



BATEMANS BAY PADDLE CHALLENGE

RACE RULES

It is a condition of event participation and competition recognition that each and every entrant/competitor has accepted their responsibility to know and apply the rules of the competition as provided upon registration and available at the event. Any entrant/competitor who is unsure of any detail should contact the event Marshall, who will direct them to the appropriate race official or document for clarification.

EVENT REGISTRATION

It is a condition of event participation and prize eligibility that all competitors have signed the event registration form and have been assigned an individual event identification number.

PERSONAL SAFETY

It is MANDATORY that participants wear an approved PFD (life jacket) whilst participating within the races. Failure to wear a PFD whilst participating in an event will result in disqualification and will void individual insurance cover. It is advisable that all participants should provide their own PFD, however some limited numbers of PFD's will be available at the event registration marquee.

It is advisable that participants wear some appropriate footwear. The river bank has many submerged hazards and the Clyde River is a primary oyster breeding and harvesting estuary, the river bed can be very dangerous to bare feet.

PARTICIPANT SAFETY AND RENDERING ASSISTANCE

Irrespective of individual paddling capabilities, all participants should be actively conscious of their own and other participants water safety. Race participants should not knowingly interfere with or obstruct other participant's course. Generally, more competent paddlers are to give way to those with less experience and moving at a slower speed and provide adequate clearance.

In an emergency situation all participants are to render appropriate assistance. The event will be monitored by several safety vessels, however competing craft may be closer and able to provide quick response. Those rendering assistance should make every effort to attract a nearby safety vessel.

The Clyde River is an open waterway and is trafficked by all manner of watercraft, so constant observation is required and paddlers should follow accepted marine etiquette in passing and giving way, (where appropriate and possible, pass on port side).

THE COURSE

The event consists of a number of races conducted over different length courses. It is the participants responsibility to familiarise themselves with the detail of the course in which they are competing. The various races and courses are provided on the event website, registration information and are provided in hard-form with the participants pack. A larger detailed poster of the course will be provided within the registration marquee. The various races are marked with Buoys & watercraft.

CLEARING THE COURSE

Paddlers such as those waiting for a start, those finishing, and those withdrawing from a race, must not cross or impede the progress of an event. All paddlers will be expected to abide by the *Paddling Australia – Paddler Code of Behavior*. Please show some courtesy to those still participating and do not congregate within the start or finish area unless participating within the particular race.

ROUNDING BUOYS AND TURNS

Where two or more boats are approaching a buoy or turn, the leading boat is that in which the paddler's body is clearly in front of the bow of the adjoining boat, prior to the turn being commenced. Where the inside (port side) boat has their bow in front of the adjoining paddler at the start of the turn, that boat shall have right of way. Any boat attempting to pass a slower boat in a turn, must do so without altering the progress or passage of the slower boat. Slower boats should endeavour to allow passing room either side for faster vessels where possible.

PASSING (COINCIDENT DIRECTION)

When a verbal warning is given to a boat about to be passed, that boat should not deviate from its course, and should allow the approaching boat/s to pass with safety. Boats should pass on the port side unless there is no other option, and give the slower boat adequate clearance so their progress is not altered.

PRE-RACE SCRUTINEERING

Although the event is open to a varied vessel race participation, all boats must pass scrutineering prior to taking part in their event. This will involve ensuring that all boats are sea-worthy and capable of safely undertaking the course. Navigation aids and non-manpowered propulsion devices will not be permitted for use in this event. All craft MUST be able to support the full weight of the paddler when full of water, and retain floatation whilst still supporting the paddler/s, (all boats must have integral floatation).

FIRST AID

A First Aid station is located at the main marshalling area. All official rescue and recovery vessels will have a certificated First-Aid officer on board. In the instance of a paddler in trouble and a safety vessel attending, all other craft must provide clearance for the attendance and assistance of the safety vessel. Once a safety vessel is in attendance of a paddler in difficulty, all other race participants and craft which had initially assisted are to continue within the event or retire depending on the individual circumstances.

RACE NUMBERING

Upon initial registration all participants will be provided with a unique event number. The boat registration identification number (allocated on the race day) must be adhered to the vessel on a on the front left hand side and must be retained in that position until the completion of the race. Race identification numbers must be handed in to the registration desk immediately at the conclusion of the event.

RACE PROTESTS

Participants must recognize that the event is primarily for the enjoyment and conviviality of participation. If any protests over results or the conduct of the event should arise and considered valid, these should be made to the race Marshall within 20 minutes of the conclusion of that particular race and be in writing supported by detailed description of rules or normal race etiquette or rules infringement.