

# WILDWATER RACING

## RULES

### 2021

Version 1.03

Created after community consultation and WWRC Review during Q4 2020.

## Revision History

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## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Definition of Terms</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>The WWRC</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Objective</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Risk Statement</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Race Types</b> .....	<b>5</b>
6.1	Classic Races .....	5
6.2	Sprint Races .....	5
6.3	Mass Start Races .....	6
6.4	Team Events .....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>Status of Races</b> .....	<b>6</b>
7.1	Ranking Races .....	6
7.1.1	National .....	6
7.1.2	Regional .....	6
7.1.3	Closed Championship Competitions .....	6
7.2	Non-Ranking Races .....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>Classes</b> .....	<b>6</b>
8.1	Individual .....	6
8.2	Teams .....	7
<b>9</b>	<b>MS Points System &amp; Event Score</b> .....	<b>7</b>
9.1	MS Points .....	7
<b>10</b>	<b>Ranking Points</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Ranking System</b> .....	<b>8</b>
11.1	National Ranking Score .....	8
11.2	Wavehoppers .....	8
11.3	Other Boats .....	8
11.4	Age Groups .....	8
<b>12</b>	<b>Regions</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>The WWR Season</b> .....	<b>9</b>

<b>14</b>	<b>Race Entry Procedure .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Wildwater Racing Boats, Equipment &amp; Safety Devices .....</b>	<b>10</b>
15.1	Dimensions & Weight.....	10
15.2	Boat Buoyancy.....	10
15.3	Other Boats/Craft Specifications.....	11
15.4	Helmets .....	11
15.5	Buoyancy Aids .....	11
<b>16</b>	<b>Overtaking .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Loss or Breakage of a Paddle .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Disqualification and Elimination .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Rescue of a Paddler in Danger .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Paddler Status – Amateur Rules.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>The Race .....</b>	<b>13</b>
21.1	Organiser/Organising Club .....	13
21.2	Start Order & Interval.....	13
21.3	Start Sheet, Bibs and General Race Day Administration.....	13
21.4	The Start .....	14
21.4.1	Classic & Sprint.....	14
21.4.2	Mass Start .....	14
21.5	The Finish .....	14
<b>22</b>	<b>Timing.....</b>	<b>14</b>
22.1	Timing equipment .....	15
22.2	Timing Accuracy .....	15
<b>23</b>	<b>Safety Measures – Race.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Race Cancellations .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Results .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Protests .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Entry Fees &amp; Race Levies .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>BC Anti-Doping Policy .....</b>	<b>17</b>

## 1 Definition of Terms

British Canoeing - BC	The Governing Body for the sport of Canoeing in the UK
International Canoe Federation - ICF	The International Governing Body for the sport of Canoeing
WWR	Wildwater Racing, also referred to as Wildwater Canoeing (WWC)
WWRC	The Wildwater Racing Committee of British Canoeing
National Association	British Canoeing (BC), (English Responsibility), Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI), Canoe Wales (CW), The Scottish Canoe Association (SCA)
National Association Wildwater Racing Committees	The Wildwater Committees of each National Association
Competition	All races at a venue over a day, weekend, or series of days. Examples:- The Dee sprint race on Saturday and Dee classic race on Sunday of the same weekend or The U23 World Championships taking place over several days
Closed Competition	Closed means that the event is not “open” to all. For example, the “Scottish Championships” to determine The Scottish Champion could be a closed competition eligible only to members of the SCA, (or whatever rules are defined by the organising body) . i.e. The Scottish Champion is to be “Scottish”
Class	A specific boat/paddler combination. Also referred to as ‘Category’. MK1, WK1, MC1, WC1, MC2, WC2, Mixed C2
Team Event	An event where 3 boats race together as a group. The paddlers do not necessarily have to be in the same class to make up a team. Often also referred to as a ‘Team race’.
MS Points	The points system for Wildwater Racing.
Ranking Points	The points awarded to an athlete per class to accumulate towards a Ranking Score.
Ranking Score	Accumulated Ranking Points.
Paddler	Interchangeable with Athlete or Competitor



## 2 Introduction

This document sets out the rules for Wildwater Racing (WWR) in Great Britain for competitions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Wildwater Racing Committee of British Canoeing (WWRC) as defined in the Terms of Reference document (ToR). Responsibility for drafting and maintaining these rules is delegated to the WWRC by British Canoeing (BC).

## 3 The WWRC

The WWRC is a British Canoeing Competition Discipline Committee that is defined in the Terms of Reference document.

## 4 Objective

The objective of Wild Water Racing is to demonstrate a paddler's mastery of their boat in fast moving white water, while racing a prescribed course in the shortest possible time.

## 5 Risk Statement

WWR can be hazardous and paddlers participate at their own risk. The competition Organiser, British Canoeing (BC), national associations, clubs and the WWRC cannot be held responsible for any injury or material damage sustained during the course of a WWR competition, nor will they assume responsibility or be liable for a person under the age of 18 years, who is unaccompanied or unsupervised, nor accept any liability for a paddler's choice of equipment, or decision to paddle. All organisers must produce a risk assessment for each event.

## 6 Race Types

There are three types of Race:-

1. Classic
2. Sprint
3. Mass Start

Races are Individual Events or Team Events.

### 6.1 Classic Races

Shall be at least 2km in length. Each paddler/crew combination will complete 1 run of the course in each class entered.

### 6.2 Sprint Races

Shall be up to a maximum of 1000m in length. There will be two runs of the course and paddlers/crew combinations must complete at least 1 run in each class entered. The fastest run counts.

A paddler is not permitted to do each run in different types of boat within the same class (e.g. composite & Wavehopper)

Other formats of sprint racing can be used for non-ranking events. (e.g. Heats/Semis/Final format)



### **6.3 Mass Start Races**

Shall be at least 2km in length. At least all paddlers within a class should start at the same time and the starting procedure is at the discretion of the organiser. Smaller sub-groups of competitors can be started together at the organisers discretion, depending on the conditions at the time.

### **6.4 Team Events**

In Team Events, three boats (irrespective of class) navigate the course together. Team races can occur in sprint, classic or mass start races. For specific rules about the start and finish refer to **Section 21 - The Race** on page 13.

## **7 Status of Races**

All open races complying with these rules will be classed as ranking and MS points will be awarded. Paddlers shall be required to pay the correct entry fees.

### **7.1 Ranking Races**

Ranking races are organised by or on behalf of British Canoeing. Paddlers gain Ranking Points which are accumulated over the season in order to be ranked.

There are two types of ranking race, National and Regional.

#### **7.1.1 National**

National ranking event scores will be awarded for each event under a factored MS Points System; with the winner in each class awarded 2,200 points.

#### **7.1.2 Regional**

Regional ranking points will be awarded in all classes under a factored MS System; with the winner in each event awarded 2,000 points-

#### **7.1.3 Closed Championship Competitions.**

Competitions organised on behalf of a National association in order to determine Champions other than those declared in the National Championships. (e.g. Regional Champions, Students, Age groups, home nations). These may run alongside or within races with more than one set of results produced.

### **7.2 Non-Ranking Races**

Non ranking events may be organised by individuals or clubs. The WWRC may publicise events on the calendar after consultation with the organiser.

## **8 Classes**

### **8.1 Individual**

Individual classes at Regional and National races are:

- C1 Women
- C1 Men

- K1 Women
- K1 Men
- C2 Women
- C2 Men
- C2 Mixed

Boats that fall outside of the WWR regulations can be raced but will not attract ranking points (e.g. K2, boats with rudders, surf skis)

## 8.2 Teams

Where team events take place, they can be made up of 3 boats from any class.

## 9 MS Points System & Event Score

### 9.1 MS Points

MS points are awarded in each class to each paddler or crew equal to the number of seconds that the paddler or crew would have finished behind the event winner, if the event winner's time had been 20 minutes (1200 seconds). This is equal to percentage factored for a 20 minute event.

The MS points awarded to a paddler or crew will be equal to:

$$\frac{\text{Number of seconds a paddler or crew are behind the event winner} \times 1200}{\text{Event Winner's time in seconds}}$$

## 10 Ranking Points

Ranking Points will be used to compile the ranking lists. The Ranking Points awarded to a paddler or crew will be equal to a race constant less the MS points scored for the event. The race constant will be the same for all classes within the competition.

- National Race – 2200
- Regional Race – 2000

All paddlers that complete the course shall receive at least 1 point, irrespective of their time.

### Example

The winner of the Men's C1 event took 15min 0 seconds (900 seconds).

- A Men's C1 paddler with a time of 16 mins 0 seconds (60 secs down on winner) would be given  $(60 * 1200) / 900 = 80$  MS points

And, the Ranking Points would be;

- For a National race:  $2200 - 80 = 2120$  Ranking Points
- For a Regional race:  $2000 - 80 = 1920$  Ranking Points



## 11 Ranking System

### 11.1 National Ranking Score

A paddler's National Ranking Score shall be the sum of the three highest Points Scores gained at either National or Regional Races.

### 11.2 Wavehoppers

Anybody that races in any ranking Wildwater race in a Wavehopper will be eligible for ranking points towards the Wavehopper and national rankings, as long as they have declared to the organiser they are racing in a Wavehopper. They will also be included in the national rankings list with an MS score based on the overall winner of the class.

### 11.3 Other Boats

Any boat meeting the dimensions rules of a Wildwater racing boat will be including in the rankings, for example a slalom boat or plastic river running boat. Any boats outside dimensions of a Wildwater racing boat will be excluded from the ranking, for example a sprint/marathon K1 or surf ski.

### 11.4 Age Groups

To determine the appropriate age group of paddlers, their year of birth is considered.

The age groups are:

U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, U23, Senior, V35-39, V40-44, V45-49, V50-54, V55-59, V60-64, V65-69, V70-74, V75-79, V80+

7 or younger at the start of this year **U8**

8 or 9 at the start of this year **U10**

10 or 11 at the start of this year **U12**

12 or 13 at the start of this year **U14**

14 or 15 at the start of this year **U16**

16 or 17 at the start of this year **U18**

18 - 22 at the start of this year **U23**

23 - 34 at the start of this year **Senior**

35-39 at the start of this year **V35**

40-44 at the start of this year **V40**

45-49 at the start of this year **V45**

50-55 at the start of this year **V50**

And so on.



#### Example

- The last year that a competitor will race as a Junior in the U18 age group will be the year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

Where races do not have quorate age groups as decided by the organiser, age groups can be combined.

Competitors will appear on the ranking lists in their correct age groups.

#### Crew boat combinations

- Where juniors are racing the age group takes the older competitor
- Where veterans are racing the age group takes the younger competitor
- In the case of mixed Juniors and Veterans, the crew will be in the Senior age group.

## 12 Regions

English Regions will be classified as:

Cumbria, East Midlands, East, London, North East, North West, Southern, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire.

## 13 The WWR Season

The WWR Season runs from January 1st to December 31st.

## 14 Race Entry Procedure

1. WWR is open to all members of BC/SCA/CW/CANI with membership that covers competition and by invitation to members of other ICF National Federations.
2. Entry level events are open to paddlers and other membership levels as defined by National Associations and identified in the calendar.
3. Entries must be made according to the instructions on the race details
4. The appropriate entry fees must be paid. Late entry fees may be charged at the discretion of the organiser.
5. Paddlers without proof of membership will not be allowed to start.
6. Paddlers can only enter once in each class, e.g. one K1 entry, one C1 entry. In national events paddlers can only enter C2 once in each class, ie. An athlete may enter Mens and Mixed (Mixed C2 and MC2 are different classes). In regional races paddlers may enter more than once with different partners within a class. Organisers are expected to cater for paddlers wanting to do two classes, ie C1 and C2 and should program this in accordingly.

## 15 Wildwater Racing Boats, Equipment & Safety Devices

1. They may only have a single hull, with a single bow and single stern. Rudders are prohibited on all boats.
2. Canoes (C1 and C2) must be propelled by single bladed paddles. Kayaks (K1) must be propelled by double bladed paddles.
3. All Wildwater racing boats must be equipped at each end with a handle secured no more than 30cm from the bow and from the stern. These handles must permit easy insertion of a template which measures 10cm x 10cm x 1.4cm. The rope must be at least 6mm in diameter; the taping of handles is not permitted.

### 15.1 Dimensions & Weight

Boats meeting these criteria for dimensions and weight will be eligible for ranking points. Other craft may be raced at the organisers discretion but not gain ranking points.

All racing craft must meet the following criteria for dimensions and weight:

Boat Type	Maximum Length/ Meters	Minimum Width/ Meters	Minimum Weight/ kg (Dry)
All types of K1	4.50	0.60	10.0
All types of C1	4.30	0.70	11.0
All types of C2	5.00	0.80	17.0

#### Notes:

1. The seam joining the hull to the deck will be considered to be part of the hull for measurement.
2. No extra components shall be added to the boat to enhance the dimension.
3. The minimum weight of the boat is measured when the boat is dry including inflated airbags
4. The air bags are to be taken as being part of the boat. The spray deck is considered to be an accessory and not part of the boat.

### 15.2 Boat Buoyancy

Boats must be unsinkable. Boats must be fitted with fully inflated airbags in both the front of the boat (in front of the footrest/paddler) and the back of the boat (behind the seat). The minimum total volumes capable of being contained in the air bags are as follows:

Boat Type	Front/ Litres	Back/ Litres
All types of K1	30	50
All types of C1	40	50
All types of C2	60	60

**Notes:**

- The volumes will be taken from the manufacturers stamp on the air bags. In case of dispute, the first decision shall be taken by the Boat Control Judge and the second decision if appealed by the Jury.
- The boat must float to the surface when filled with water. Open canoes must contain sufficient buoyancy to allow the canoe to be paddled when fully swamped.

**15.3 Other Boats/Craft Specifications**

Other boats may enter and compete in Wildwater Racing, the safety requirements for these boats is at the discretion of the race organiser.

**15.4 Helmets**

Each paddler must wear a safety helmet that conforms to CE EN 1385 standard, be the right size, properly adjusted to be comfortable and gives good vision. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

At local and regional events where flat water rivers are used the event organiser may determine that helmets are optional subject to a suitable risk assessment which identifies the reasons for this dispensation.

**15.5 Buoyancy Aids**

Each paddler must wear a buoyancy aid that meets either EN ISO 12402-5 or EN 393 standards.

Buoyancy aids must be appropriate to the person paddling.

**15.6 General Points**

1. Each paddler is responsible for their equipment. Boats, accessories and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols (with the exception of tobacco products), emblems and words.
2. Bibs must be worn, if supplied by the organiser.
3. Paddlers must be able to free themselves immediately from their boat at all times.
4. Paddlers must wear appropriate footwear on their feet. The shoes must have a thicker sole to protect the feet. The shoes must fit in such a way that they will not come off in a capsize or trap the paddler in the boat.
5. Each paddler must remain on the water at the finish after their run, to ensure the safety of the next two paddlers, unless the organiser, having made other rescue arrangements, has specifically indicated that this is not required. This rule applies equally to team events.
6. Any paddler failing to finish a race must inform an official at the finish as soon as possible.

**16 Overtaking**

Any paddler caught by another paddler shall allow the overtaking boat free passage if the overtaking paddler shouts "FREE", "WATER" or "COME BY"; failure to do so may result in disqualification.

## 17 Loss or Breakage of a Paddle

When a paddler breaks or loses their paddle, they may only replace it with another paddle if it was carried in or on their own boat from the start of the race. For team events spare paddles may be borrowed from another team member, providing it has been carried since the beginning of the race.

## 18 Disqualification and Elimination

1. A paddler who attempts to win a race by irregular means, who breaks the rules, or who contests their validity, is disqualified from the race.
2. If a paddler is forced to break the rules by the action of another person, the organiser will decide if the former will be disqualified from the race.
3. If a paddler starts in a boat which does not conform to the rules, they will not be eligible for ranking points.
4. A paddler who is not ready to start as scheduled may be eliminated from the run.
5. A paddler who accepts outside assistance during a race may be disqualified. Each of the following is considered to be outside assistance:
  - a. Any aid given to the paddler or his/her boat.
  - b. Giving, passing or throwing to a paddler a spare paddle or his/her lost paddle.
  - c. Directing, pushing or placing in movement a boat by anyone other than the paddler.
  - d. Giving directions to a paddler.
6. Crossing the finish line upside down eliminates the run. The boat is considered to be upside down when the paddler's trunk and head are completely under water. The paddler must also be in the boat when crossing the finish line.
7. No paddler should paddle any section of a race course during a race, except on a scheduled race run or where allowed to by the organiser.

## 19 Rescue of a Paddler in Danger

Since WWR is as much a contest against the elements as against other paddlers; it is a requirement that any paddler finding another paddler in danger (or maybe in danger), they must immediately render them assistance. If it is unsafe to rescue a paddler in danger then paddlers should make all reasonable attempts as far as practicable in the circumstances to alert others and/or emergency services who can come to the paddlers aid safely.

**Failure to do so may result in disqualification for life from WWR and/or all BC activities.**

## 20 Paddler Status – Amateur Rules

The WWRC will follow the policy set by ICF Statutes and Rules, or BC Policy, regarding Amateur status and/or contact with Ineligible Nations or athletes from Ineligible Nations.

## 21 The Race

### 21.1 Organiser/Organising Club

1. Organisers must belong to a National Association affiliated club or Centre, National Association Committee or the WWRC.
2. Clubs organising Wild Water Races, must be affiliated to a National Association
3. All advertised races must be approved by the relevant committee of the National Association.
4. All organisers of races are required to have a nominated safety officer that has done the appropriate National Association approved Event Safety training course.
5. All organisers of races are required to have a qualified first aider.
6. For races to be included in the ranking system, races need to appear in the calendar at least 30 days before the event takes place.
7. Information about organising a Wild Water Race is available on the website: [www.wildwater.org.uk](http://www.wildwater.org.uk).

### 21.2 Start Order & Interval

1. Starts should be by class where possible: Flexibility should be used to encourage paddlers to enter more than one event.
2. In the individual events the starts are separated by at least 30 seconds but preferably by one minute.
3. In the team events the starts are separated by at least one minute but preferably by two minutes.
4. The start interval should remain the same for the entire race where possible, individual and team events being considered separate races for this purpose.

All available information should be used for seeding, with the fastest starting last.

### 21.3 Start Sheet, Bibs and General Race Day Administration

1. The organiser must provide receipts if requested.
2. A programme and/or start list should be made available as soon as possible after entries have closed.
3. The race should run to the published time.
4. In the interest of the sport prizes should be awarded for all events where possible.
5. Information regarding the course should be available including a brief description and grading of the course indicating any particular hazards.
6. Details of the start and finish, a list of any site facilities such as toilet, refreshments, etc. should be made available in advance of the race
7. The organiser should include details of the appropriate emergency procedures in the event of an accident in their risk assessment.

8. The Name of the race's First Aider and where they are located during the race should be announced at the briefing.
9. For National Races a Jury must be appointed. There should be three members of the Jury: Ideally these should be as follows: One appointed by the relevant National Association WWRC, one by the organising club and another person appointed by the first two from non-paddling people attending the race. One of the Jury should be appointed as Chair of the Jury.
10. Bibs are available for the organiser to borrow if required.

## **21.4 The Start**

### **21.4.1 Classic & Sprint**

1. The Start should be either directly upstream or directly downstream. Whenever possible starts should be downstream.
2. Where possible each boat must be held by the stern at the starting position until the start by an assistant to the Starter. If this is not possible then the starting method must be the same for all paddlers.
3. Only standing starts are permitted. The Starter shall give a countdown of "30 second", "15 seconds", "10 seconds" "5-4-3-2-1-GO" or similar clear instructions prior to the word "Go."
4. In the team event the boats start one after the other. The boat on the start line will be held, (where possible) and the other two boats must be stationary on the water, relative to the bank, and behind a line across the river from the fronts of these two boats and the rear of the held boat.
5. Only the Starter is qualified to determine if a false start has occurred. He/she may determine if a second start is to be given. The recall signal will be a blast on a whistle or suitable signal.

### **21.4.2 Mass Start**

Start procedures for Mass Start races are at the discretion of the organiser.

## **21.5 The Finish**

An audible signal must be given to indicate that a paddler has crossed the finish line. The finish line should be marked and clearly visible to the paddler.

In the team event all three paddlers must cross the finish line within a 15 second time period, or be disqualified from the event. This is measured from the time the first paddler's body crosses the finish line, to the time when it is crossed by the third paddler's body.

The organiser may declare a race closure time, after which paddlers who have not finished will not be given a time.

## **22 Timing**

Timing is to be carried out by a photo-electric system, digital stop-watch, digital devices able to carry out the functions of a stopwatch with ability to take lap/split times.

The individual time of a run is measured from the time that the paddler's body first crosses the start line (when the boat is released by the assistant starter) to the time when the finish line is crossed by the paddler's body (in C2s, the first body that crosses the line).

For the team events, the time is measured from the time that the first paddler's body crosses the start line, to the time when the finish line is crossed by the third paddler's body.

### **22.1 Timing equipment**

1. Timing devices need to be capable of timing to .01 of a second
2. Back up method of timing is required at both the start and finish, all timing devices should be synchronized
3. If a manual method is the primary timing device at the finish this should have a lap or split function where a button can be pressed to stop the running time to temporarily show the finish time of that paddler that can be retained in the device's memory as well as being recorded as a hard copy paper record.
4. The timing device at the start can include a digital display device where seconds are shown, or an analogue display device where the second hand moves in 60 discrete movements, allowing the correct start commands to be given as the seconds tick down.

### **22.2 Timing Accuracy**

1. All races should be timed and results compiled to .01 of a second
2. When a manual method of timing is in use the same person should do the whole of a class and if the race is a sprint event for all runs.

## **23 Safety Measures – Race**

The rules in this section apply to all who visit the race and operate at all times, including race practice. Failure to comply can lead to disqualification from one or more races.

1. Organisers must produce a risk assessment prior to the race and submit this to the relevant National Association WWRC prior to the race. This should also be available on the day for information.
2. Organisers must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the race course is not obstructed or otherwise unsuitable for the proposed race.
3. The organiser should consider whether the race course includes any particular hazards, taking into account the level of competence which paddlers would be expected to have. The risk assessment and race briefing should reflect this. Where desirable for paddler safety specific instructions and/or markings/Safety direction etc., may be given for example weir shoots and drops or to avoid fallen trees etc.
4. Safety cover may be provided at any point in the race, if the organiser considers it necessary and reasonable to do so. It is not anticipated that provision of safety cover would be normal practice for all races.
5. Organisers are not required to examine or test paddler's protective equipment or to check their competence. This does not prevent organisers from examining any item of a paddler's equipment to ensure that no unfair advantage is gained, nor does this prevent any organiser

from prohibiting any paddler from racing if he or she is clearly incompetent or not properly equipped.

6. All paddlers must be accounted for by the Finisher. If anyone is declared as missing then appropriate action must be taken to locate them which may include alerting the police. In these instances a member of the relevant National Association must also be informed.
7. The Starter must inform the Finisher of those paddlers who do not start. Paddlers should inform the Finisher if they do not finish a race.
8. If any paddler who is known to have started the race cannot be accounted for, the organiser must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the paddler is safe.
9. In the event that either the organiser or members of the National Association believe there to be an “Unreasonable Risk to Safety”, a race may be cancelled at any time, including if the race is in progress.
10. Irrespective of the above rulings all paddlers remain responsible for their own safety, and must decide whether the course is within their own ability, from all the information supplied and their own experience.

## 24 Race Cancellations

1. The organiser should give maximum notice of race cancellation.
2. During exceptional weather conditions, paddlers should check the relevant National Association WWR websites and Facebook pages or with the organiser before travelling.

## 25 Results

1. Results shall be made available as soon as possible, this may be as the race is running or after all competitors have finished.
2. The organiser must, as soon as is practical and within 7 days of the race, send the provisional results to the Ranking List Compiler.
3. The Ranking List Compiler will check the Provisional Results. On completion of these checks results are Final Results.
4. All Official Final Results will be published on the WWR Website: [www.wildwater.org.uk](http://www.wildwater.org.uk).

## 26 Protests

1. Protests shall be made in writing and handed to the organiser within fifteen minutes of the time that the results for that event was published, accompanied by the appropriate protest fee.
2. In the first instant the organiser should investigate the protest and check times, calculations etc. If the organiser cannot concur with the details of the Protest, then it should be handed to the Chair of the Jury, whom with the other Jury members will investigate and adjudicate. **The Jury’s decision is final.**
3. Any protest must be reported to the WWRC, with the original written item and the resolution.



4. Any obvious result sheet error or ranking point can be amended at anytime after checking.

## **27 Entry Fees & Race Levies**

Race organisers are required to pay a race levy to the relevant national committee. Each nation is able to set it's own level.

In England and Wales the race levy is £1 per entry for Regional races and £2 per entry for National races based on the final start list.

## **28 BC Anti-Doping Policy**

The rules of the World Anti-Doping Code and BC Anti-Doping rules must be adhered to.