

# Canoeing Victoria – Marathon Racing

## Introduction

There are three systems used for Marathon Racing competitions:

1. Divisional
2. Touring
3. Sub-junior

This document explains the Divisional system in some detail. Brief overviews of the Touring and Sub-junior systems are also given here.

## Touring System

This system is primarily intended to provide competition for touring class boats, i.e. TK1, TK2, TC1, TC2. In addition, where there is sufficient interest, special classes may be formed<sup>1</sup> as determined by the Race Committee, e.g. Sea kayaks, Out-riggers, Surf Skis.

Furthermore, by arrangement with the Race Committee, a special race may be held for racing class boats. This would only apply for a Veterans age bracket where the paddlers collectively want to paddle a shorter distance than that available under the Divisional system.

The Touring System is age and gender based for boat class and distance.

- Age brackets (age is determined as at 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of competition):
  - Junior: U14, U16, U18
  - Open: 18 – 29 years (older paddlers may choose to paddle in the Open class)
  - Veterans: 5 year groupings from 30 years upwards, i.e. Vet30, Vet35, Vet40, Vet45, etc
- Gender: Mens, Womens, Mixed
- Race distances:
  - Full Distance,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Distance,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Distance and  $\frac{1}{3}$  Distance
  - Full Distance will usually be the same course and distance as defined for Division 1 in the Divisional System
  - Age/Class/Distance allocations are as determined by the Marathon Technical Committee and published in the Marathon Diary.

## Sub-junior

For U12 paddlers only.

Boat and gender determines classes.

Race distance will usually be 3km or 4km (as determined by the Race Committee).

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<sup>1</sup> A constituted class comprises at least 4 boats of the same type.

## Divisional System

### Aim & Purpose of Divisional System

The Divisional System is used for international class boats, e.g. K1, K2, C1, C2.

The overall aim of the divisional system is to prepare paddlers for national and international competitions.

Its purpose is to:

- foster strong competition
- improve the performance of individual paddlers
- provide graduated increases to full marathon race distance (in Div 1 & 2).

### Structure of Divisional System

There are 9 divisions. All divisions are performance based, i.e. perform well and you will be promoted into the next division (refer promotion rules).

There is a ranking and promotion scheme. This is designed to provide well matched competition within each division and a pathway for movement into a higher division for high performing paddlers. Equally, paddlers who are not performing to the expected standard for a division may be moved down to a lower division.

Two divisions are age limited: Div 9 for U14 paddlers; Div 8 for U16 & U18. Age is determined as at 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of competition.

Allocation to other divisions is determined by assigned ranking (refer ranking rules).

Paddlers may compete above their ranked division but not below.

Sub-juniors (U12) are not considered part of the Divisional system but may compete in Div 9 subject to approval by the Race Committee and with permission from their parent.

### Race Distances for Divisional Races

Division	Distance	Laps & Length	Restrictions	Notes
Div 1	25 km	5 laps of 5 km loop		Portage required
Div 2	25 km	5 laps of 5 km loop		Portage required
Div 3	20 km	4 laps of 5 km loop		Portage required
Div 4	20 km	4 laps of 5 km loop		Portage required
Div 5	15 km	3 laps of 5 km loop		Portage required
Div 6	12 km	3 laps of 4 km loop		
Div 7	8 km	2 laps of 4 km loop		Novice senior paddlers
Div 8	8 km	2 laps of 4 km loop	U14, U16, U18	
Div 9	8 km	2 laps of 4 km loop	U14 only	U12 may paddle with permission

### Portaging

Portaging is an important aspect of marathon racing. Divisions 1 to 5 are designated portage classes:

- All Open and Junior paddlers in an international class boat (K1, K2, C1 & C2) must portage in accordance with the number of laps.
- Veteran paddlers in those classes need not portage but can do so if they wish.
- A time penalty will be applied where a paddler is required to portage and chooses not to. (The time penalty amount will be determined by the Chief Official and advised prior to the race).

## Ranking System

Ranking is an indicator of ability relative to other paddlers. The aim is to rank paddlers at a level which allows fair and equitable racing and encourages paddler development.

Rankings are 1-9 corresponding to the Divisional structure. Paddlers will be assigned a ranking according to their race performance history.

Rankings are reviewed after each singles race in the Marathon Winter Series and a determination made regarding promotions. The outcome is published on the web site.

Unranked paddlers may compete in the lowest available division (and will usually commence their first race in this division):

- Senior – Div 7
- U23 – Div 7
- U16 & U18 – Div 8
- U14 – Div 9

## Promotion Rules

Promotions are made on the basis of race performance and are determined by a combination of formula and subjective assessments.

A paddler will normally be promoted when:

- They finish a race in 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Or they finish the race within 7% of the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> place getter
- And they have completed at least 2 races in their current Division

And subject to the following:

- It is deemed that there are a sufficient number of paddlers in the race
- Adequate boat speed relative to the speed in the Division above.

U14 & U16 paddlers will not normally be promoted beyond the prescribed age group distance – considered to protect young bodies. Juniors need parent or guardian permission to compete above their ranked division.

Paddlers will not normally be demoted except by special request to the Marathon Committee or where they have been out of racing for an extended period.

Where a paddler has been out of competition for 2 years, they will come back in with a ranking that is 2 Divisions lower than their previous ranking.

Promotions are at the discretion of the Marathon Racing Committee, subject to the defined policies and rules. There is the opportunity for review of a promotion decision and ranking. Requests for review to be made in writing. Any determination by the Marathon Committee will be final.