NEWBURY CANOE CLUB

WATERSIDE SERIES RULES 2017

Website: ***www.watersideseries.org.uk***

2013 saw some outrageous and dangerous driving by support crews. This has now come to the attention of regulatory authorities and although we and they are working together to find workable resolutions NCC reserve the right to change these rules to comply with any directives that they may impose. Rules 21 i), j) and k) are in direct response by us because of this.

Support Crew's are now by far the biggest event organising headache!

And its now impacting directly on you the paddlers.

There will be a number of rule changes and additions which will be notified before race A, mainly concerning support crew behaviour and etiquiette and a liaison between Waterside, Thameside and DW.

Visit our website (www.watersideseries.org.uk) for details when released.

1. Every crew must have completed and signed an official entry form, and paid the appropriate entry fee, before they will be allowed to start.

2. All competitors must be able to swim 50 meters in canoeing clothing.

3. All competitors must be members of the BCU or approved National Associations either as Junior, Young Persons or Adult. Each paddler must provide proof of such membership before he or she will be allowed to start. Membership of BCU affiliated Club with a Registered Youth Section is acceptable for those representing that School, College or Club.

   IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE PROOF OF BCU MEMBERSHIP YOU WILL HAVE TO BUY AN EVENT TICKET ON RACE DAY (THE COST OF DAY TICKETS IS NOT REFUNDABLE). EVENT TICKETS COST £5.

   Suggestion: Screen Print/Capture the BCU online membership registration page whilst showing the expiry date. Note that internet connection may not be possible at some start locations so best performed before arriving at the start.

4. Buoyancy aids are **compulsory for all junior paddlers** (regardless of the class entered), and are ***strongly recommended for all other paddlers.*** Paddlers over 18 who do not wish to wear a buoyancy aid can race in the senior classes. Buoyancy aids must be worn in the K2J, K1J and JV (junior paddler) classes. Spot checks may be made by race officials to enforce this rule. See also new rule 23.

   Buoyancy Aids. Junior competitors must wear an Integral Foam Buoyancy aid or lifejacket offering the wearer a minimum 50 Newton of inherent buoyancy and conforming to one of the following European standards: EN 393 or EN 395 or ISO12402-5 or ISO12402-6. The EN standard must be clearly displayed via a label attached by the manufacturer.
   Buoyancy aids or lifejackets are **not acceptable** under any circumstance if:-
   1. They only display certification to BA83.
   2. Require partial or total inflation by mouth, or by the use of a compressed air/gas cylinder.
   3. Appear to be more than five years old.
   4. Have been subjected to heavy use thus degrading their flotation value
   5. Have been tampered with or modified in any way

   Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.

5. All competitors must obtain their race number and sign the Attendance Register at Race Control at the start of each race. The race number must be mounted vertically on the boat throughout the race. Any boat which is not displaying a number when it crosses the finishing line may not be timed. Race numbers must be returned to Race Control at the finish of each race.

   The Attendance Register is now very important as it is a direct means of contacting your Support Crew in emergancey or missed contact / retirement queiries highlighted by Race control - See also rule 21 i)

6. Age categories are as follows :-
   Juniors must be aged under 19 on 1st January preceding the race.
   Veterans must be aged over 35 on 1st January preceding the race.
   K1 Veteran Masters must be aged over 50 on 1st January preceding the race.
   A crew qualifies for the Junior/Veteran class if one crew member is a Veteran, and the other is a Junior.

Within the above restrictions, crews may choose which class to enter.

7. A Junior Team comprises of between 3 and 8 paddlers, with at least 3 boats, from any class, provided that all paddlers are under 19. Schools team members must be a full time enrolled person at the school or college being represented.

8. A Senior Team comprises of between 3 and 8 paddlers, with at least 3 boats, from any class. A Senior Team may include one or more junior crews.

9. **The members of the Team must be nominated on the specific form before the start of the Series, after which no changes to the membership of the Team will be allowed**. Crew pairings, within the nominated team members, may change and K1s can race instead of K2s. In each race, 3 boats, paddled by nominated team members must finish to qualify for the team event. **Team Nomination Forms** must be handed to the organisers before the closure of race control at the **START** of Waterside A.

10. The Team time is calculated by adding up the times of the Team's fastest three boats at each race.

11. Competitors in the Canadian classes (12 & 13) must use a single bladed paddle and their boats must not have a rudder.

12. Boats will be started at half minute intervals. Competitors may start (or join the queue waiting to start) at any time within the time limits published for each race, but it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they complete the course before the Finish Control is closed. Any competitor who starts or finishes before/after the stated times will not qualify for any Race award.

13. Competitors and their support crews must comply with instructions given by Race Officials in the written instructions, at the pre-race briefing, or during the course of the race.

    Failure to obey the instructions of a Race Official will result in a TIME PENALTY for each offence. For more serious offences, competitors may be DISQUALIFIED. The Race Committee has absolute discretion in such matters.

    Note: Road Crossing Marshals have NO right to stop vehicles on the highway. Therefore crews are likely to be held for short periods until it is safe to continue.

14. No outside assistance is to be given to any competitor, except for minor feeding of crews, or for safety reasons.

15. a) West Mills Swing Bridge on the western approach to Newbury is a **COMPULSORY PORTAGE**. Crews must portage the bridge on the right hand bank, then paddle on to Newbury Lock and portage the lock. COMPETITORS WHO PORTAGE ACROSS THE BRIDGE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

    b) Bulls Lock (Race B) has a LOW swing bridge just before the lock (on the way out). British Waterways have installed a landing stage on river right. This bridge is now a COMPULSORY PORTAGE (out & back). The Lock is then situated 50m from the bridge.

    Competitors who paddle under these bridges (or through the bridge when open), will have a TWO MINUTE PENALTY added to their race time.

16. **OVERTAKING IN THE SAVERNAKE TUNNEL IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN**. Any reported incidents of overtaking will result in **disqualification**.

17. Canal and River Trust strongly recommend that all competitors wear a buoyancy aid and have a whistle and waterproof torch attached to the buoyancy aid while paddling through the Savernake Tunnel.

18. At the turning point for Race B, it is essential that the marshal's instructions are followed, in order to avoid impeding other competitors. (See Rule 13).

19. All crews who have finished all four races are eligible for Series awards, K2 and C2 paddlers must have had the same partner for the whole series.

20. Every effort is made to present Prize giving as close to the end of the Finish Window as Possible. A short delay will exist for any Protests to be filed with Race Control. Protests after this time will be investigated but no guarantee is given to any results change. Protests must be presented on the official form available from Race Control.

21. The following rules apply equally to competitors and their support crews.

THERE IS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC EACH YEAR REGARDING THE BEHAVIOUR OF SUPPORT CREWS. REMEMBER THAT COMPETITORS MAY BE PENALISED FOR THE BEHAVIOUR OF THEIR SUPPORT CREWS.

a) Competitors and their support crews must show courtesy and consideration to other towpath users. Any trespassing, nuisance or damage caused by competitors or their support crews will lead to a crew's DISQUALIFICATION.

b) All competitors and support crews must use public toilet facilities or those provided by the organisers. This is particularly important in the villages along the course. Specific complaints have been received about using the towpath as a toilet at Pewsey Wharf. Any competitor or support crew doing this and recognised will be DISQUALIFIED.

c) Support vehicles must show courtesy and consideration to local residents and other road users, both while driving and when parking.

d) The start area at Great Bedwyn (Race A) is very sensitive. Competitors and support crews must restrict themselves to the towpath and the car park. **Identified miscreants will be disqualified and or barred from future Watersides. This applies to paddlers and support crews. DO NOT TRESPASS ON NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY.**

e) Little Bedwyn: No parkng for support crews. **Little Bedwyn is completely out of bounds to support crews for Race A,C and D.**

f) There is NO support parking at Burbage Wharf or Savernake Tunnel.

g) Vehicles must not stop on the road by the bridge at Pewsey Wharf, even for unloading. Please park at St Francis School or where indicated by race signs or marshals. ALSO for Race D, DO NOT park on the road, **DO** park at the Wharf or School.

h) The land between the canal and the river at Bulls Lock (Race B) is private property, portaging into the river at this point involves trespassing, and is a cause of friction with anglers. Competitors must not use the river at this point.

i) Support crews must supply/confirm a telephone contact number and car registration at Check in for EACH race.

j) Support crews will be given the option of supporting at Hungerford OR Kintbury but must not support at both during Races A, C or D.

k) To reduce support crews at Hampstead Marshal – Only Junior crew Support Crews to attend here.

22. Newbury CC Refund policy:
a) If Newbury Canoe Club Cancel the Series or an individual race, a refund will be given at NCC's discretion.
b) If for any reason a paddler(s) withdraws from 1 or more races after an entry has been accepted, no refund will be given - a change of Class, Crew or Race will be permitted.

23. Boat Buoyancy: Random checks will be made at the start of each Race as per MRC rule 5) a) i).

24. All disposable drinking systems must be collected/retrieved by a crew's support crew.

25. The decision of the Race Committee on all matters is final.

26. We have introduced online banking as an alternative to sending Cheques. We reserve the right to change these rules to affect any changes that make this online banking possible. Please read the Online Banking statement as ths will mean less confusion in matching your payment to entry. *(The content of the Refenerence is particularly important*)

2017 Rule updates (Underlined in text): *21-e*)

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This event is held on the Kennet & Avon Canal by kind permission of the Canal and River Trust.