

2018 Massive Murray Paddle race rules

1. **Governing rules:** The event is conducted under the International Canoe Federation (ICF) marathon rules, Paddle Australia (PA) marathon rules and the following MMP rules. The rules exist to provide fair competition and safe paddling for all competitors.
2. **General Rules for all Craft:** All craft (other than surf boats and rowing boats) must have hand-held paddles. No mechanical devices (including sails) are allowed. All craft must carry sufficient buoyancy to remain floating level when full of water. All paddlers must be facing forward. Craft must comply with the specifications for the class in which they are entered.
3. **Age classes:** The age for race purposes is taken as the age of the competitor on Day 1 of the event. Junior competitors (U18 years of age) may paddle in age categories older than their age, up to and including "Open". Senior paddlers may paddle in age categories younger than their age down to and including "Open". Crews consisting of junior and senior competitors paddle in the "Open" age group. The age class for teams is taken as the age of the oldest team member for junior teams (up to U18) and the youngest age for adult teams (down to Open).
4. **Gender classes:** Only women may paddle in Women's classes. Any competitor may paddle in Open (a.k.a Men's) classes. In Mixed classes at least 40% of the crew in the craft at all times must be female (consistent with ICF dragon boat rules), other than for "triple" (e.g. K3 and V3) craft, where at least one crew member in the craft at all times must be female.
5. **Race records:** Race records will be reported for 2-year age groups for Juniors (U12, U14, U16 and U18), Open, and 10-year age groups for Veterans classes (V40-49, etc.) for full distance and relay crews based on actual time. Competitors are eligible for race records for the class in which they have entered and younger classes down to Open for veterans and older classes up to Open for juniors. Classes do not need to be "constituted" for the purposes of establishing records.
6. **Non-Standard Days.** If the racing distances are changed for any reason (such as repeating Day 1), then the times for that day will be adjusted by a factor to account for the different race distances for the purposes of race records. If a day is cancelled altogether, then only day records will be recorded for that year.
7. **Race times:** A craft's elapsed time commences at the start time of its assigned start and ceases when its bow crosses the finish line. All crew must be with their craft while their craft progresses and when their craft crosses the finish line.
8. **Time penalties:** Crews which jump the start will incur a time penalty of 15 minutes.
9. **Crew changes:** Relay team members may only change at the designated checkpoints. At least one crew member in each relay team must change at each checkpoint. Non-registered competitors may not be substituted for registered competitors during the event.
10. **Replacement of equipment:** Competitors may use another boat if their first boat becomes unserviceable. However, if the replacement boat does not comply with the specification of the class of their first boat, their race class will be changed as appropriate. Competitors may replace paddles and other equipment, such as PFDs, etc., without penalty.
11. **Receiving assistance:** Competitors may receive assistance from others, providing this does not progress the competitor or cause their craft to be taken closer to the finish. Assistance provided by members of the MMP safety team in improving the safety of a competitor will not be deemed to be progressing the competitor. Portage is permitted, provided it does not shorten the course. No device to assist in portage is permitted unless it is carried in the craft throughout the event.
12. **Overtaking:** The leading craft has the right of way. The onus is on any overtaking craft to do so safely.
13. **Right of Way at Check Points.** The exiting boat has right of way over any boat coming in to stop at a check point. Support crew are to keep clear of check point change over points unless

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servicing a crew that is currently coming into the check point or is stopped at the checkpoint. Courtesy to other paddlers and support crews is to be provided at all times.

14. **Wash riding:** Competitors are permitted to wash ride any other competitor in the race, regardless of craft type or the start they were in. Competitors are not permitted to wash ride any craft that is not in the race (and are not permitted to wash ride safety boats).
15. **Rescue:** You must help any paddler in distress. If you see someone in trouble ask them if they need assistance. Please provide the officials with the number of the boat you assisted and the time you assisted them and we will provide a time adjustment.
16. **Cut-off times:** Craft that have not passed a check point by the cut-off time will be withdrawn and must leave the water at that checkpoint. Paddlers who are withdrawn can re-join the event the next day.
17. **Protests:** Protests must be addressed in writing to the Race Director within three hours after the paddler completes or withdraws from the day's event. The protest should state clearly which rule it is alleged has been infringed and the details supporting the allegation.