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COMPETITORS' BRIEFING

(approved by the ACSRTC Competition Committee as at 20/2/17)

AC SPRINT NATIONALS SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL REGATTA CENTRE PENRITH, NSW 5th – 9th MARCH 2017

Please ensure you read the briefing notes below. If you have any questions, please see the Chief Official before the competition begins, or email to sprint@canoe.org.au

TEAM LEADERS

1.	<p>Team Leader meeting for team leaders and coaches will be held on Saturday 4th March 2017 at 3pm (local time) at the Finish Line Tower Ground Floor level.</p>
2.	<p>All race entry changes, queries, protests and appeals must be submitted to the Competition Committee by your state or NCE Team Leader/Coach.</p> <p>The Team Leaders at this regatta are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales/NSWIS: Tim Jacobs / Christine Duff • Queensland/QAS: Christine Bain / Glenn Pyne • South Australia/SASI: Nathan Luce / Kris Lepianka • Victoria: Kieran Dews • Tasmania/TIS: Jeremy Norton • Western Australia/WAIS: Ramon Andersson • AC National Coaches/Manager: David Foureur, Andrea King, Anna Wood, Christine Bain <p>* Note: Team Leaders are required to represent ALL their respective State entries. Individual athletes are not to represent themselves to the tower unless specifically requested to do so.</p>

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

3.	<p>AC will appoint the following officials to oversee the competition:</p> <p>Competition Committee: TBC</p> <p>Jury: TBC</p>
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RULES

4.	<p>This event is being conducted under the Australian Canoeing Canoe Sprint Racing Competition Rules. The <u>ICF Canoe Sprint Racing Competition Rules (2017)</u> apply as modified by the <u>Australian Rules</u> and <u>this document</u>. The event is also conducted under the bylaws of Australian Canoeing. The Chief Official shall decide all matters arising during the actual competition, which are not dealt within these rules.</p>
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5.	It is the competitors' responsibility to know and act within the rules of the competition, regardless of alternative advice provided by other parties, be it athletes, coaches or team leaders. Any competitor who is unsure of any details, or has an issue in regard to the running of the championships should seek clarification via their Team Leader from the Chief Official. Reference to advice given by a third party to a competitor in respect of any breach of the rules of the competition will NOT constitute an acceptable reason for a breach of the rules.
6.	Vocal coaching from the side of the course during a race, 'keeping pace' cycling or otherwise assisting from the side of the course, is not permitted during an event and may result in disqualification of a competitor/s.
7.	It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that their boats meet the construction requirements of the ICF rules. Athletes' attention is advised in respect of weight changes resulting from seat / foot bar replacements etc. Note: facilities are provided for competitors to check the weight of their boats. The organising committee has lead sheet available for sale for this purpose. It must be paid for in cash - no IOU's will be accepted. The price of the lead is based on materials cost recovery only.
8.	NOTE changes to Rule 8 in the AC Sprint Competition Rules, "The boat must be constructed so that it remains buoyant when filled with water. No part of the athlete's body should be attached to the boat in anyway. Such attachments must be removed prior to weighing." Example no shoes attached to the foot rest during weighing

ENTRIES

9.	As a result of lower entry numbers, entry fees have been raised for this national championship to reflect increasing costs associated with running AC events during the 2016/17 season. The decision to minimise the loss by AC Sprint was not taken lightly and was considered 'fair and reasonable' given the lack of fee increases in sprint over the last 6 years. Entries are now: \$175 for juniors, paracanoe, canoeist and masters \$245 for seniors. Entries close on the 24th February 2017.
10.	Entries are to be finalised at the Team Leaders meeting, which will be held prior to the regatta and after publication of the provisional entry list and race schedule. <u>Additional entries after the meeting are not permitted (including K4s) except for long distance events</u>
11.	NEW RULE for National Championships: Due to the impact on event entry numbers after the finalisation of the regatta program, competitors may now only scratch entries up to 48 hours before the published schedule start of the regatta i.e. regatta starts at 8am Sunday 5 th March , competitors scratching are due 8am Friday.

12.	Changes in respect of team boat compositions will continue to be permitted for scheduled heats and direct finals only until 75 MINUTES before the start of racing each day. This is required to allow changes to program to be entered and circulated for all officials for the day
13.	PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO THIS RULE: Competitors will not be permitted to scratch from semi-finals or subsequent Finals without the consent of the Chief Official and in such circumstances a doctor's certificate from an <i>independently accredited medical practitioner</i> verifying an athlete's illness will generally be required.
14.	The withdrawal of an entry will be considered final and no renewed entry of the same crew will be permitted.
15.	Late entries will close on the 28th February 2017. Any late entries fees that are accepted will incur a late fee of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors – \$245 (entry fee) + \$245 (late fee) = \$490 • Juniors, Paracanoe, Canoeist and Masters – \$175 (entry fee) + \$175 (late fee) = \$350
16.	Unless alternative payment arrangements have been confirmed in writing with AC, all late fees and reinstatement fees owing from previous regattas have to be paid before a competitor is allowed to race their first event. Otherwise the athlete will not be allowed to paddle. Should an athlete be found to have paddled without having paid their late fees their result may be declared null and void. This WILL include any crew boat in which the athlete may have paddled prior to payment.
17.	AC's refund policy can be found on the website - http://canoe.org.au/2004/10/22/refund-policy-australian-canoeing-events/
18.	Long distances races entries will ONLY be accepted during the event and up until midday on the day of racing.

PROGRESSIONS

19.	The ICF progressions found in the ICF Canoe Sprint Rules and AC progressions will be published prior to the commencement of the regatta and will be used for this event to place athletes from heats to semis to finals.
20.	ICF progressions will also be used for events that are required for selection with AC progressions for all other events.

PROGRAMMES

21.	Results, updated start lists, and news stories will be published on the Australian Canoeing website www.canoe.org.au under Events/Sprint. Provisional and then final results and race draws are posted on the results board at the finish tower after each race. When available, copies of the original day program with start list will be available from the secretariat approximately 30 minutes before the first race each day. The program will cost \$1. NOTE: the State Team Leader/Manager (as noted in point 2) will be allocated a complimentary start list each day.
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VENUE

22.	Coaches, Team Leaders, Athletes and Parents are not permitted to enter the TOWER and/or designated OFFICIALS ONLY areas. If there is an enquiry, issue, or you have been asked to report to the Chief Official etc., you MUST go to the SECRETARIAT area first to report the enquiry, issue, and /or to meet the Chief Official etc. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are individuals to enter the TOWER and/or other OFFICIALS ONLY areas during competition unless accompanied or directed by a member of the secretariat.
23.	<u>Whilst cycling is permitted on the SIRC course, cycling is NOT permitted in front of the grandstand. Breach of this rule may result in competitor / team disqualification from the regatta.</u> Cyclists must wear a bicycle helmet in accordance with NSW State law. <u>Driving on either side of the course is also prohibited without written request and permission of the Competition Committee. Any breach of these requirements may result in the disqualification of any competitor or crew concerned.</u>
24.	Parking is not permitted on the grassed areas around the buildings. Boat trailers and all other vehicles may only park in designated areas. Only SIRC permit holders may park in front of all the boatsheds. All officials, spectators and competitors must follow directions of SIRC staff regarding parking at the venue.
25.	The venue will have minimal security each night and a security person will be on site overnight. Boats, trailers and tents may be left overnight at the owner's risk. It is recommended other items not be left at the venue.
26.	It is highly recommended to bring sunscreen and lots of fluids.
27.	Shade is provided in the grand stand, however teams can supply their own shelter.
28.	If providing your own shelter please note: due to potential impacts of pegs on grass and / or reticulation piping, please refer to local venue maps as to where you can set up your shade. Please see AC staff at the venue before putting up any shade
29.	Food is available at the venue, and there is a shopping centre nearby.

NUMBERS / START / FINISH / POST BOAT CONTROL

30.	There will be 9 racing lanes at SIRC, which will be 13.5m wide. An automatic Starting System will be used for 200m and 500m races. A pontoon with hand held starts will be used for 1000m races.
31.	All events are scheduled to be conducted on time unless competitors are advised by the announcement of a significant delay. <u>Please be prepared to start your race at the published time.</u> Subsequent races will endeavour to be 'caught up' to scheduled race times so athletes are reminded to be ready by the original and published time of their respective events.
32.	Competitors are required to present at the <u>start line carrying their designated boat number.</u> Should a competitor/competitors present at the <u>start line without their boat number, the boat may be disqualified for the event. Should a number be lost on route to an event, or a number slot be damaged, competitors are required to rectify the situation prior to the next event such that a lane number is displayed.</u> <u>Competitors may be moved to another lane in the instance of a 'gate failure'. In such circumstances a competitor may be instructed to race with the originally issued lane number OR be requested to remove the number.</u>
33.	IMPORTANT RULE: Competitors take note: A competitor who arrives too late at the start (this includes presenting to the starter when the start procedure has commenced) or who otherwise does not start, and has no valid reason approved by the Chief Official prior to the start of the event, shall be disqualified from the race in question. Upon payment of the prescribed reinstatement fee the competitor may continue to participate in those other races of the regatta in which the competitor is entered, but otherwise shall be disqualified for the remainder of the regatta. Where a competitor is disqualified under this rule and has no other races remaining in the regatta, the competitor shall not be allowed to enter the next national competition unless the prescribed reinstatement fee has been paid. The reinstatement fee is \$100 for seniors/paracanoe/canoeist and \$25 for juniors/masters.
34.	IMPORTANT RULE: In races up to 1000 metres, competitors are required to <u>keep the whole of their boat within the 4m wide central area of their lane</u> from the start to the finish of the course. Upon any deviation occurring, the boat must go back immediately to this central area. No boat may come nearer than five metres in any direction to the boat of another competitor.
35.	Competitors' attention is drawn to the ruling on false starts. Any competitor who makes a second false start will be disqualified from the race. The decision of the starter will be final.



36.	All races may be subject to Boat Control after the finish. Competitors are required to stay in the finish area clear of other finishing competitors until boat control numbers are advised. If your lane number is called you must exit the water at the post boat control point in the designated area and proceed through the designated transit area to boat control. Only approved Sports Science personnel, AC officials, approved photographers and ASADA officials are permitted in the marked areas. Scales will be made available for weight checking prior to racing. Permission to enter the area is granted by the Chief Official. No debate with the Chief Official will be entertained regarding any variation between pre-race and post-race boat weight unless specifically requested by the boat control official. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that their boats meet the weight specifications of the ICF rules.
37.	Competitors must not paddle in close proximity to the starting area while a race is in the process of being started.
38.	Competitors should not congregate in their boats in the vicinity of the finishing line in case they interfere with the judging or the finish of the event in progress. Paddlers are required to present themselves immediately for weighing and / or event presentations and NOT go for warm down unless with the prior permission of the Chief Official.
39.	Boat holders will be available during the regatta for held starts where required.
40.	Lane seeding for heats and direct finals will be based on the current AC rankings.
41.	Competitors' attention is also drawn to the fact that finish line buoys are 'indicative' of the finish line only, and that due to water and/ or wind conditions and / or technical reasons, may NOT be in direct alignment with the photo finish line. Competitors are therefore advised to paddle through the photo finish line to ensure video camera capture prior to ceasing paddling
42.	Entry to the course is via the warm-up lake behind the boatshed.

ASADA

43.	Drug testing maybe carried out during the regatta by representatives from the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA). Competitors are required to cooperate fully with their requests. Any competitor unsure of his/her obligations should seek clarification from the Chief Official. For further information, please check the ASADA website at https://www.asada.gov.au/
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UNIFORMS

44.	Competitors <u>must wear an officially recognised Club, State or SIS/SAS uniform.</u> International visitors competing must wear their ICF affiliated country or club uniform.
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45.	Any competition paddlers that are not members of an affiliated club of Australian Canoeing are required to compete in either a white T-shirt or white racing singlet to meet the intent of standard club uniform requirements for competition. In the circumstance that a competitor/s wish to wear a lycra or similar material paddling suit in competition, they are to wear a white singlet / T-shirt over such suit, such that any branding or advertising that may be on the suit is not visible in respect of a viewing audience, be it by filming, videography and / or by spectator and / or officials at the venue. Specific sponsor advertising and / or apparel / equipment logo approval must be obtained from Australian Canoeing before those items can be worn / used in AC controlled regattas.
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PFD'S

46.	All competitors under 14 years of age must wear approved personal flotation devices in all races. Team Leaders and coaches should ensure that these are available. In the case of adverse conditions the Competition Committee may require that competitors in other age groups wear approved personal flotation devices.
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PROTESTS

47.	Competitors wishing to protest on the result of an event must lodge their protest via their State/Team Manager to the Chief Official within 20 minutes of the completion of that event. The protest must be in writing and accompanied by a \$50.00 protest fee . Official results are considered provisional until the 20 minute protest period has elapsed. In the case of a protest being lodged official results will not be confirmed until the Competition Committee has confirmed their decision and the result of the event in question. Team Leaders, athletes and coaches need to be aware that this may in turn impact the timing in which race progressions are published, and numbers released at the numbers station. Should an athlete/s not present themselves to race in a subsequent race progression at a time as determined by the result of a protest, that athlete/s will be deemed to be an event DNS and subject to ruling point 33 above. NOTE: Athletes are also advised to take into account the published regatta schedule when confirming their entries at the Team Leaders meeting prior to the commencement of the regatta as <u>departure for reasons of travel commitments will NOT be accepted as a reason</u> for not starting an event and the ruling in point 33 will apply.
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MEDALS & PRESENTATIONS

48.	<p>MEDAL PRESENTATION PROTOCOL - AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS</p> <p>Australian Championship medals will be presented according to the AC Awards by-law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be presented to the first 3 place getters where 4 or more athletes finish in an A Final. ii. If less than 4 competitors only Gold and Silver medals will be awarded. iii. If less than 3 competitors only the Gold medal will be awarded.
49.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Medal ceremonies will be organised following finals for each event. b) Long distance medals can be collected from the Secretariat. c) Where possible, medal ceremonies will take place immediately following competition and post race boat control. Team Managers and coaches are asked to facilitate athlete attendance at medal ceremonies in a timely fashion and were required before any warming down process. d) All remaining medals for other events will be available for collection at the conclusion of the day racing – NOT BEFORE.
50.	<p>RAJ AWARD</p> <p>Is awarded to the most Outstanding Junior Canoeist at an Australian National Championships</p> <p>Selected by: Competition Committee, or as delegated by Committee Chairman.</p> <p>The Raj Award was named after a HMT safety boat (Cabin Cruiser) that was owned and operated by Mr Gerry Brayne, ICF Official. The boat was used for 10 years on the Red Cross Murray Marathon Canoe race, for the safety of all canoeists. It carried radio communications and Red Cross first aid.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to paddle. • Good attitude to other paddlers, coaches and officials. • Correct dress.

VOLUNTEERS

51.	<p><u>Please remember that all officials and helpers are working as volunteers at the event. Please treat them with respect and courtesy. Should you have a suggestion for improvement of the regatta process, officiating or conduct of the event, please lodge it in writing to the Chief Official at the Secretariat desk.</u></p>
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UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR

52.	<p>Australian Canoeing staff, officials and volunteers use their 'best endeavours' to ensure the fair and professional conduct of AC sanctioned competitions. Behaviour detrimental to the good order and conduct of the competition or which is disrespectful to officials and volunteers is not condoned and may result in athletes and / or team officials being sanctioned, disciplined and / or disqualified. In addition, if the Competition Committee is of the opinion that an athlete or crew, does not compete to their ability in a race, which affects their progression in an event or otherwise, they may be disqualified from the event or from the remainder of the regatta. Further, any competitor who acts in a manner unbecoming of a member of Australian Canoeing or brings Australian Canoeing or the sport of canoeing into disrepute may be further subject to Australian Canoeing disciplinary proceedings.</p>
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**ABOVE ALL THE REGATTA IS THERE FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.
PLEASE ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE AND AS
OFFICIALS, WE WISH GOOD LUCK TO ALL COMPETITORS.**