



## GUIDELINES FOR OPEN WATER RACE EVENTS - 2009 v2

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### 1. Paddler Grading System:

- 1.1 **Level 1:** Can swim (50m), can self rescue in flat water, with assistance in chop/wind. Must be medically fit, a member of PaddleNSW, and have signed an acknowledgement of inherent risks.
- 1.2 **Level 2:** Near shore/Intermediate event paddler: Can swim (500m), can self rescue in all met conditions, can turn ski/OR around in all met conditions plus fulfill Level 1 requirements
- 1.3 **Level 3:** Advanced paddler: Can swim (1000m), can self rescue in all met conditions, can deploy flares etc in appropriate circumstances, has leg leash fitted and worn in appropriate circumstances, carries a mobile phone in a waterproof bag (with emergency number ready to dial), has successfully participated in 3 x 'Moderate' events, can paddle using 'buddy' system, plus fulfill level 1 requirements.

### 2. Event grading system

#### Level 1: INNER HARBOUR EVENT

Suitable for beginners / intermediate level.

Conditions

- Event conducted outside shipping channels, and within 500m of shore.
- Less than 1.0m seas or 1.0m swell
- Less than 15 knots gusting wind strength in open waters (no whitecaps)
- Not further out than level with Sydney Heads or equivalent protected harbor area

#### Level 2: INTERMEDIATE EVENT

Suitable for intermediate / advanced level.

#### Conditions

- Event conducted outside shipping channels, and within 1000m of shore.
- Less than 1.5m seas or 2.0m swell
- Less than 15 knots gusting to 20 knots wind strength
- Can commence / finish on beach in flat conditions, otherwise must be water start / finish

#### **Level 3: ADVANCED EVENT**

Suitable for advanced level only.

#### Conditions

- Event conducted in any waterway according to waterways licence provisions
- Water conditions to be assessed for safety by organizers on the day.
- Event must not be run in electrical storm / gale force conditions where likelihood of rescue is negligible.
- Must satisfy the needs of paddlers for a safe but exciting event

Type 2 Events incorporate requirements of Type 1, Type 3 events will incorporate the requirements of type 1 and 2. ***Event director will have authority to determine which safety features will be appropriate for the circumstances on the day. (Calm weather, etc)***

### **3. Organisers' Responsibilities**

- Have a standardised means of determining current or expected event paddling conditions, and a consistent and rapid means of implementing cancellation / changes to event
- A standard paddler identification system comprising numbered sleeveless rashies or similar
- Adhere to generic **event management guidelines** where applicable
- Apply for Aquatic Licences, Council approvals and any other approvals

- Ensure parking arrangements are adequate.
  - Arrange for timing and other equipment.
  - Issue Race Data to paddlers at least 4 weeks before event.
  - Source high visibility course markers where applicable, correctly deployed
  - Safety boats required in level 2 and level 3 racing events, optional in level 1 events. Safety boats max 3km apart for level 2. All boats and officials to have means of communication (2 way or mobile phone). Safety boats to be IRB's with prop guards where possible.
  - Appoint a person to do briefing. This will preferably not be the Race Director.
  - Arrange scrutineering. Appoint a scrutineer who will not be the RD. Scrutineer all requirements as appropriate for the event. The nominated scrutineer must take possession of the declaration forms and ensure all paddlers and craft are in order.
  - Arrange and distribute paddler sign-on & declaration forms and ensure they are retained till the end of the series.
  - Assess conditions of the day including currents/tide, other boating, bluebottles, and be ready to change / cancel the course if necessary.
  - First Aid to be available at registration area.
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