

ICU WILDWATER RACING COMPETITION RULES

These rules shall be defined, maintained and upheld by the Wild Water Racing Committee of the Irish Canoe Union. These rules shall only be updated during the off season – after the last race of a season and before the first race of a new season.

1 Race Types

1.1 Classic race – typically between 10 minutes and thirty minutes duration. Each competitor completes one timed run down the course, in time trial format. Competitors start typically at one minute intervals.

1.2 Sprint race – typically between 300 meters and 600 meters long. Each competitor completes two timed runs down the course, both in time trial format. The times of both runs are combined to count towards the race result. Competitors start typically at one minute intervals.

1.3 In both classic and Sprint races, the water should be graded two or higher.

2 Safety

2.1 ICU/ ICF safety rules apply (see section 18/26 ICF Wildwater rules for details).

2.2 Helmet and Buoyancy Aid must be worn by all competitors.

2.3 In all boat classes, adequate buoyancy must be fitted securely inside the craft. In WWR kayak and canoe classes buoyancy should be fitted to meet ICF requirements. Any paddler found not to have adequate buoyancy will be disqualified and docked ranking points for the event in question.

2.4 At the finish of all domestic races, competitors must remain on the water until there are at least three other racers present at the finish to provide rescue/safety cover.

3 Competitors

3.1 Only members of the I.C.U. or members of I.C.F. affiliated unions may participate in I.C.U. Wildwater Racing events.

3.2 Paddlers may race for only one club in any one season.

Failure to comply with points 2.1, 2.2 above will mean loss of points to the individual and the club.

4 Divisions

4.1 Under classed boats (boats which are significantly within the ICF regulations concerning weight and dimensions, e.g. Open Singles or GP plastic kayak) are eligible to be used in all kayak classes.

4.2 The following ranking classes will be offered at domestic competition

Men's WWR Kayak Div 1.

Men's WWR Kayak Div 2.

Junior men's WWR Kayak.

Women's WWR Kayak.

Junior Women's WWR Kayak.

C1.

C2.

4.3 The following ranking classes will be offered at junior series domestic events:

Men's under 18 WWR kayak.

Women's under 18 WWR kayak.

Under 18 C1/C2.

Men's under 18 Open Singles/GP.

Women's under 18 Open Singles/GP.

4.4 National champions will be declared in the following categories:

Men's WWR Kayak

Women's WWR Kayak
Junior men's WWR Kayak.
Junior Women's WWR Kayak.
Senior C1
Senior C2
Junior C1
Junior C2

4.5 For K1, C1 and C2 I.C.F. specifications will be used (see section 7 ICF rules).

4.6 Those eligible for U18 (junior) classes are those under the age of 18 on the day of the first race of the domestic Wildwater racing season – such persons can race as a junior for the entire domestic racing season. If a competitor is 18 or over on the date of the first domestic race of the winter season, they are deemed to be a senior competitor. Note that this is different to the ICF rule regarding a competitor's age for junior status.

5 National Ranking Points

5.1 Competitors in all classes are awarded points as follows:

First Place 101 points
Second Place 99 points
Third Place 98 points
Fourth 97 points
and so down.

5.2 The best 60% of ranking race results (to the closest integer) out of the total number of races held in each season will be taken into account for the individual championship points, in the event of a tie both paddlers will be declared joint National Champions.

5.3 In order to become a national champion, a paddler must achieve a full national ranking (compete in at least 60% of ranking races).

6 Promotions and Demotion

6.1 A paddler may apply to the Committee, in writing/email if he or she wishes to be promoted or demoted. The Application should include an outline of the reasons behind the request.

7 Numbers

7.1 Race number bibs should be worn by all competitors during a race in a manner that they can be clearly seen from the river bank, especially at the start and finish areas.

8 Race etiquette

8.1 The start order will be determined by the results of the previous race i.e. reverse order of the results of the previous race. In the event of a tie in the previous race the result from the immediately preceding ranking race shall be used.

8.2 All boats should be held at the start. The finish line should be clearly marked, and with an audible sound such as a whistle blown when competitors cross the line.

8.3 Should any paddler(s) anticipate the start by 5 seconds or less, they shall be penalised five seconds (have five seconds added to their race run time). Should any paddler(s) anticipate the start by more than 5 seconds, they shall be disqualified from the event.

8.4 Protests with regard to domestic races may be made to the organisers not later than 30 minutes after the announcement of the results on race day. 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/email and be received by the Wildwater racing secretary within 21 days of the race.

9 Prizes

9.1 The organisers must undertake to award a minimum of two prizes per division provided there are greater than 5 in any one division. If there are less than 5 competitors only one prize may be awarded. In classes where race numbers are marginal, the organiser need not purchase prizes for these classes prior to the race – they can be purchased and awarded retrospectively (at a subsequent race).

10 The Race Organisers

10.1 Race notices giving details such as name, address and phone number 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 or website at least 14 days before the event.

10.2 Races should be organised along the lines described in the race organiser's handbook, as can be found on the ICU Wildwater Racing website.

11 Race Results

11.1 Results should be posted on ICU Wildwater Racing website not later than 14 days after the event.

12 Team Race

12.1 In a team race, three competitors race together down the race course and all three must cross the start line within ten seconds of each other and also cross the finish line within ten seconds of each other.

12.2 Both Sprint and Classic team events can be held.

13 Race Timing & Accuracy

13.1 If a race has a hand held start with start beeper and hand held timing at the finish, it shall be deemed accurate to the second. If a race has a hand held start with start beeper and beam timing at the finish, it shall be deemed accurate to one tenth of a second. If a race has beam timing at start and finish, it shall be deemed accurate to one hundredth of a second.