

**AUSTRALIAN CANOEING INC**  
**COMPETITION RULES**  
**FLATWATER RACING**

**1. APPLICATION**

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- 1.1. In accordance with Rule 3.1 (c) of the Australian Canoeing Competitions Bylaw, the following Competition Rules for the discipline of Flatwater Racing are adopted by the Australian Canoeing Board.
- 1.2. AC Flatwater Racing competitions shall be conducted under the International Canoe Federation Flatwater Racing Competition Rules applicable to international competitions, except to the extent that they are varied by these AC Competition Rules, the Canoeing Competitions Bylaw and other AC Bylaws. Wherever these AC Rules and Bylaws are inconsistent with or incompatible with the ICF Rules, these Rules and Bylaws shall apply.
- 1.3. The Competition rules should be read in conjunction with the Australian Canoeing Flatwater Racing Operations Manual that provides detailed information on technical requirements and instructions for the planning and running of a national Flatwater Racing competition. Wherever the Australian Canoeing Flatwater Racing Operations Manual is inconsistent with or incompatible with these AC Competition Rules, the AC Canoeing Competitions Bylaw or the ICF Rules, those Rules and Bylaws shall apply.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

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- 2.1. In these Competition Rules, the following words have the following respective meanings:

<b>“AC”</b>	Means Australian Canoeing Inc.
<b>“AOC”</b>	means the Australian Olympic Committee Inc.
<b>“ASC”</b>	means the Australian Sports Commission established under the Australian Sports Commission Act 1989.
<b>“Athlete”</b>	means a person who has notified AC in accordance with these rules that he/she wishes to be considered to participate in a National Canoeing Competition..
<b>“Board”</b>	means the AC Board of Directors.
<b>“CAS”</b>	means the Court of Arbitration for Sport established by the International Olympic Committee in 1983 and subsequently administered by the International Council of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
<b>“Category”</b>	means the categories of competition: Kayak Men, Kayak Women, Canoe Men.
<b>“Class”</b>	means the class of competition within each category, for example C1 Men, K1 Women, K2 Men.
<b>“the Committee”</b>	Means the AC Flatwater Racing Technical Committee

<b>“the Competition Rules”</b>	means these rules.
<b>“Discipline”</b>	means the canoeing discipline Flatwater (Sprint) Racing.
<b>“Chief Executive Officer “</b>	means the Chief Executive Officer of AC or the Chief Executive Officer's duly authorised nominee from time to time.
<b>“ICF”</b>	means the International Canoe Federation.
<b>“Individual Member”</b>	means a registered financial individual member of a State Association or Affiliated Club.
<b>“International Competition”</b>	Means a competition designated as such in accordance with the ICF Competition Rules.
<b>“National Competition Coordinator”</b>	Means the person appointed to manage the entry process and secretariat functions of National Competitions
<b>“Selection Event “</b>	means an event conducted for the purpose of assisting in the selection process for an Australian Team and designated as such in accordance with the AC Selection Procedures Bylaw

- 2.2. Words not defined in these Rules have the meaning ascribed to them in the Constitution and By-Laws of AC unless a contrary meaning appears from the context.

### 3. AC FLATWATER RACING COMPETITIONS

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- 3.1. All competitions announced as national shall be held in accordance with these rules and the constitution and by-laws of AC.
- 3.2. Competitions arranged by State Associations or their clubs may be considered national if teams from more than one state are invited to participate and approval is given by the Committee.
- 3.3. National competitions must be controlled by at least one accredited Flatwater Racing official.

### 4. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

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- 4.1. There are four types of Competitions that fall under the auspices of the Committee:
- (a) Australian Flatwater Canoe/Kayak Championships
    - (i) Australian Championships are open to all Individual Members.
    - (ii) International competitors may participate at the invitation of the Committee.
    - (iii) The championships must be held on the best available racing course.
  - (b) Grand Prix regattas
    - (i) Grand Prix regattas are open to all Individual Members
    - (ii) International competitors may participate at the invitation of the Committee.
    - (iii) Grand Prix regattas shall be conducted at venues decided by the Committee in consultation with the applicable AC staff and the Head Coaches of State Institutes/Academies of Sport.

- (c) Selection Events
  - (i) Australian Team Selection Events are events designated as such by the Board in accordance with the AC Selection Procedures Bylaw for the purpose of assisting in the selection process for an Australian Team.
- (d) Other National Events
  - (i) Such events include those considered national under paragraph 3.2 of these rules.

## **5. COMPETITORS**

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- 5.1. Only Individual Members, and International competitors who enter in accordance with paragraph 9 of these rules, may take part in a national competition.
- 5.2. All competitors must make themselves aware of and comply with all rules and bylaws of AC, including the Anti-Doping Bylaw, and the Member Protection By Law.
- 5.3. All competitors taking part in a national competition must be permitted to do so by their club and state association.

## **6. CLASSES AND DISTANCES OF COMPETITION**

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- 6.1. The events included in Australian Championships are those set out in Appendix 1.
- 6.2. The events included in Australian Grand Prix are those set out in Appendix 2.
- 6.3. To be eligible for a junior age division event the competitor must not be older than the upper limit of the age division in question in the year in which the regatta takes place.
- 6.4. To be eligible for a masters age division the competitor must not be younger than the lower limit of the age division in question in the year in which the regatta takes place

## **7. CALENDAR**

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- 7.1. A Calendar containing the dates and venues of Grand Prix regattas and the Australian Championships for the forthcoming season shall be published by 30 April. This calendar will be placed on the AC web site and distributed to State Associations and State Institutes/Academies of Sport having canoeing programs.

## **8. ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND GRAND PRIX**

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- 8.1. Each State Association must advise the Committee of the contact details of the person nominated by the state as the Entry Coordinator for national flatwater events for that state, no later than September 30 each year.
- 8.2. Entry forms for Grand Prix regattas and the Australian Championships shall be placed on the web site and forwarded to State Entry Coordinators by October 31.
- 8.3. All entries for a given state must be received and collated by the State Entry Coordinator. Each State Entry Coordinator shall forward the entries for the respective state to the National Competition Coordinator ("NCC") in a format (which may be an electronic format) supplied by the NCC. Entries shall be received only from State Entry Coordinators. Within one week of the receipt of entries for any given regatta a list of Nominal Entries will be posted on the AC website.
- 8.4. State Entry Coordinators will be advised of the submission dates for entries for each regatta by October 31 in each year.

- 8.5. Before each regatta the National Competition Coordinator will forward full start lists for the regatta to each State Entry Coordinator and place on the AC website.

## **9. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS**

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- 9.1. International paddlers are welcome to compete at all national flatwater regattas.
- 9.2. International paddlers must pay the applicable entry fee and furnish written permission to compete in the event from the competitor's national federation.
- 9.3. Entries by international paddlers may accompany a state entry, or may be made directly with the National Competition Coordinator.
- 9.4. International paddlers shall progress in events in the same manner as Australian competitors, and those who place in the first three places in a final of the Australian Championships shall be awarded the appropriate championship medal.

## **10. SCRATCH MEETING**

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- 10.1. The scratch meeting will be held on the afternoon prior to the first day of competition, at a time and place advised in the entry forms. Those who may participate in the scratch meeting are the State Team Managers and State Institutes/Academy of Sport coaches.

## **11. LATE ENTRIES**

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- 11.1. Late entries will be accepted up to the close of the Scratch Meeting subject to the availability of a lane and the payment of the late entry fee.
- 11.2. Late entries will be applied to a race in the order of their receipt by the National Competition Coordinator and after the recordal of all scratchings.

## **12. SCRATCHINGS AND ALTERATIONS**

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- 12.1. Any competitor entered in the regatta may be substituted for any other competitor in the same category. Notification of such alterations must be given in writing to the chief official at least one hour before the first race of the morning or afternoon session.
- 12.2. A competitor who arrives too late at the start or who otherwise does not start, and has no valid reason approved by the Chief Official, shall be disqualified from the race in question. Upon payment of the prescribed reinstatement fee the competitor may continue to participate in those other races of the regatta in which the competitor is entered, but otherwise shall be disqualified for the remainder of the regatta. Where a competitor is disqualified under this rule and has no other races remaining in the regatta, the competitor shall not be allowed to enter the next national competition unless the prescribed reinstatement fee has been paid.
- 12.3. The reinstatement fee is \$100 for seniors and \$25 for juniors.

## **13. RACING REGULATIONS**

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- 13.1. The Committee may issue a Briefing Document for a particular regatta. Such a document will be issued at the Scratch Meeting or otherwise distributed for the notice of athletes and coaches. Such a document becomes part of these rules in respect of the regatta in question.
- 13.2. Any instructions given on behalf of the Competition Committee at the Scratch Meeting or during competition form part of these rules for the regatta in question.
- 13.3. From a time 20 minutes before the start of a race session, no competitor may warm up or

paddle on the course.

- 13.4. Where it is necessary to use the same boat in closely adjacent races, the Chief Official may give permission for the athlete or crew change to occur near the finish line, and for the boat to be paddled to the start at the side of the course. Where such permission is granted, the Starter will hold the start and wait for the boat in question, unless this will disadvantage other competitors in the race or involve an unacceptable delay in the competition program. No such permission will be granted where the races in question are successive, except in the case of K4 races.
- 13.5. The following rules will apply to relay races:
- (a) Races will start and finish at the regatta course finish line (The start line for odd legs and finish line for even legs may be the line of number cans adjacent the finish line itself)
  - (b) The start line for even legs and finish line for odd legs will be marked by a row of buoys
  - (c) A competitor in the second or following legs must not start a leg of the race until the bow of the boat finishing the previous leg crosses the relevant start/finish line. Where a competitor breaks the start of a leg, the team will be disqualified at the conclusion of the race
  - (d) The decision of a start/finish line judge is final and no protest or appeal may be made against it.
- 13.6. In races of 500 m and 1000 m a Course Umpire or Umpires shall follow the race in a motor boat where, in the opinion of the Competition Committee,
- (a) sufficient officials of appropriate experience are available
  - (b) the motor boats are of a suitable type and
  - (c) the conditions are such that unacceptable wash will not be created on the course.
- 13.7. Whether or not a Course Umpire or Umpires follows a race, and whether or not a Course Umpire reports an infraction of the rules, the Competition Committee may decide on an infraction of the rules where it is satisfied that an infraction has occurred during a race.
- 13.8. A competitor or crew called to post race boat control must paddle promptly to the boat control area without any intervening stop or disembarkation and may not be handled other than by the competitor or crew or by race officials

#### **14. RACE PLANS**

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- 14.1. The race plans employed in national competitions shall be chosen from those of the ICF rules and those set out in Appendix 3

#### **15. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ICF RULES**

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- 15.1. For the removal of doubt, and without modifying the effect of paragraph 1.2 of these rules, the following paragraphs of the ICF Flatwater Racing Competition Rules Version 5.00 are excluded from operation in national flatwater events:
- (a) Those rules which are identified as special rules for:
    - (i) Olympic Games
    - (ii) World Championships Seniors
    - (iii) World Championships Juniors
    - (iv) World Cup Competition
  - (b) Articles 2 -5

- (c) 10.3.2(g) (Penalties in accordance with ICF Statutes)
- (d) 12.1 – 12.3 (Invitations to an international competition)
- (e) 13.1-13.2 (Entries)
- (f) 15.1 – 15.3 (Acceptance of entries and programme)
- (g) 16.1 – 16.3 (Alterations and withdrawals)
- (h) 18.3 (a), (h) (l) (Layout)
- (i) 19.2.2 (Personal numbers)
- (j) 20.1 (Instructions)
- (k) 10.3.2 (Decision to be based on ICF rules)
- (l) 10.4.6 (c) (The Course Umpire to follow races)

## 16. MODIFIED APPLICATION OF CERTAIN ICF RULES

16.1. In the ICF Flatwater Racing Competition Rules, the following modifications are made for national competition:

ICF Rules paragraph:	Modification:
8.4	Any electrical or electronic device which stores or transmits data relating to a paddler or to the boat may be employed in or on the boat, provided such data is unavailable to the paddler or crew at any time between embarkation and the end of the race.
8.5	Over stern rudders may be used until 1 April 2005
10.1.1, 10.4.6	Where lane widths of 13.5 metres are employed in races up to 1000 m, the Competition Committee may direct that Course Umpires shall not be used.
10.3.1	The Competition Committee shall consist of the Chief Official and two other persons appointed by the Flatwater Racing Committee.
14.2, 22.1, 22.2	Where possible, competitors will be seeded into heats.
15.3	Scratch meeting – see paragraph 10 of these rules
24.5	At the discretion of the competition committee, the 1000 m warning in long distance races may be dispensed with.
30.2	Late protests may be made only under the provisions of the AC Appeals Bylaw
30.4	The protest fee shall be AU \$40
31.1	Appeals against a decision of the competition committee may only be made under the appeal provisions of the AC Competition Bylaw. Those provisions are reproduced in Appendix 4.

**Adopted by the Australian Canoeing Board on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2003 effective immediately.  
Amended by the Australian Canoeing Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 effective immediately.**