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## Code of conduct



The Marathon comprises a community of several thousand people moving through a number of other, static, communities. These communities see those participating in the Marathon as representatives of Red Cross and the various schools and other organisations involved in the event.

**To ensure the Red Cross Murray Marathon is an enjoyable experience for everyone, we adopt and abide by the following code of conduct:**

- We treat the people and the communities we visit with respect, supporting their businesses and leaving their environments clean and undamaged.
- We drive with care to ensure the safety and comfort of all road users, and park to allow clear access for all other vehicles.
- We treat all Marathon participants with respect and consideration, irrespective of their roles.
- As paddlers, we conduct ourselves as true sportspeople and participate within the rules. We give way when necessary and assist those who require it, particularly those who are new to the event. We recognise the achievement of our fellow competitors.
- As land crews, we care for our paddlers while considering the needs of other land crews and paddler's sharing space so that everyone can perform their role without interference.
- As spectators, we commit to supporting and encouraging our paddlers without interfering with or disadvantaging any other paddlers or their land crews.
- As officials, we observe and apply our duty of care, maintaining a safe environment and exercising impartiality in our judgements.

**This code is in line with the Fundamental Principles of Red Cross:**

Humanity  
 Impartiality  
 Neutrality  
 Independence  
 Volunteer Service  
 Unity  
 Universality

# Marathon rules

## Official sponsors

It is compulsory for ALL competitors to abide by the requirements of the official event sponsors.

In 2008 this means:

- Wearing the official Murray Marathon bib.
- Placing a sponsors sticker and Red Cross sticker on the craft.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in race times not being recorded.

## Classes

The current canoe classes and sections contested are listed within the Entry Guide and on page one of the Boat Registration Kit (entry forms). The Race Group is always prepared to consider the inclusion of extra classes. The submission of a field of three bona fide entries is required before a new class can be considered. If your craft does not fit any of the classes listed in the Entry Guide you may enter in the adventure section (this section is non-competitive.)

## Boat number

A number must be fixed to the boat to ensure the identification of competitors and to assist with the organisation of the event.

- Red Cross Murray Marathon officials must be able to identify each boat quickly and accurately. Boat numbers are allocated on receipt of completed entry forms and payment.
- Numbers are issued by the Race Group upon completion of registration.
- No other numbers are to be displayed on the boat during the event.
- Numbers must be securely fixed to the boat in a vertical position with a plastic base and pin to prevent loss.
- The number must be orientated fore – aft, to be visible from the bank, ensuring numbers are recorded accurately at the start and finish and at all check points;
- Checkpoint officials will call your number, acknowledgment of their call will ensure that your progress has been recorded and assist event safety measures.
- Number holders, slots pins and bolt sets are available from the Race Group for \$5 per set.

## Withdrawal – permanent

- Permanent retirement.
- No re-entry permitted for the remainder of the event.

## Withdrawal – day

- Voluntary or compulsory temporary retirement.
- The Chief Safety Officer, Water Safety Officer and Check Point Leaders reserve the right to order the withdrawal of any entrant who is considered not fit to continue safely.

- Withdrawn paddlers can re-enter the event at the start of any subsequent day.

If any boat (competitive or non-competitive) withdraws after commencing paddling, for any reason, it is the paddler's responsibility to notify the officials at the nearest checkpoint and submit a signed withdrawal sheet. The withdrawal sheet records the progress of the boat for the day. This procedure ensures that all paddlers are safely accounted for and land crews can be advised.

If a withdrawal form is not submitted at the nearest checkpoint by paddlers leaving the river, a major land/river search will be undertaken until the crews of the boat are located. Payment of the expenditure for the search or \$100 (whichever is greater) must be paid prior to re-starting on subsequent days or re-entering the event.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE SYSTEM MAY LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION OR EXCLUSION FROM THE EVENT.**

## Disqualification

Competitors failing to abide by the rules or found to be cheating shall be disqualified from the race by the Competition Committee.

Competitors who have been disqualified:

- May continue as a paddler but not as a competitor.
- Are not eligible for any records broken during the entire event.
- Are not eligible to receive any medals, awards, results, etc.

## Event exclusion

The Red Cross Murray Marathon Committee Executive reserves the right to reject the entry of any team or individual prior to the event starting, or evict any entrant from further participation if it concludes that such action is appropriate for the proper, orderly and safe conduct of the event.

## Safety standards

- All paddlers must be able to swim at least 50 metres. Non-confident swimmers are to wear a life jacket or buoyancy vest.
- All boats must be in a state of positive buoyancy.
- Floatation devices must be fixed in boats that aren't self-buoyant.
- Each adult paddler must carry a life jacket or buoyancy vest.
- All J14, J16, J18 full distance, School and Junior Relay teams must wear life jackets.
- All paddlers under the age of 18 must wear a life jacket.
- All crews must present themselves, boat and equipment to be scrutinised.

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## Marathon rules cont'd

- All entrants must observe any additional safety procedures the Chief Safety Officer introduces during the event.
- All boats and crews shall enter the water via the official gate. For larger dimensioned boats that are unable to pass through the gate the crew shall contact the Race Director for instructions on how to enter the water.
- Water Patrol monitors the progress of paddlers during the event using safety boats.
- First aid posts are established along the river and at the official campsite.
- Hydration systems should be fixed to the boat or person.

### Cut-off times

To ensure the safety of all competitors:

- Any competitor/s who fail to clear any checkpoint before the established cut-off time shall cease paddling for the day and exit the water.
- The competitor/s is able to resume and continue as normal from any subsequent day's start.
- Points are awarded up to the checkpoint at which the competitor/s was withdrawn.
- All cut-off times are shown in the map book.
- The relevant Checkpoint Leader and Water Safety Officer have the authority to vary the cut-off times should circumstances warrant change.

### Daily starting

- The Marathon commences each day at 7am.
- Start times are determined by the Race Director.
- Start times are set such that each class has an equal chance of achieving line honours given the restrictions of each craft.
- All boats regardless of status can only be launched at the start line each day.
- No boats and crews (except Junior Full Distance and Half Marathon as directed) may start at checkpoints.
- The Race Director reserves the right to change the starting order on any day for individuals or classes/sections.

### Early starts

- Slow boats and crews may seek an earlier start time from the Race Director if they feel that they will not be able to meet the cut-off time requirements.
- Any boat with an early start that arrives at check point Delta prior to 30 boats passing through may be held there until 30 boats have gone through, and then put back to their normal start time without notification.
- Any boat that has an early start which finishes within the first 30 boats will be put back to their regular start without notification on the next day.
- Any boat that is in contention for a competitive medal is not eligible for an early start.

### Start Procedures

- Boat numbers are called 20 minutes prior to their start by the Start Marshal.
- Boat number boards and life jackets are checked at the water entry gate.
- Boats are to form a line well up stream from the start (as directed by the Starter and Start Assistants) and drift towards the Starter.
- No boat shall come within 10 m of the start line unless directed by the Starter.
- No boat is to turn in front the field prior to the start.
- The Starter will ensure that the line is as straight as possible to ensure that no boat has any undue advantage.
- When the Starter is satisfied, direction will be given to the line of boats to drift within 10 m of the start line. The signal "READY" will be given followed by the start shot being fired.
- If a boat breaks the line, charges the line or paddling commences after the READY signal but before the start shot is fired, that boat has made a false start and a 2 minute (minimum) penalty will be imposed by the Race Director (in consultation with the Starter).

### Disputes/ protests/ penalties

The Competition Committee, chaired by the Race Director, will hear all protests and disputes and will impose penalties for breaches of rules. Penalties may include time penalties or disqualification, and will be listed in the daily race results. It is the responsibility of competitors to be aware of any such penalties. Final day protests will be dealt with in the New Year. No medals will be presented in that class until the outcome of the protest is decided.

The Competition Committee will convene between 7pm – 8pm each day. The Competition Committee may also make decisions on all other matters pertaining to the safe and orderly conduct of the event, and may seek assistance and advice as needed.

The Competition Committee may initiate an inquiry into an incident whether a protest has been lodged or otherwise. It may make decisions and may impose required penalties.

### Race Jury

The final authority in relation to appeals will rest with the Race Jury. The Race Jury will consist of three people, one of whom is a Red Cross Murray Marathon Committee member and who will chair the Race Jury. This committee member will service both the Jury and the Competition Committee. No other member of the Competition Committee will be on the Race Jury.

## Protest procedure

Protests must be delivered to the Race Group in writing by 7pm on the day the incident occurred.

- Appeals against decisions of the Competition Committee must be lodged with the Race Group within 24 hours of the decision.
- A \$50 fee must accompany all protests.
- A \$100 fee must accompany all appeals.
- Fees will be refunded if the protest or appeal is successful, or at the discretion of the Competition Committee or Race Jury.

## Section winners

- First, Second and Third medallions are awarded to place getters in all classes and sections that complete the course in keeping with the rules.
- Eligibility for place medallions, sectional, or overall fastest times requires the competitor/s to complete the entire distance of the course.
- A number of special trophies will also be awarded.

## Margaret Baker Trophy – full distance handicap event

All full distance entries are automatically included in the handicap event. Each class /section has a handicap factor designed such that an elite paddler will complete the course in 26 hours.

The event handicapper reserves the right to alter the handicap factors prior to the start of the event.

## Fastest recorded times

- Competitors in classes other than the Open (i.e. intermediate or veterans), who establish times faster than the existing Open records, will be credited with the record for the relevant Open class.
- Any Women's or Mixed competitors whose times are faster than the existing Open record time for their class time will be awarded the Open record as well.
- Any individual competitors competing as part of a team of three boats will be eligible to hold individual records in their particular class and section as well as Open records.

NOTE: Veteran competitors who choose to enter Open age classes will not be eligible to claim records in restricted age classes.

## Competitive and non-competitive numbers

- Full-Distance will be issued with black number boards.
- Relay will be issued with blue number boards.
- Junior Full Distance will be issued with green number boards.
- Half Marathon will be issued with orange number boards.
- Non-competitive boats will be issued with red number boards. (issued during the event)

## Red number boards

- A change of crew (rendering the boat non-competitive) must be notified to Race Group at the start or Checkpoint Leaders at the closest checkpoint during the day.
- The officials will issue a RED non-competitive number board after recording paddler names and boat details.
- Non-competing boats cannot continue with the original number for the remainder of the day. The boat may continue with the official number board on subsequent days providing the original crew return to the boat.

## Lost number boards

- Report the lost number board at the next checkpoint.
- Either collect replacement number or arrange for collection at the next checkpoint (competitive classes)
- No time allowance is given for lost number boards.

## Junior race rules

Please see p.16 for Junior Full Distance race information and rules. All normal racing rules apply where they do not conflict with any junior-specific rules, as stated on p.16.

## Application of Canoeing Victoria and Australian Canoeing rules to this event.

The rules and regulations as printed in this guide, together with relay and other special event rules listed, and Australian Canoeing rules, shall be those under which the event is conducted.

Where a conflict exists between any event specific rules and Australian Canoeing rules, the event rules will take precedence.

## Official Briefing

It is compulsory for all paddlers and crews to attend the Briefing on **Friday 26 December at 7.00pm.**

The traditional Canoe Number Auction will take place and safety information will be re-iterated. This is also the only opportunity we will have to advise you of any changes or variations to pre-published safety information that can sometimes occur at the very last minute.

The Briefing takes place at the Tocumwal Football Ground (official campsite on the 26th.)

**Please ensure your attendance.**

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## Marathon rules cont'd

1. Kayaks must be propelled solely by means of double bladed paddles.
2. Canoes must be propelled solely by means of single bladed paddles.
3. Canoe and kayak paddles may not be supported on the boat in any way.
4. After the day one start, no alterations to crew, class or section is allowed.
5. A change of crew making a boat non-competitive must be notified to the Race Group at the start or to Checkpoint Leaders at checkpoints.
6. Crews in all classes must complete the course with the crew intact to qualify.
7. Boats must follow the true course of the river at all times. Branches and cut-offs shall not be used.
8. Portage of boats is allowed provided that the true course of the river is followed and no forward progress is made unless directed by an official.
9. Under no circumstances may a portage be used with the effect of shortening the course of the race.
10. Boat repairs are allowed on the course, or in free time.
11. If required, spare boats may be used, but these boats must be declared and subject to inspection before the start of the race, or by arrangement with the Race Group. When replacing a damaged boat during the day, the following procedure must be observed:
  - a) The damaged craft is to be removed completely from the water before a replacement craft may be launched. The race number must then be affixed to the replacement craft.
  - b) Should it be possible to repair the damage during the day's racing, teams are permitted to re-substitute that craft at a subsequent checkpoint providing the correct procedure is observed.
  - c) Any teams or individuals found to be substituting craft for any other reason than damage may be imposed a penalty by the competition committee.
12. If a boat withdraws after the start of any day's racing, that boat must not re-enter the water at any subsequent point during the day's racing unless issued with a **red** non-competitive number.
13. Paddlers must stop and provide assistance to crews who are in difficulty and report the position of the boat, boat number and number of people involved to the nearest official downstream. The Race Director will consider claims for time lost by paddlers providing assistance.
14. Land crews may only provide assistance from the river bank to paddlers, so long as it does not impeded the progress of other paddlers.
15. Non-competing boats are forbidden to pace competing boats.
16. Start Marshall's call and entering the water:
  - a) All competitors must respond to the Start Marshall's call.
  - b) All competitors must then pass through the water entry gate where a safety inspection will occur and boat number will be recorded.
  - c) Boats must enter the water in an orderly fashion and obey any instructions given by the Start Marshals.
  - d) Failure to complete these steps may result in a time penalty or disqualification or in extreme situations exclusion from the event. It is the paddler's responsibility to ensure that they have been identified at the start and at checkpoints during the day.
17. Competitors and land crews must obey all directions from Safety and Marathon Officials.
18. Paddlers placed "in-check" by Health Support or other Safety Officials shall follow instructions given by those officials.
19. Competitors must comply at all times with the rules of the river as laid down by NSW Maritime. All boats (including canoes and kayaks) must remain on the right hand side of the centre of the river, (i.e. the navigable channel) as far as is practicable. Jutting snags, sandbars etc, can denote the navigable channel. Note that not only is it illegal but it is very dangerous to cut corners on the wrong side of the river.
20. Paddlers and land crews must at all times conduct themselves in a sporting manner.
21. Interference with other paddlers and or their equipment will not be condoned.
22. While the leading boat has right of way, any deliberate or sudden change of course to interfere with the passage of another boat is not condoned.
23. While all boat crews have a duty of care to avoid collision, **all** boats leaving a checkpoint have right of way over all boats coming into a checkpoint irrespective of what class they are in.
24. When a boat is overtaking another boat, it is the duty of the overtaking boat to keep clear of all other boats at all times.
25. When a boat is racing in a group of competitors it is the duty of all competitors in the group to keep clear of other competitors at all times. This rule applies to any manoeuvring within the group.
26. Non-compliance with racing rules renders the competitors liable for time penalties or disqualification and possible exclusion from the event.

## Relay rules

1. Each team will consist of a minimum of four people for doubles and three for singles.
2. All teams must change their crew at each checkpoint.
3. Changes can only be made within the designated area at checkpoints. If no designated area is marked then the area is within 200 m of where the checkpoint officials are stationed.
4. The new crew must present the filled out relay safety ticket to the designated checkpoint official PRIOR to the crew change over. Spare tickets will be available if required. The safety ticket shall contain:
  - a) The boat number.
  - b) The full names of the new crew.
5. No team member may paddle two consecutive sections in one day.
6. Teams are to complete the course using the same boat.
7. At checkpoints, competitors and land crews are to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for this prestigious event that they have been allowed to participate in. There is to be no anti-social behavior i.e. no bad language, violent and or threatening actions, and participants must be respectful of their fellow competitors and land crews.
8. Any team that is reported to the Race Director for conduct unbecoming a Red Cross Murray Marathon competitor will be seriously dealt with.
9. All instances of observed poor conduct will be reported to the Race Director by officials throughout the course.
10. Minimum age of competitors is 13 years.
11. Teams representing businesses or having major sponsorship are required to abide by the event sponsorship guidelines.
12. These rules apply in addition to the Marathon race rules where there is a conflict these rules take precedence.
13. A briefing for Relay will be conducted after the main briefing on Boxing Day. It is imperative that at least one member who is capable of making decisions for the team is in attendance.

## School Relay, Junior Relay and School's Cup specific rules

1. School Relay teams shall consist of current year students from the school the team represents.
2. The School's Cup shall be presented to the fastest Men's, Women's and Mixed schools relay teams entered in the School Relay.
3. Junior Relay shall consist of current year school age competitors.
4. It is compulsory that life jackets or buoyancy vests are worn. No exceptions will be made.
5. All other Relay and Marathon rules apply. Where there is a conflict these rules take precedence.

6. A briefing for all relay sections will be conducted after the main briefing on Boxing Day. It is imperative that at least one member who is capable of making decisions for the team is in attendance.
7. JSR16 is a non gender specific class.

## K1 Cup specific rules

1. The event handicapper assesses each team individually and allocates a unique start time for each team.
2. A team shall consist of four members maximum.
3. All teams must change their crew member at each checkpoint.
4. Team members may each use their individual kayak, however all boats to be used must pass scrutineering.
5. The new crew member must present the filled out relay safety ticket to the designated checkpoint official prior to the crew change over. Spare tickets will be available if required. The safety ticket shall contain:
  - a) The boat number.
  - b) The full names of the new crew.
6. Team members must be nominated prior to the start on day one.
7. A briefing for all relay sections will be conducted after the main briefing on Boxing Day. It is imperative that at least one member who is capable of making decisions for the team is in attendance.
8. All other Relay and Marathon rules apply. Where there is a conflict these rules take precedence.

