

FBOR Racing Rules 2023

The FBOR racing rules are condensed from SLSGB surfski and British Canoeing racing rules and apply to all craft entering an FBOR race, including but limited to: Ocean Skis, Ocean Canoes, SUPs and Prone Boards.

Ocean Racing Courses

Courses may be changed at short notice to suit the conditions on the day of the race. These races are 13-18km in length and, for each race, the same course will be used for Open Men / Ladies, Master Men and Veteran categories.

These distances may vary depending upon the type of competition and category of paddlers entering.

Safety

1. All paddlers are required to wear a Personal Floatation Device/Buoyancy Aid (PFD).
2. Anyone finishing a race without their PFD on will be disqualified.
3. VHF or Mobile Phone in a water proof pouch are Mandatory
4. Leashes are compulsory.
5. If a paddler does not offer assistance to another paddler in distress, they will be disqualified from that race, unless offering assistance puts the paddler in danger themselves. (Positioning may be amended)
6. All paddlers to give their number to the time keeper at the end of race, and return their assigned GPS tracker to the race crew.
7. Any paddler not completing the course must record their race number with the time keeper.
8. A race briefing must take place immediately before the start of the race to confirm the racecourse, safety issues and any other salient facts.

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9. It is the paddler's responsibility to ensure that they are present at the race briefing and no responsibility will be accepted by the organisers for the competitors who were not present. Competitors will be advised upon registration about the briefing which will be at least 30 minutes before the race start.

10. Competitors may be required to land ashore or pass through check points for safety or other reasons, at points designated by the race organisers.

11. It is the responsibility of the race organisers to institute a search for any competitor who had not crossed the finish line or advised of his withdrawal.

12. The costs of this search will be borne by the competitor who had withdrawn and not notified the race organisers.

13. Race organisers are responsible for, and obliged, to meet British Canoeing/Canoe Wales event criteria to run an Ocean Canoeing Race. Additional criteria may also be required.

14. There will be a sweep safety craft following the field in longer distances where individuals go out of site of the start and finish lines.

Registration

- All paddlers must register before the race at the advertised time and location.
- All competitors will be required to complete event Registration and Indemnity forms.
- Competitors will be assigned a GPS tracker at registration which will remain their responsibility until it is handed to race crew as soon as they cross the finish line.
- Race Entries will be taken online - no race entries will be accepted on the day.

Start

- Competitors steady their skis in line in knee-deep water about 1.5m apart.
- Competitors must obey directions from the starter or check starter concerning craft alignment at the start.

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- On the starting signal, competitors paddle their craft around the course.

False starters

- Will receive a 2 Minute time penalty.
- False starters will not be recalled (but will be informed of the penalty at the end of the race)

N.B, the race organiser may change the Beach start / finish should conditions require them to do so. This may be for safety reasons or in order to protect the competitor's craft.

Racing

Any competitor who does not comply with safety requirements will be disqualified.

Any competitor who does not follow the prescribed race course on the day will be disqualified.

Any competitor who intentionally rides the wake of a motorised craft will be disqualified.

Any competitor, who gains unfair advantage through unsportsmanlike behaviour, will be disqualified.

Whilst it is difficult to monitor wash riding on powered craft by paddlers. It is extremely unsportsmanlike to do so. All safety / camera boats will be instructed to stop forward motion if they feel a paddler is riding their wash.

Finishes

The finishing line will be between 5 and 10m from water's edge.

The paddler must jump off their craft.

Run through finishing flags with their paddle.

The finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line. Competitors must finish on their feet in an upright position.