

These rules shall be defined, maintained and upheld by the Wild Water Racing Committee of Canoeing Ireland (C.I). 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. The starts are an individual type, each competitor completes one timed run down the course, in time trial format. Competitors start typically at one minute intervals.

1.2 Sprint race – The sprint course will typically vary from 200m to 600m. The starts are individual type. If there are two runs, the fastest run will be counted.

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

## **2 Safety**

2.1 CI/ ICF safety rules apply.

2.1.1 All boats must be made unsinkable (stability walls can be added to complement the flotation devices) and be equipped at each end with a handle attached no more than 30 cm from the bow and from the stern.

2.1.2 The following are considered as handles: loops of rope, with handles, or a handle that is an integral part of the boat construction.

2.1.3 The handles must at all times permit easy insertion of a template which measures 10 cm x 10 cm x 1.5 cm.

2.1.4 The material used must be at least 6 mm in diameter, or a minimum cross-section of 2 x 10 mm.

2.1.5 Taping of the handles is not permitted.

2.1.6 All boats must be fitted with air bags in both the front of the boat (in front of the foot-rest) and the back of the boat (behind the seat). The minimum total volumes capable of being contained in the air bags are to be as follows:

	Front	Back
K1	30 litres	50 litres
C1	40 litres	50 litres
C2	60 litres	60 litres

*The volumes will be taken from the manufactures stamp on the air bags.*

2.2 Each competitor must wear shoes, a safety helmet with a strap fastened under the chin and a buoyancy jacket. Both helmet and buoyancy jacket must be in good working condition. The structure, shape or composition of the buoyancy jacket/helmet must not be modified in any way. The products must be from recognised and established manufacturers guaranteeing the quality of material and meeting industry standards.

2.2.1 A buoyancy jacket, with a minimum buoyancy of 6.12 kg, must comply with the current industry standard that is, EN ISO 12402-5 (Level 50) or any national standard that meets the same requirements.

2.2.2 The safety helmet must comply with EN 1385.

2.2.3 All paddlers must wear the shoes on their feet. The shoes must have a thicker sole to protect the feet. The shoes must fit in such a way that they will not come off in a capsize or be released from a boat.

2.3 Competitors must be able to free themselves immediately from their boat at all times.

2.4 The race organisers and the WWR Committee reserve the right to scrutinise all equipment (boats, buoyancy aids, helmets, footwear) both before and after the competition runs for any ranking WW race, competitors found to be in breach of the rules will be disqualified from the race.

2.5 Competitors start at their own risk, neither the Canoeing Ireland nor the organisers bear responsibility for accidents or damage to equipment that may occur on the competition course.

2.6 Since Wildwater Canoeing competition is as much a contest against the elements as against other competitors, it is required that any competitor finding another in real danger, must immediately render him rescue assistance at pain of disqualification for life.

2.7 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 C.I or members of I.C.F. affiliated unions may participate in C.I Wildwater racing events.

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

Failure to comply with points 3.1, 3.2 above will mean loss of points to the individual and the club.

### **4 Divisions**

4.1 Underclass 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 competitions:

Men's WWR Kayak

Junior Men's WWR Kayak

Women's WWR Kayak

Junior Women's WWR Kayak

Junior C1

C1

C2

Open Masters Class (for people over the age of 40, paddling in any type of boat eligible for the categories listed above)

Senior Wavehopper

Junior Wavehopper

In event of low numbers in Junior C1, Junior MK1 and Junior WK1 the classes will be amalgamated into their respective senior classes and a prize will be awarded for first junior.

No wavehopper % will be given, but a prize will be given to the first wavehopper in each of the kayak classes.

4.3 National champions will be declared in the following national ranking categories:

*Men's WWR Kayak, to include the following racing classes:*

Men's WWR Kayak, Senior Wavehopper (men), Open Singles (men), Masters (men K1)

*Women's WWR Kayak, to include the following racing classes:*

Women's WWR Kayak, Senior Wavehopper (women), Open Singles (women), Masters (women K1)

*Junior Men's WWR Kayak, to include the following racing classes:*

Junior Men's WWR Kayak, Junior Wavehopper (men), Junior Open Singles (men)

*Junior Women's WWR Kayak, to include the following racing classes:*

Junior Women's WWR Kayak, Junior Wavehopper (women), Junior Open Singles (women)

*Senior C1, to include the following racing classes:*

C1 (men and women), Slalom/Open C1 (men and women), Masters C1 (men and women)

*Senior C1, to include the following racing classes:*

C1 (men and women), Slalom/Open C1 (men and women), Masters C1 (men and women)

*Junior Men's C1, to include the following racing classes:*

Junior C1 (men), Junior Slalom/Open C1 (men)

*Junior Women's C1, to include the following racing classes:*

Junior C1 (women), Junior Slalom/Open C1 (women)

*C2, to include the following racing classes:*

C2 (men, women, and mixed), Junior C2 (men, women, and mixed), Slalom/Open C2 (men, women, and mixed), Masters C2 (men, women, and mixed).

The Junior Series Trophy (William McCarthy Cup) will be awarded to the best junior club of the season.

4.4 For K1, C1 and C2 I.C.F. specifications will be used.

4.4.1 Boat Specifications.

All types of K1: length 4.50m maximum width of hull 0.60 m minimum

All types of C1: length 4.30m maximum width of hull 0.70 m minimum

All types of C2: length 5.00m maximum width of hull 0.80 m minimum

*The seam joining the hull to the deck can be considered to be part of the hull for measurement. No extra components shall be added to the boat to enhance the dimension.*

4.4.2 Minimum weights of boats (the minimum weight of the boat is measured when the boat is dry)

All types of K1            10 kg

All types of C1            11 kg

All types of C2            17 kg

*Note: The air bags to be taken as being part of the boat. The spray deck is considered to be an accessory and not part of the boat.*

4.4.3 Rudders are prohibited on all boats.

4.4.4 Boats must be designed to, and remain within the required dimensions.

4.4.5 Kayaks are decked boats which must be propelled by double bladed paddles and inside which the competitors sit. Canadian canoes are decked boats which must be propelled by single bladed paddles and inside which the competitors knees.

4.4.6 Boats may have only a single keel line, with a single bow and a single stern.

4.5 Those eligible for U18 (junior) are those under the age of 18 on the 1st Jan of the wildwater racing year.

## **5 National Ranking Points**

5.1 Competitors in all ranking classes, as documented in Rule 4.3 are awarded points as follows:

First Place: 101 points

Second Place: 99 points

Third Place: 98 points

Fourth Place: 97 points

and so on.

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).

5.4 In designated junior series events, points will be awarded to each individual junior competitor as per national ranking points, the sum total of each club's points will be used to determine the winner of the junior series trophy over the complete series, i.e. the club with the most points over the junior series wins.

## **6 Promotions and Demotion**

6.1 There is no current promotions or demotions policy.

## **7 Numbers**

7.1 Numbers should be firmly fixed to the canoe/kayak on both sides of the front deck and be clearly visible.

7.2 Seasonal race numbers to be issued by the C.I WWR Committee via WWR News 2 weeks in advance of the first race, it is the competitors responsibility to fit their canoe/kayak with race numbers, numbers will be available for new competitors on race day.

7.3 All other numbers must be removed.

7.4 Numbers should be clearly seen.

7.5 Competitors must use their correct racing number.

7.6 Bibs may be used for events at the discretion of the ICU WWR Committee, in this case no numbers on boats will be required.

## **8 Race etiquette**

8.1 The seasonal start order will be determined by the results of the preceding seasons national ranking i.e. reverse order of the results of the national ranking, new entrants to the season will be added to the top of the list.

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 competitor(s) anticipate the start, they shall be penalised five seconds plus the anticipation time (total time is then the five seconds added, anticipation time plus the recorded race run time). The decision of the race starter will be final on the amount of break start time gained and is not subject to appeal.

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 published results the protest must be made in writing/email and be received by the Wildwater Racing Secretary within 7 days of the race.

8.5 In classic races, a three minute gap should be left between the start of each race category.

## **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.

## **10 The Race Organisers**

10.1 Race notices giving details such as name, address and phone number of organiser, date, course, organising club, time of entries, classes and entry fees should reach WWR news group or website at least 10 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.

10.3 Race entry fees:

Senior Entry fee - €10 (for first category entered)

Junior/Student Entry fee - €5 (for first category entered)

For competitors entering two categories, the fee for the second category is 50% of the normal fee, e.g. if a senior male paddler enters Men's WWR Kayak and C2, they pay €10 for entering the first category and €5 for the second, making for a total outlay of €15.

## **11 Race Results**

11.1 Results should be electronically available not later than 3 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.