

## PNSW Event Competitor Briefing Notes, Sample

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A suitable version be read at the competitor briefing to every competitor.

1. **Welcome** to the PaddleNSW .....(event).
2. I would like to introduce the **event officials** .
  - Event Director..... is responsible for entire management of the event, the organisation of officials and volunteers, and the various licences required. The buck stops with the Event Director
  - Competition Committee:
    - Chief official.....coordinates the competition rules and committee.
    - Technical Director .....co-ordinates all aspects of the course and craft regulations
    - Competition Secretary.....is responsible for all data entry and correspondence for the event
    - Safety officer.....co-ordinates and controls all aspects of safety, including safety boats, first aid, competitor and spectator safety etc.

See these people if you have any questions regarding the event which aren't answered in the following briefing.

3. **RULES:** It is the competitors responsibility to know the rules of the competition. Any competitor who is unsure of any detail should contact the Chief Official, who will direct them to the appropriate person or document for clarification.
4. **PROTESTS:** Any protests over results or the conduct of an event should be made to the Chief Official within 20 minutes of the conclusion of that particular event, and in writing.
5. **THE COURSE:** Will be 2 laps of 5000m each, in an anti-clockwise direction, starting downstream. Turns are indicated by 3 buoys (colour), and course marker buoys (colour) must be kept to your left. The start and finish will be indicated by (colour) buoys. Paddlers who are continuing for another lap **MUST NOT** pass between these buoys.
6. **STARTS:** One-minute warning will be given prior to the start of each event. A number board will be displayed at the start indicating the event about to start. Any paddler who misses the start of their event will be disqualified from that event. Once the event number is announced, paddlers must form a line roughly 20m upstream of the start. The starter will move the boats slowly down to the start line. If any forward boat does not move back into line on the instructions of the starter, and therefore compromises the start, a 2 minute penalty will be applied to that paddler's time. Once the start is formed to the starter's satisfaction, the instruction 'Start within 10 seconds' will be given. An air horn will indicate the start.
7. **RENDERING ASSISTANCE:** or taking assistance from, another craft in a different class or race start, is not permitted. Simply, you are not permitted to assist or seek assistance such as washriding, from any craft other than one you are racing against.
8. **CLEARING THE COURSE:** Paddlers such as those waiting for a start, those finishing, and those withdrawing from a race, must not cross or impede the progress of a race. Show some courtesy to those still racing and stay well away from the racing line.
9. **TURNS:** Where two or more boats are approaching a turn, the leading boat is that which in which the paddlers body is clearly in front of the bow of the adjoining boat, prior to the turn being commenced. Where the inside (port side) boat has their bow in front of the adjoining paddler at the start of the turn, that boat shall have right of way. Any boat attempting to pass a slower boat in a turn, must do so without altering the progress of the slower boat. Slower boats should endeavour to allow passing room either side for faster craft where possible.

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10. **PASSING:** When a verbal warning is given to a boat about to be passed, that boat should not deviate from its course, and should allow the approaching boats to pass with safety. Boats should pass on the port side unless there is no other option, and give the slower boat adequate clearance so their progress is not altered.
11. **SCRUTINEERING:** All boats must pass scrutineering prior to taking part in their event. This will involve measurements for dimensions (especially TK classes), checks on fixed buoyancy and weight. **NO NAVIGATION /TRAINING AIDS** are permitted to be used in this event. All craft **MUST** be able to support the full weight of the paddler when full of water, and float level with the surface. K1 minimum weight 12kg, K2 minimum weight 18kg. The first 4 finishers in each K class event will be weighed immediately after their event as they leave the water.
12. **PFD's:** Where there is any doubt about your ability to swim especially while suffering a cramp, a PFD must be worn or carried in the boat. All juniors 14 and under **MUST** wear a PFD. Any paddler in difficulty must be assisted by those in the vicinity, and any time taken to assist a paddler in difficulty will be considered in the awarding of results.
13. **HOUSEKEEPING:** Please leave the area clean and tidy. Toilets are located in the clubhouse, and food will be available from ..... at .....
14. **FIRST AID:** Your first aid officer today is.....located around the vicinity of.....
15. **RACING NUMBERS** must be handed in to the registration desk immediately at the conclusion of the singles events. These will be used again by different paddlers in the doubles events.
16. **PRESENTATIONS:** The presentations will be held today at the clubhouse at 2.15pm. We hope you all stay and support the winners of the various classes.

Thank you paddlers, and we hope you have a very enjoyable day's racing. And thanks to  
\_\_\_\_\_ Club for hosting this event.