duty of all competitors in the group to keep clear of other competitors at all times. This rule applies to any manoeuvring within the group.
- 28.7 Collision or damage. Any competitor who is considered by the course umpire or race official, to have been responsible for a collision, or who damages the boat or paddle of another competitor may be disqualified.

29. Finish

- 29.1 The boat has finished the race when its bow crosses the finish line with all crew members in it. The Finish Line Judges will determine the result of the competition based on the order of the boats arriving according to the rules.
- 29.2 If two or more boats reach the finishing line at the same time they are awarded the same classification in the final. In the case of a dead heat finish for any position, which determines the advance to the next level of the competition the following rules will apply:
- Wherever there are sufficient number of lanes available in the next level of the competitions, drawing of lots will determine to which race each boat will advance. If necessary, lane number 10 will be used.
 - Wherever there are not enough lanes available there will be a re-race between the boats involved 30 minutes after the race.
 - In the case of a dead heat in the re-race, drawing of lots will determine the outcome.
- 29.3 At BC SRC sponsored events, 1 or more competitors may be selected at random to bring their boats to Boat Control after each race, except in the case of a National Championship finals where the first 4 boats to finish will be selected.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

30. Tasks of Competitors after the Race

- 30.1 The competitor must leave the course after the finish of the race and cannot disturb the next race.
- 30.2 The crews selected by the Competition Committee for boat control to proceed immediately to post race boat control, failure to do so will be penalised.
- 30.3 If selected for doping control, the competitor must comply with the obligations stipulated by the BC Anti-Doping policy.
- 30.4 Before the award ceremony the top three crews of the final must be present at the location and time indicated.
- 30.5 At National Championships, competitors must wear club, team/squad Racing Colours or Tracksuit at the award ceremony.

31. **Penalties.** Any infringement of the Sprint Racing Competition Rules or the Terms/Conditions of Participation will result in the imposition of a penalty. At the discretion of the Competition Committee this penalty may be either Disqualification, or a Warning delivered to a competitor via his/her Team Leader. At National Sprint Regattas a further option is the award of Penalty Points in accordance with National Sprint Regattas Disciplinary Procedures as described in Section B. In determining the specific form, a penalty will take, the Competition Committee will consider factors including, but not limited to, the nature of the race, the experience level of the competitor(s) involved and any further impact the decision may have.

- 31.1 Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honourable means, who breaks the Racing Regulations, or who disregards the honourable nature of the Racing Regulations, will be penalised.
- 31.2 Should a competitor have completed a race in a kayak or canoe which is shown upon inspection not to conform with the classifications (see rules 9 to 12) and building regulations, he/she will be penalised.
- 31.3 A competitor who is deemed to have received external assistance during a race, including but not limited to objects thrown into the course, will be penalised.
- 31.4 A crew that has been accompanied along and adjacent to the racecourse by other boats while the race is in progress will be penalised.
- 31.5 Disqualifications by the Competition Committee may be confirmed in writing with the reasons. The Team Leader acknowledges receipt on a copy with the exact time, which is the start of the protest time.
Failure to deliver the copy confirmation of the disqualification to the team leader does not invalidate the disqualification.
- 31.6 The Competition Committee may discipline any competitor or Official whose behaviour is detrimental to the good order and conduct of the competition. The Competition Committee may disqualify him/her for that competition.

32. Protests

- 32.1 A protest against the right of an athlete/crew to compete in a race must be addressed to the Competition Committee and handed to the Chief Official, not later than one (1) hour before the start of the first race of the competition.
- 32.2 A protest, made during the competition must be in written form, addressed to the Competition Committee and handed to the Chief Official not later than 20 minutes after the Team Leader has been informed on the decision against his/her athlete or team and has signed the receipt.
- 32.3 All protests must be accompanied by a fee of £15.00. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. *If the protest is not upheld the fee may not be refunded, at the discretion of the Competition Committee.*
- 32.4 When a protest or a report is made against an athlete or a team, the team leader of the athlete/team in question shall be presented with the protest or report to read.

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMPETITION RULES

33 Appeals

In the case of National Championship Competitions, an appeal can be made to the National Championship Competition Jury in accordance with Rule 13.7. A fee of £70.00 shall accompany the appeal. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The Jury decision is final.

Competitors have the right to appeal to the SRC through their club or team management against a decision of the Competition Committee, within 30 days following the end of the competition if after the end of the competition new facts become known that would substantially affect a decision made at the competition.

Matters of fact during a competition cannot be contested in an appeal.

A fee of £70.00 shall accompany the appeal. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The BC SRC decision is final

Part V - SPECIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

34. National & Open Championship Medals, National Champions and Trophies:

Only members of BC who qualify under Rule 8 can become a National Champion or be awarded a National Championship trophy.

34.1 National & Open Championship medals will be awarded to the first three boats, regardless of nationality

34.2 National Championship Trophies winners & the National Champion will be the best placed British paddler.

34.3 In the event there are fewer than three boats in a National Championship event, no medals will be awarded. If only three boats are in the event, then only a Gold medal will be awarded. If four or more boats are in an event the Gold, Silver & Bronze will be awarded.

Notes to the British Canoeing Sprint Racing Competition Rules

Races Exceeding 1,000 Metres at the National Water Sports Centre Nottingham, Rules 21.4 and 21.5

Because of limitations at the National Water Sports Centre - mainly the start pontoon being fixed for the Start of 5,000 metre or 2,500 metre events - it is not possible to comply with the Rule and provide the three courses required. The 2nd leg under the Rule is 47.75 metres too long. The requirements given in the Rule are those of the ICF, which the BC must shadow in its own Rules.

Long Distance Courses at the National Water Sports Centre, approved by the SRC

To provide flexibility there are three turning points with the start and finish of the turns as follows:

1. 10 metres beyond the finish line
2. 450 metres from the finish line
3. 1123 metres from the finish line

The standard domestic long distance race will consist of, 1 long lap to the turn at 1123metres mark from the finish line, plus 2 short laps turning at the 450 metres turn from the finish line and then finishing on the Finish Line in front of the Control Tower.

The British Canoeing – Sprint Racing Section Disciplinary Regulation & Code of Ethics, are available on the SRC website via this link http://canoeracing.org.uk/sprint/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/disciplinary_regulations_2017.pdf