

ADVICE FOR MARATHON RACE ORGANISERS

The advice to organisers for 2015 is unchanged from the 2014 version. However all race organisers should be aware of the safety training requirement which will come into effect on 1st January 2016. All clubs running events must have 2 people who have completed the safety training course by this date and a number of courses are being run in Scotland to allow people to meet this requirement. Details of venues and dates for courses are available on the SCA web-site.

<p>Prior to the event: Things to organise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the water & car parking • Turn buoys (if required) • Safety cover (including portages if applicable) • Canal event requires Scottish Canals event application form (SCA insurance details are available on the SCA website at http://www.canoescotland.org/InfoAdvice/PoliciesDocuments.aspx) • Risk assessment –view samples and templates on the SCA website • Notify other known water users • Officials – marshals, timekeepers etc. • Identify First Aider • Prize (if applicable; perhaps you can get sponsorship) • NOTE: This list is not exhaustive - there may be other requirements specific to local venues. Please check with local club/prior organisers
<p>Preferably at the start of the season (April) and no later than 4 weeks prior to your event:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send event details to SCA Marathon Events Co-ordinator (mhckayaking@aol.com) copied to SCA Marathon Webmaster (derek.marshall22@btinternet.com) for publication on SCA website. Include: venue, course description, starting and finish points, start times, safety measures, contact information for organiser and any other relevant information • Additional personalised distribution (hand outs) of information is also worthwhile
<p>Prior to the event: Things to do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Marathon Events Co-ordinator regarding “Organiser’s Box” with Marathon entry cards, stop watches and race numbers • Down load the BCU race management software (HRM) for recording results. This system can also be used for start lists. Alternatively, down load the Race Results Sheet Template • Download the SCA day membership form to be completed by all paddlers who are not SCA members
<p>After the event: Within 5 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email the Race Results Sheet to the Marathon Events Co-ordinator, on the HRM spreadsheet or standard race results sheet within 5 days of the event. • Results should be copied to the Marathon Webmaster for uploading on to the SCA website.
<p>After the event: Within 4 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Entry Fees to the Marathon Events Co-ordinator on the standard Financial Return Sheet (download from the SCA website or from the events co-ordinator) • Send the Marathon entry cards to the Marathon Events Co-ordinator

1. RACING RULES

All marathon races appearing in the Scottish Canoe Association calendar must be run in accordance with the [SCA Marathon Racing Rules of Competition](#). International Canoe Federation rules covering conduct during the race must be observed.

2. RANKING EVENTS

Ranking events are part of the British marathon racing system and are run for set divisions over set distances and the results are sent to the BCU. Review the [Scottish Marathon Ranking System](#) to find out which are ranking events.

All ranking marathon racing in Scotland is run on a divisional basis. This means that competitions are run by division and not by age, although the organiser is free to award prizes for age group classes given sufficient entries and age group trophies will still be awarded as applicable.

a) Long Courses must be a minimum of 15km in length. Short Courses must be a minimum of 10km in length. Mini Courses where offered should be about 5km in length and where it has been nominated as a Championship Course then it should be no less than 5km.

b) The Long Course is for Division 1, 2 & 3 paddlers

- c) The Short Course is for Division 4, 5 & 6. Div.1, 2, 3 paddlers may be amalgamated with the Short Course if there are less than 3 paddlers on the Long Course.
- d) The Mini Course is primarily for paddlers in Divisions 7, 8 & 9 and others who have not raced before.
- e) The Mini Courses at the following events have been designated as suitable for novice paddlers. Novice paddlers being those who have not previously taken part in competition outwith the club environment:

- Forth & Clyde I and II, Linlithgow, Loch Lubnaig, Glasgow Green, Edinburgh & River Dee, Glasgow Canal

f) When competing in K2 events the completion ranking shall be an average of the individual paddlers rankings (all halves rounded down) e.g. Div 5 and Div 8 = 13, average 6.5 so completion ranking is 6 and they enter Div 6 K2. The exception is Div 1, 2 & 3 paddlers who must paddle over the long course (if it is quorate) even if they are in a crew with a Div 4, 5 or 6 paddler.

3. COURSES FOR NON RANKING EVENTS

Non ranking events do not need to adhere to the prescribed distances and paddlers are not required to race according to their BCU marathon ranking.

4. AGE GROUPS

The age groups for Marathon Racing are as follows:

- U8 Lightning under 8 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- U10 Lightning under 10 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- U12 Lightning under 12 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- U14 under 14 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- U16 under 16 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- Juniors under 18 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race
- Senior 18 or over on 1st January in year of competition
- Veterans 34 or over on 1st January in year of competition
- Masters 44 or over on 1st January in year of competition

5. NUMBERS

Number Bibs/ Boards should be issued for each boat and these must be displayed such that the number is clearly visible. Where a bib is issued for a crew boat it should be worn by the competitor in the front of the craft. It is the organiser's responsibility to ensure that numbers are returned at the end of the event.

6. START AND FINISH

The Start and Finish lines must be clearly marked and an audible signal given to each competitor as they cross the finish line. If a Division has more than 5 starters there should normally be a separate start.

7. RACE LEVY

There is a race levy of £1.00 per person entered which consists of 50 pence per paddler for the Racing Development Fund and 50 pence for the Marathon Technical Committee to support the running of the Scottish Championships, buying medals and other related expenditure. The [Financial Return Sheet](#) and a cheque for the full amount of the entry fees should be sent along with the entry cards to the Marathon Events Co-ordinator, (cheques made payable to the "Scottish Canoe Association") **within 4 weeks of the event**. The race organiser will then receive, from the SCA Office, a cheque for the value of the entry fees minus the race levies. Alternatively the monies can be paid electronically directly into the SCA account (details on the Financial Return Sheet) and the Return sheet sent to both the SCA office and Marathon Events co-ordinator.

8. ENTRY FEES

The suggested minimum entry fees are:-

Juniors:	£3.00	Seniors, Veterans, Masters:	£4.00
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Entries must be made on the SCA Marathon Entry Cards and these cards must be forwarded to the Marathon Events Co-ordinator (address detailed on the Financial Return Sheet) **within 4 weeks of the event**. For Racing Week, events monies will be administered by the Marathon Technical Committee.

9. SAFETY

Races that are held on open water must have at least one safety boat in attendance and it is the responsibility of the race organiser to assess the appropriate level of safety cover required. Use this [Risk Assessment Template](#) to identify hazards and action required.

Where races are run on moving water or open water, all paddlers must be competent to cope with the water conditions. It is advised that the required minimum level of competence should be equivalent to [three star](#)

[touring](#) for long and short course events, to ensure previous experience on moving water, to be able to rescue, be rescued and self rescue. Where there is a question about a paddler's competence, that paddler should be advised not to race or to enter the Mini Course event if one of suitable standard is provided. The rule for boat buoyancy has changed in line with the ICF ruling (buoyancy is required over and above the inherent buoyancy in the boat sufficient to keep it floating but not to support the crew) Full rules are on the marathon website at <http://canoeracing.org.uk/marathon/>.

10. SCOTTISH MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The K1 and K2 Championships shall not be ranking events as paddlers race the course appropriate to their age and not their divisional ranking.

The following age groups and courses will be offered at the Scottish K1 and K2 Championships:

Long Course (min 15km)	Short Course (min 10km)	Mini Course (min 5K)	Lightning (c. 3K)
Junior Men (U18)	Youth U16	Youth U14	Under 10
Under 23 Men	Junior Ladies (U18)	Masters Ladies (44 & over)	Under 12
Senior Men	Under 23 Ladies	Masters Men (44 & over)	
	Senior Ladies		
	Veteran Ladies (34 & over)		
	Veteran Men (34 & over)		

Championship medals will be provided by the Marathon Technical Committee for presentation at the end of the event. Trophies will be presented at the year-end Annual Prizegiving. Marathon Technical Committee members will be available to support the organiser with entries and the amalgamation of classes (if necessary), as well as to confirm the medal and trophy recipients.