

MACCLESFIELD AND DISTRICT CANOE CLUB

www.madcc.co.uk

Cheshire Ring Canoe Race Rules (THESE RULES MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GUIDANCE NOTES)

1. ENTRIES

- a. The organizer must receive entry forms through the online entry system by the deadline dates shown on the MADCC website.
- b. Receipt of an online entry and payment of fees shall be deemed to indicate that the entrants have read, understood and accepted the rules.
- c. Entries can be cancelled, through the on-line entry system, up to three weeks before the race. Entry fees will then be refunded, less an administration fee of 6%. Some changes such as contact details etc. can be made online through the entry system by the competitor. For changes in details of the paddlers please contact the MADCC Entries Administrator. Transfer of entries to another competitor or team will be allowed up to three weeks before the race. Changes in the number of paddlers in a relay team will be allowed up to one week before the race (through the MADCC Entry Administrator) – but no refunds will be made for a reduction in paddler numbers in the last three weeks and any increase in paddler numbers will be charged at the rate applying on the date of notification.
- d. Proof of current BCU membership will be required *for each paddler* at check in, failure to provide this will require an additional fee of £5.00 per person to be paid for Canoe England event insurance. Junior members of BCU-affiliated clubs are excluded from this requirement.
- e. Each team will be required to carry a GPS tracker on a lanyard, which relay teams must pass between themselves as they changeover. It is a condition of entry that the tracker is carried on the water throughout the race and that competitors take responsibility for its safe return (non-returns will result in an extra charge to entrants of £150). Any crew or team withdrawing before the finish must contact the organiser to arrange to return the tracker. More information about this technology is available here: <http://www.opentracking.co.uk/>

2. CREWS

- a. For the double kayak (K2) or double tourer 5-pair relay teams. The team shall be formed of 5 crews; each crew will comprise one senior and one junior. The crews shall be nominated before the race starts, be maintained through the race and paddle the sequence of sections.
- b. JUNIOR to be under 18 years of age on the date of the start of the race.
SENIOR to be 18 years of age or over on the date of the start of the race.
- c. All the way entries and any other reasonable form of relay are acceptable, e.g. solo canoe (C1) or kayak (K1), two-person C2 or K2, two or three person K1 relay, four person K2 relay.
- d. Juniors must be accompanied by an adult while paddling or portaging (this can be as an adult in a crew boat, in an accompanying boat, or keeping pace on the bank/towpath). A signed Parental Consent Form must be presented for each junior before the race.
- e. Entries from Juniors for all the way attempts will not be accepted.

3. SAFETY

- a. Unsupported entries are not accepted. The support party must carry a mobile phone, the telephone number of which must be given to the race organiser. This phone must have stored on it the numbers of the race organiser and Raynet (the organisation that provides radio coverage for additional safety after dark).
- b. The support party must consist of at least one adult, who may also be a member of a relay team.
- c. The support party must be available to and in touch with the boat throughout the entire time of the race.
- d. Each boat must contain sufficient buoyancy to keep it afloat in the case of capsize.
- e. Each boat must be equipped with a survival bag and a first aid kit. All competitors must be able to swim at least 50 meters in canoeing clothing.
- f. All competitors must wear a serviceable lifejacket or buoyancy aid (conforming to CE standards) with a whistle attached. The Bridgewater Canal Company requires bright coloured clothing to be worn.
- g. During darkness each paddler must have an activated white light stick attached to the right shoulder of their buoyancy aid. At check-in, one light stick will be provided for each paddler.
- h. Each boat must be equipped with a torch for use in emergencies (with spare carried by the support crew). A mobile phone (in a waterproof, non-submersible container) must be carried on the person of the paddler (or by one of the craft's relay paddlers). This phone must have stored in it the numbers of the support crew, the race organiser and Raynet.
- i. All tunnels must be portaged. It is not permitted to shoot any weirs.
- j. Paddle on the right of the canal to pass oncoming boats; give way to powered craft at bends, narrows and narrow bridges.

4. KAYAKS/CANOES

- a. International marathon racing K1, C1, K2 and C2 craft must comply with ICF marathon rules.
- b. Double tourer kayaks: the general guideline specifications for this class are 500 x 67 cm.
- c. There are no size/weight regulations for other types of kayak not specified in rules 4a or 4b.
- d. There is no specific size/weight regulation applied to touring Canadian canoes
- e. The only method of propulsion shall be by single (Canadians) or double bladed paddles (kayaks).
- f. Portage wheels/trolleys and rudders may be carried/fitted and used but must be present and carried throughout the entire event, and if more than one boat is used they must all be similarly equipped.

5. IDENTIFICATION

- a. All boats must display the official race entry number

6. STARTING

- a. All crews must report to the start marshal race officials at the stipulated check in time and be ready on the water 5 minutes before their allocated start time.
- b. By agreement (on the day) with the starter, some leeway may be allowed between allocated and actual start times. Race times will be calculated from actual start time.

7. CUT-OFF TIME

- a. Competitors arriving at The Old Broken Cross pub relay change point at Rudheath more than 15 hours after their start time must retire from the race and hand over their lanyard and GPS tracker to a marshal.
- b. For the purpose of this rule, the start time will be taken as the actual start time or the allocated start time, whichever is the earlier (i.e. no allowance will be made if you start late).

8. RELAY CHANGE OVERS

- a. Relay change overs must be at the points described in the Race Guide. Five pair relay teams must change at each of the described points and maintain the same pairing and sequence throughout. Other relays may elect to omit some of the change-over points but must also keep to the same sequence of pairings.
- b. At the start of the race, each relay team will be issued with a lanyard and a GPS tracker which will be carried by the paddler(s) during each section.
- c. At each relay change-over point the lanyard and the GPS tracker must be passed from the arriving crew to the crew paddling the next section.
- d. Failure to transfer the lanyard and GPS tracker from crew to crew will result in a 10 minute penalty for each infringement.
- e. Where more than one boat is used by a relay team, the change-overs must be arranged so that the team has no advantage over a crew using only one boat. At a change-over between paddled sections the first boat must overlap the second boat and the lanyard must be transferred from the arriving to the departing crew. Transfer of the lanyard and tracker can take place on the water or on the bank.
- f. At a bank change-over at the start/end of portaged sections, the first boat must overlap the second boat on the bank and the lanyard and tracker must be passed from the arriving to the departing crew. Transfer of the lanyard and tracker must take place on the bank.

9. TRANSPORT

- a. The crews for subsequent stages will be transported by their own support team to the relevant change over points.

10. FEEDING

- a. Crews are permitted to receive food and drink at any point along the course.

11. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

- a. Crews are permitted to obtain assistance from any source to repair canoes, paddles or equipment sustaining damage during the race. Canoes or kayaks undergoing repair shall not be removed from nor moved along the canal tow-path unless carried solely by its own crew. Paddles, rudders and clothing (including spray decks) may be replaced as necessary.
- b. Medical assistance is permitted in the case of illness or injury.
- c. Transport assistance for crews is defined in rule 8 above.
- d. Each crew is solely responsible for portaging all locks and tunnels encountered on their sections. However, assistance is allowed at the spiral bridge, section 4, lock 7, and at the steps from the Trent & Mersey canal to the Macclesfield canal, section 15. Crews breaking the no assistance rule will be subject to a 10-minute penalty for each infringement.

12. CONDUCT OF CREWS AND SUPPORTERS

- a. Competitors and supporters must keep clear of other boats at all times and must in no way obstruct the passage of other competitors. Any crew deliberately causing a collision or damage to another boat or equipment will be disqualified.
- b. All crews and their supporters must maintain an acceptable standard of dress and conduct throughout the race. This is particularly important after dark when people may be asleep in nearby houses and moored boats; any disturbance must be kept to a minimum.
- c. Any crew member or supporter who persists in creating a noise or other form of public annoyance, or who fails to observe the instructions of any race marshal shall render themselves liable and their crew to disqualification.

13. PORTAGES

- a. Canoes or kayaks may only be wheeled or carried at recognised portages around locks and tunnels. The towpath or horse path must be followed.

14. RETIREMENTS

- a. Any individual in a team who is compelled to withdraw through illness or injury may be replaced by another team member of the same age group.
- b. If any team or solo entrant is compelled to withdraw from the race then the nearest marshal or the race organiser must be informed, or the emergency home contact number telephoned as soon as possible to prevent a false search being mounted.

15. TROPHIES

- a. The winners of annual trophies are responsible for their safe custody and must return them to the race organiser by 1st May of the year following the race when they were awarded.

16. INDEMNIFICATION

- a. Macclesfield and District Canoe Club accept no responsibility for any injury, damage to, or loss to competitors, support crew or equipment, however caused. Remember the canal side can be a hazardous environment with water, unfenced lock sides, trip hazards, slippery towpaths, brambles and nettles and the race passes through the dark of the night.

17. Participants are responsible for ensuring they do not obstruct the canal or towpath and for removing their debris and rubbish.

18. BREACH OF THESE RULES

- a. Any crew failing to comply with these rules shall be warned that their actions will be reported to the committee of the Macclesfield and District Canoe Club, and the said committee shall deal with the matter at its discretion after hearing the competitor's case.

19. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

- a. The decision of the committee of MADCC shall be regarded as final as far as the race is concerned.
- b. Members of MADCC are reminded that in addition to the Ring race rules, their behaviour and the resolution of any complaints are covered by the Club's constitution.