**Proposal:** Reorganisation of national championship classes **Submitted by:** John Ringwood

**Motivation:**

* To allow every WW racer to have an opportunity to compete within a national championship class
* To resolve a number of inconsistencies in the current WWR racing rules and practice
* To be consistent with the original ICU WWR practice and other jurisdictions (e.g. BCU)

**Notes:**

1. The WW racing rules currently specify (Rule 5.1) that ‘Competitors in ALL classes are awarded NR points’. While, theoretically, almost every competitor could have access to one of the ‘National Championship classes of:

Men’s WWR Kayak

Women’s WWR Kayak

Junior men’s WWR Kayak.

Junior Women’s WWR Kayak.

Senior C1

Junior C1

C2

(Rule 4.3), in recent years the WWR Committee have, on the one hand, excluded some racing classes from their target NC class (e.g. masters paddlers are deemed ineligible for Men’s, Women’s, C1 and C2 classes), while others are included (e.g. Junior Men’s Wavehopper -> Junior Men’s WWR Kayak). On certain occasions, new NR classes appear to have been created in a somewhat ad hoc manner (e.g. Junior Women’s C1) while absent from the WWR rules.

1. There appears to be an unwritten interpretation that racing classes (in certain circumstances) map directly onto NR classes (e.g. Men’s WWR Kayak -> Men’s WWR Kayak), but not always (e.g. Junior Men’s Wavehopper -> Junior Men’s WWR Kayak).
2. While it’s not a requirement (Rule 4.2) that open singles classes are offered at domestic races, where they are offered, the results should be included in the appropriate NC ranking class, since such boats broadly satisfy the min width, max length and min weight specifications.

**The proposal**

The proposal is that, while not increasing the number of NR classes, ALL paddlers will be included in at least one NR class and be allowed to compete for a ‘national championship’. This is consistent with the principles of fairness and inclusiveness and intends to incentivise all paddlers to compete, to the best of their ability, on a national scale.

The proposal is to ‘map’ the racing classes onto the NR classes as follows:

*Men’s WWR Kayak NR ranking class will include the following racing classes:*

Men’s WWR Kayak, Senior Wavehopper (men), open singles (men), masters (men k1)

*Women’s WWR Kayak NR ranking class will include the following racing classes:*

Women’s WWR Kayak, Senior Wavehopper (women), open singles (women), masters (women k1)

*Junior Men’s WWR Kayak NR* *ranking class will include the following racing classes:*

Junior Men’s WWR Kayak, Junior Wavehopper (men), junior open singles (men)

*Junior Women’s WWR Kayak NR* *ranking class will include the following racing classes:*

Junior Women’s WWR Kayak, Junior Wavehopper (women), junior open singles (women)

*C1 NR* *ranking class will include the following racing classes:*

C1 (men and women), Junior C1 (men and women), slalom/open C1 (men and women), masters C1 (men and women)

*C2 NR* *ranking class will 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).

Notes (contd.)

1. There is clearly no advantage for open singles, wavehopper or masters in being included in the respective WWR kayak class, so long as all boats (WWR, wavehopper, open singles) satisfy the ICF WWR racing boat specifications.
2. There is a case for including juniors in the respective senior rankings (as well as a separate junior ranking), since it would be reasonable that the fastest paddler (junior or senior) overall is crowned overall national champion.
3. The classes Men’s WWR Kayak, Women’s WWR Kayak, C1 and C2 are not age specific and are open to all age groups, junior, senior and masters.

Proposed rule changes

**Rule 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).

**Rule 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.