

Dear Race Organiser,

February 2011

We are pleased to enclose your complimentary copy of the 2011 Racing Handbook.

This letter is to draw your attention to changes in the rules and to remind you of some key points in the administration of races.

PLEASE read through the Marathon rules AND the recommendations near the back of the rules. If you are doubtful about any rule please speak to your Regional Marathon Adviser

Please refer regularly to our website www.marathon-canoeing.org.uk: it will keep you up-to-date with marathon news.

Rule Changes

Rule 28 Competing in a crew boat – in Regional Hasler races the basic averaging of each paddler's ranking continues to apply, **BUT** paddlers ranked in divisions 1, 2 or 3 must race in a 12 mile K2 race and paddlers ranked in divisions 4, 5 or 6 must race in an eight mile K2 race. The only exception would be if there is no quorate K2 race over those distances and the crew is transferred under rule 27.

National Championships – in recent years most of the canoe races on the Nationals programme have not been supported so we have cut the number of canoe races to just three and reduced the distances.

We have introduced under 12 classes in the National Championship categories. We have retained the U12 and U10 classes in Lightnings but these are not now National Championship races.

Geoff Sanders Trophy – we have made it clear in the rules that, in addition to the four Lightning classes there should be two mini K2 races: one for U12 and one for U10 – these will be mixed boys and girls.

We have also clarified rule 57 about Lightning paddlers racing in Hasler races.

HRM

Hasler results must be reported using the HRM. Always download and use the latest version: it can be downloaded from the website. Familiarise yourself with the HRM a week or two before your race especially if you have not used it since your race last year.

When you open your new HRM file you will be prompted to download the latest ranking list from the website. This is only a list of paddlers' rankings: it is not confirmation of BCU membership. **You need to see all BCU membership cards.**

Clubs can send their entries to you by email using the HRM. It is a simple and quick way to add competitors to your race program and it simplifies entries for the competing clubs. **But** - you need to make sure you have a process to get payments for all the entries (perhaps insist on receipt of a cheque prior to the race for them to be treated as pre-entries).

BCU Membership – Competitors must be current comprehensive members of the BCU on the day of the race. Check the membership card or a photo copy of every competitor. If a paddler ranked in divisions 1 to 6 cannot prove current membership to you he is not permitted to race. If the paddler is in divisions 7 to 9 cannot prove current membership card he must buy an Event Ticket.*

Race results are checked against the BCU membership lists and penalties applied to those who race without current membership.

* The form to use is "Come and Try It Sessions Insurance". This can be downloaded from the Volunteer section of the Canoe England website under the heading "Resources and Templates". The link is <http://www.canoe-england.org.uk/volunteers/resources-and-templates/>. The cost is £2:50.

Separate starts – Rule 24. Please pay attention to this rule. Each division with 3 or more entries must be run as a separate race. A division with 6 or more boats must be started separately. You can combine the starts for two divisions if each has five or less paddlers. E.g. if there were four in division 4 and five in division 5 you could start them together but the results would be shown for two separate divisions. **There should be no races in your results with only one or two boats.**

5K races - These were introduced last year. The races are covered in rules 59 to 65. The only change of these rules is that we have removed the fixed entry fees.

Race Levy - Race levies are payable to the MRC and not to the BCU – see rule 13.

Recommendations - We have reworded the recommendations pages at the back of the rules. We believe they give useful guidance to run a successful race so please read them carefully. Two points in particular:

- a) every club should complete a risk assessment before each race and arrange for safety provisions appropriate to the risks assessed;
- b) ensure you have adequate team to record start and finish times. There is good guidance in paragraph 7 of the Recommendations.

Post Race Actions - Please note the requirements in Rule 18 for organising Group A races. There are three main post race actions:

- a) Email race results to your Regional Marathon Adviser, Roland Lawler (Ranking Officer) and Rosemary Illinesi (Race Records Officer) and Diane Bates **within 3 working days**;
- b) Pay any Event Ticket receipts to the BCU within 7 days and attach the BCU form;
- c) Pay the race levy within 7 days of your race – how to pay is in rule 13.

Finally, please use the HRM without changes to the format or program and if you have any questions relating to your race, please contact your Regional Marathon Adviser. We hope you have a successful race.

Please circulate this letter to everyone in your club who paddle, coach or administer marathon racing.

Copies of the Handbook can be obtained from Diane Bates and the rules will be put on the marathon website.

If you have any questions on this letter or the racing rules, please refer to your Regional Marathon Adviser who will help you with your enquiry.

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Kind regards.

Marathon Racing Committee