



Marathon Technical Committee Divisional Racing Rules - 2012

"Marathon 9" in 2012 will be a 9 race series.

The objective of **"Marathon 9"** is to have a series of divisional races for paddlers in divisions that match their paddling capabilities. The series is based around the 20km distance with provision made for 15km and 10km paddlers.

1. There will be 9 Divisions, each based or ranked on speed, NOT on boat type, or paddlers' age/gender.
2. Division ranking and/or re-ranking will be by the following manner:
 - a. Paddlers who are new to the series shall nominate themselves in the Division or Time Bracket that they believe is most appropriate to their capabilities.
 - b. Paddlers who are new to the series will use their first race as a 'ranking' race, to confirm the most appropriate Time Bracket. Points will **not** be awarded to paddlers in their 'ranking' race.
 - c. Paddlers continuing from the 2011 **"Marathon 9"** series will be allocated to the time bracket where they last paddled in 2011.
 - d. Paddlers who did not participate in the 2011 **"Marathon 9"** series, but who have participated in Marathon series races prior to 2011, have the option of paddling in the same division as they last paddled, or paddling their first 2012 race as a 'ranking' race.
 - e. Regular doubles paddlers who elect to paddle a single, will paddle in the same division as they last paddled in a single.
 - f. Regular doubles paddlers, electing to paddle a single, who have never entered a Marathon series event in a single, will paddle their first 2012 race as a 'ranking' race.
 - g. Paddlers whose time is faster than their division time bracket by 1 minute or more will be re-ranked to an appropriate higher division.
 - h. Paddlers whose time is slower than their division time bracket by 1 minute or more, for 2 consecutive races, will be re-ranked to an appropriate lower division.

The Marathon Technical Committee reserves the right to review results and rankings and apply re rankings after each race. The Marathon Technical Committee, at its discretion, will make appropriate allowances for "slow courses" and/or other influencing factors when reviewing results and considering re-rankings.

Appeals against re-ranking must be made, in writing, to the Marathon Technical Committee, (marathon@paddlensw.org.au) prior to the next race, after results/re-rankings are published.

The following table identifies the “Time Bracket” for each Division (speeds are approximates)

Division	Time to paddle 20km
1	< 1:40 (=>12kph)
2	1:40~1:45 (=11.5~12kph)
3	1:45~1:50 (=11~11.5kph)
4	1:50~1:55 (=10.5~11kph)
5	1:55~2:00 (=10~10.5kph)
6	>2:00 (= <10.0kph)
7	15km - 1:30 (= 10kph)
8	10km - < 1:00 (=>10kph)
9	10km - > 1:00 (= <10kph)

3. Courses will be as follows:

- a. Division 1 = 20km *(with up to 4 portages where possible)*
- b. Divisions 2-6 = 20km
- c. Division 7 = 15 km
- d. Divisions 8 & 9 = 10 km

Host clubs must ensure their course layouts are accurate and no shorter than the required 20km, 15km, and 10km distances.

4. The 10km and 15km distances are available to any competitive paddler who legitimately cannot manage the greater distance, e.g., juniors, Vets, Novices. Promotion will not take place automatically from Div.8 to Div.7, or Div.7 to Div.6, if the paddler does not wish to compete over the greater distance. However, paddlers may be ruled ineligible to win further points if they are considered (by the Marathon Technical Committee) to be unfairly using the shorter distances to accumulate points.

5. Points for each distance cannot be carried up or down between the three (3) distances. i.e. - points gained in the 15km distance cannot be taken up to the 20km divisions.

6. Starting order

- a. Starting order shall be: Div6, Div5, Div4, Div3, Div2, Div1, Div7, Div8, Div9.
- b. Each division shall have its own separate start, with starting intervals no greater than 2 minutes.
- c. Starts may be combined (depending on numbers) at the discretion of the Marathon Technical Committee.
- d. Starting order may be changed at the discretion of the Marathon Technical Committee.
- e. A K4 shall compete in Division 11 regardless of the ranking of the individual paddlers in the crew.

7. Every race (except a Ranking Race) shall contribute to a paddler's total point score, with the two lowest scoring races being dropped, and a maximum of 7 races determining the paddler's season total.

8. Points shall be awarded as per the following system:

- a. Every boat's race time shall be ranked fastest to slowest in each Division.
- b. The fastest boat in each division receives 50 points.
- c. The second fastest boats in each division receive 49 points.
- d. Third fastest boat in each division receives 48 points etc.

9. Individual paddlers receive the points in team boats. E.g., if a Double finishes 8th, each paddler receives 43 points. If paddlers swap partners in Doubles during the course of the series, their points are treated separately to points already earned

10. All paddler's points shall be retained and carried through (unless changing distances) regardless of the re-ranking or whether in singles or doubles or quads. However, for determination of prizes, we look at where a paddler has spent MOST of their time, and a minimum of 4 races (keeping in mind that there is a total 5 race minimum for eligibility for end of year prizes).

11. Doubles teams must compete in at least the next higher division of the highest ranked individual paddler.

12. Boats in each division shall earn points for their Club towards the "Brian Norman Club Trophy" as follows:

1 st Place	8 Club points
2 nd Place (only if from another club)	6 Club Points
3 rd Place (only if from another club)	4 Club points
4 th Place (only if from another club)	2 Club Points

Doubles paddlers from the same Club only receive one set of Club points. Doubles paddlers from different clubs receive points for each Club.

13. Prizes may be awarded at the end of the Season as follows:

- Highest points overall
- Highest points in each Distance (20km, 15km, 10km)
- Highest points in each division
- Highest points in each division per gender/age(open, vet65, juniors, male & female)
- Most improved paddler in each division
- Highest accumulated Club Points for the Club trophy.
- Highest Doubles points (per division if numbers permit)

There may also be lucky draw prizes at each race drawn from the boat numbers allocated on the day. Entrants must be present to claim these prizes.

14. If an event is cancelled during the race all participants, who have started, will be awarded the maximum 50 points.

15. If a race is cancelled before the event begins, no points will be awarded.

16. Personal Flotation Devices – PFD's.

- a. Every paddler must have a PFD available for use on the day.
- b. The Race Director and/or the Marathon Technical Committee will determine and advise whether PFD's will be required to be worn for a race.
- c. All U14 paddlers **must** wear PFD's.
- d. PFD's must comply with Maritime laws and the new NSW Maritime laws will be followed regarding distance from shore.

17. Disqualifications

- a. All competitors must respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence and behave in accordance with the rules of good sportsmanship.
- b. Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honorable means, or who breaks racing regulations will be disqualified for the duration of the race concerned.
- c. Physical violence will result in immediate disqualification for the duration of the race, and referral to the Marathon Technical Committee (and/or Australian Canoeing if deemed appropriate) regarding eligibility for future races.

The Paddle NSW Marathon Technical Committee hopes that you enjoy the 2012 "**Marathon 9**" series.

*Paddlers requiring further information should direct any questions relating to "**Marathon 9**" series to marathon@paddlensw.org.au*