



wakaama

Outrigger / Va'a / New Zealand

Nga Kaihoe o Aotearoa Inc.

Waka Ama New Zealand

New Zealand rules for waka ama racing

Last update: November 2023

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Terms and definitions

Ama	outrigger or float to stabilise the canoe
Canoe	The entire Waka Ama which includes the hull, kiato and ama
Class	Category (W1, W2, W3 W6 or W12)
Crew	W2, W3, W6 or W12 entrant
Competitor(s)	Paddler(s) and crews taking part in the competition
Division	Age group
Flat water	Rivers or lakes where conditions are expected to be relatively calm.
Kiato	spars connecting the canoe with the outrigger
MNZ	Maritime New Zealand
Open water	Open ocean or any other place such as a large lake where there is a possibility of rough water conditions through surf, wind, waves, swell, tide, rips and adverse currents.
Race	Event in a particular class and division(s) over a specified distance
Regatta	Event or competition consisting of a series of coordinated races.
Taumanu	Struts placed crosswise in the canoe (for affixing the kiato to the waka)
Waka	canoe
W1	One person outrigger canoe
W2	Two person outrigger canoe
W3	Three person outrigger canoe
W6	Six person outrigger canoe
W12	Double-hull 12 person canoe

I – GENERAL RULES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The race rules (this document) of Nga Kaihoe o Aotearoa (Waka Ama NZ) Inc. (hereafter referred to as NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ)) determine the operation of all races organised and controlled by or on behalf of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ). They apply to NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) and affiliated regional organisations, clubs and their members.
- 1.2 All races organised and controlled by or on behalf of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) must be conducted based on these race rules. Races organised and controlled by or on behalf of affiliated regional organisations and clubs may diverge from the race rules only in cases where the safety and fairness of racing is not adversely affected.
- 1.3 Rules specific to sprint races are contained in Part II of this document. Rules specific to long distance races are contained in Part III of this document. Organisers of any regatta are required to apply all rulings deemed relevant.
- 1.4 The race rules may be amended by a process determined by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).
- 1.5 The principles guiding the Organising Committee and the officials in charge of the event. shall be:
 - a. The safety and welfare of all competitors, officials, and volunteers
 - b. Fairness for all competitors
 - c. In line with the values of Waka Ama NZ
- 1.6 Wherever possible, provisions of these rules should be interpreted consistently with each other. Where such interpretation is not possible, the more specific rule should prevail over the general rule, and provisions regarding safety shall take precedence over any other provision.
- 1.7 In situations not covered by these rules, the Race Director is empowered to make such decisions and to give such instructions as are necessary to carry out their responsibilities, consistent with the rules described above
- 1.8 Dispensation from any of the rules within this document may be sought from Waka Ama NZ. Dispensation may only be given for exceptional circumstances

2 Anti-Doping

- 2.1 In line with the constitution, NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) supports clean sport. The use of any prohibited substances or methods included on the Prohibited List is banned in our sport. (The Prohibited List is published annually by the World Anti-Doping Agency and is available on the Drug Free Sport New Zealand website)

NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) adopts the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (“SADR”) made by Drug Free Sport New Zealand as its Anti-Doping Policy, pursuant to the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006, and any amendments to or

replacements of those Rules.

All participants in events sanctioned by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) and its member organisations are bound by the SADR and any amendments to or replacements of those Rules. All members clubs of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) and members of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) member clubs agree to be bound to the SADR.

3 Sanctioning of regattas by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ), and selection of paddlers for relevant international events

- 3.1 NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) shall have a policy and rules for sanctioning regattas/events. Sanctioned regattas/events are those which are deemed to be so by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) under that policy.
- 3.2 Organisers and competitors must comply with all requirements as set out by the NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) sanctioning policy.
- 3.3 [repealed]
- 3.4 The organisation and administration of a National Championship may be put to tender by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ). The tender process shall be advertised by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ); regions shall be informed at least 12 months before the event and two months prior to the closing of bids.
- 3.5 NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) shall determine the process by which any paddler or team may attend a relevant international event, being an event conducted under the administration or sanctioning of the International Va'a Federation.

4 Awards

- 4.1 The Organising Committee shall acknowledge and may award medals or prizes for the first three (3) placings in a race.
- 4.2 Medals or prizes shall not be awarded in races that have only one starter. However, the result shall nevertheless be acknowledged at the presentation ceremony.
- 4.3 At a National Championship, the National Champion shall be the paddler or team winning the premier category. Champions in other age groups shall be Age Group Champions.
- 4.4 To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the presentation ceremony, the competitors receiving medals shall wear their approved club uniform

II - SPRINT RACE RULES

Waka ama specifications

5 Waka components

- 5.1 W1, W2, W3 and W6 consist of a hull, seats, kiato and ama. The ama shall be lashed on the left side.
- 5.2 W12 consist of two W6 hulls, seats and kiato

6 Waka ama requirements

- 6.1 Any construction material may be used. However, design and construction must ensure seaworthiness; kiato and ama must be securely affixed to the waka.
- 6.2 All kiato and ama must be securely lashed on the left side of a W1 and W6 hull.
- 6.3 Any waka ama must have watertight compartments or other positive flotation sufficient to keep it afloat when swamped with water.
- 6.4 Except for paddles, any moving objects within or outside the canoe that help propel the canoe forward, are prohibited. Foils and foiling devices are also not permitted
- 6.5 Paddling, including any stationary use of the paddle in the water, is to be carried out only in a seated position on the seat.
- 6.6 Race organisers will endeavour to have appropriate scales available at the regatta so that canoes can be weighed.
- 6.7 If the hull committee of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) issues a certification system for canoes, all race organisers are to ensure that only certified canoes are entered for any event.

7 W1

- 7.1 The W1 requirements for a National Sprint Championship are
 - a. no rudder;
 - b. a minimum weight of 14kg.
 - c. [repealed]
 - d. a maximum length of 8.5m;
 - e. a minimum beam of 25cm;
 - f. that the ama shall be lashed on the left side.
- 7.2 The W1 requirements may be checked before and/or after any race.

8 W6 and W12

- 8.1 For National Sprint Championships, all waka in any one W6 or W12 race are to be from the same design mould and within acceptable specifications to be set by the Organising Committee.
- 8.2 If the Organising Committee determines there is a need to measure W6 or W12 waka to ensure uniformity, the waka shall be compared after taking the following measurements:
 - a. overall hull length
 - b. overall water length
 - c. midpoint width 30cm from bottom
 - d. two widths midway between the midpoint and the ends 30cm from the bottom
 - e. two midway point widths between the points in d and the ends 30cm from the bottom
- 8.3 For National Sprint Championships, all rigging shall be standardised and carried out to the same measurements. The Organising Committee shall oversee the rigging and weighing. The rigging or weight may not be altered except by an Official.

Accessories

9 Paddles

- 9.1 Paddles must have one blade and may be of any shape or size.
- 9.2 Paddles may be constructed from any material.

10 Numbering

- 10.1 All Waka Ama must have a number plate on which a clearly visible number must be placed.
- 10.2 Every plate must be positioned in the same place and be of the same type on every outrigger canoe. The number shall be black on a yellow or white background on both sides.
- 10.3 Number plate holders must be able to hold number plates with the following dimensions: Height: 25cm; Width: 20cm; Depth: 0.3cm.
- 10.4 All W1, W6 and W12 used in competitions must have a number holder. The number holder shall be positioned on the decking midway between the front kiato or sprayguard and the bow of the canoe.
- 10.5 W1 competitors are responsible for ensuring that their canoe has a number holder.
- 10.6 Number holders and number plates for W6 and W12 are the responsibility

of the Organising Committee.

11 Club uniforms

- 11.1 [repealed]
- 11.2 Any display of alcohol, drug or tobacco product advertising on racing uniforms is prohibited.
- 11.3 [repealed]
- 11.4 Racing uniforms must be worn in every race during the competition.
- 11.5 All paddlers in any one team shall wear the same uniform (tops). Uniform tops will be defined by three categories
 - a. Category one: Singlet (any cut of singlet as long as artwork and, colour and design are the same)
 - b. Category two: Short Sleeve (any cut of Short Sleeve as long as artwork and, colour and design are the same)
 - c. Category three: Long Sleeve (any cut of Long Sleeve as long as artwork and, colour and design are the same)

All Paddlers in a team must all be wearing the same category of top -with the exception of rule 11.6
- 11.6 All paddlers in any one team shall wear the same uniform (Tops) in all but the following two race categories:
 - a. In mixed W6 events any differences in uniform may only be between the male and female paddlers.
 - b. In W12 events two sets (Set = 6) of uniform may be used if the W12 team represents a combination of two W6 teams.
- 11.7 Appropriate additional items of uniform may be worn in line with weather conditions.
- 11.8 To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the presentation ceremony, the competitors receiving medals shall wear their approved club uniform.
- 11.9 At a National Championship, W1 paddlers shall wear a club or region racing uniform.

Race course

12 Course lanes

- 12.1 The race course shall have lanes that are:
 - a. 250 and/or 500m long;
 - b. at least 12.5 – 16m in width for races run in a straight line;
 - c. 25 - 32m in width for races involving turns;
 - d. at right angles to the start and finish line;

- e. at least 2m deep;
 - f. not unduly influenced by currents.
- 12.2 Races with a length of 500m shall be run on a straight course. W6 races may involve turns at each 250m or 500m as set for that event.
 - 12.3 Races with a length of 1000m and above shall be run on either a 250m or 500m course and involve turns at the 250m or 500m mark.
 - 12.4 The race course shall have at least three (3) and no more than thirteen (13) lanes.
 - 12.5 In straight races the lanes may be split in two. In this case Waka Ama must finish with the turning flag to the side to which they started.
 - 12.6 A lane or area shall be designated so that the competitors may proceed safely to the start line without interfering with the racecourse. When racing is in progress paddlers who are not racing are not permitted on the race course.
 - 12.7 The Organising Committee shall assemble the W6 and W12 Waka for races and draw lots to allocate numbers and lanes to canoes. Waka shall remain in that same allocated lane throughout the competition. Racing in a Waka with the wrong lane assignment without the Race Director's acknowledgment is a disqualifying offence.

13 Course markers

- 13.1 The length of the 500m lanes shall, at a minimum, be marked by three (3) buoys per lane. The three buoys shall be positioned at the start line, 250m line and finish line.
- 13.2 The width of lanes shall, at a minimum, be marked by two (2) markers per lane at the start line, 250m line and finish line.
- 13.3 The start line and finish line shall be aligned by the markers for the innermost and outermost lane. The official start and finish lines may be moved forward or backward of the flagged line to avoid flag interference.
- 13.4 Lanes shall be marked by a colour and a map of the race course shall be made available to all participants. The lane running closest to the finish line viewing area shall be Lane 1.
- 13.5 [repealed]
- 13.6 [repealed]
- 13.7 In races requiring turns there shall be a turning flag/buoy. Different coloured flags shall be attached to each turning buoy to help competitors identify their lanes. Turn flag buoys shall be positioned equidistant from the lane markers (in the centre of the lane) at each end of the specific course being used for the turn events.
- 13.8 A false start line, with at least one marker per lane, shall be positioned 15m in front of the start line and outside the race course.

Race phases

14 Start

- 14.1 Competitors must be present at the start line for their race as shown on the programme. Starting signals shall be given regardless of absentees.
- 14.2 Start helpers and holders may be used. They may be by mechanical means or pontoons (set back twenty metres from the start line) unless otherwise notified by the Organising Committee. Unless start helpers or holders are used, no assistance shall be rendered. Official boats shall not assist, except in case of an emergency such as a capsize or where officials consider that taitamariki and intermediate paddlers may get into trouble if no assistance is rendered.
- 14.3 The start shall be controlled by the starter(s). There shall be an aligner, located on the side of the race course, and the flag holder, located in a boat in the middle of the course approximately 60 metres in front of the start line.
- 14.4 The order of the start is as follows:
 - a. Raising of the white flag indicates the race is in the aligner's control and competitors should move up to the false start line.
 - b. Raising of the red flag by the starter indicates to paddlers that they must head to the start, stop hold and align.
 - c. Raising of the green flag by the starter indicates the start of the race.
- 14.5 If the starter raises a black flag during the starting procedure, this indicates that an infraction exists and the bow of at least one canoe is across the start line. Competitors will be given the opportunity to line up correctly. If, after a reasonable time, the infraction has not been corrected (in which case the black flag will still be raised), the race will be started, by the raising of the green flag, resulting in disqualification of those canoes that were infringing at the time the green flag was raised.

If the bow of a waka is across the start line at the raising of the green flag (while the Black flag is raised) this shall result in disqualification.
- 14.6 If conditions do not permit the starter to align on the marked start line, competitors shall be informed before each race.
- 14.7 Not following starter orders will result in disqualification.
- 14.8 [repealed]
- 14.9 Should a re-start be called, competitors are to return to the false start line and follow the starter's instructions.
- 14.10 [repealed]

15 Turns

- 15.1 In any race involving turns the canoe must turn counter-clockwise around the flag. During a turn, the canoe shall not run over the flag.
- 15.2 Competitors may start or finish with the flag on any side so long as the

outrigger canoe is within the designated lane.

15.3 A turn shall be completed within the designated lane.

16 Racing

16.1 Any outrigger canoe must complete the entire race distance within its designated lane.

16.2 In the case of overturns, the competitor or crew shall be disqualified from the race if it is not possible for them to resume their places in the outrigger canoe without help within three minutes.

16.3 Support paddlers in W1 may follow or paddle alongside (not lead) taitamariki or intermediate crews or paddlers (Straight races only) who do not already have an adult or competent steerer as per rule 21.11a. Support paddlers following or paddling alongside taitamariki or intermediate crews or paddlers shall not cross the 15m buoyed line from the finish line before the end of the race, otherwise the respective club shall be fined (the amount of which is to be determined by the organising committee). The end of the race will be when the last crew or paddler crosses the finish line.

16.4 The Race Director, Head Course Judge or Head Starter may authorise the interruption of a race if an unforeseen problem occurs. A red flag and/or sound signal shall be used to halt the race.

17 Finish

17.1 Competitors complete the race once the bow of their outrigger canoe crosses the (official) finish line.

17.2 Any outrigger canoe crossing the finish line without its full crew or in a non-seated position shall be disqualified.

Entries

18 Invitations to events

18.1 Invitations to calendared events should be sent to each registered region or club, or be made available via the NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) website, at least one month before the regatta and include the following:

- a. date and venue of competition,
- b. map of course,
- c. categories, which are eligible for awards, and racing distance,
- d. starting time,
- e. order of race,
- f. cost of entry fees,
- g. process for registration,
- h. deadline for receipt of entry,

- i. safety aspects,
- j. contact person.

19 Forms

- 19.1 Forms to be supplied by the Organising Committee for a National Championship are:
 - a. Electronic Event Entry Forms
 - b. Protest / Appeal Forms
- 19.2 The following forms for a National Championship are to be returned to the Organising Committee by the specified deadline date:
 - a. Electronic Event Entry Forms
 - b. Club Roster Form

20 Entries

- 20.1 The Organising Committee shall determine the number of entries allowed in each event.
- 20.2 The Organising Committee may restrict the ability of paddlers to race in multiple divisions for any given race.
- 20.3 There must be a minimum of two (2) paid entries for a programmed race to be run. If there is only one entry for a race, the organising committee may combine this entry with another race, but shall inform the affected paddler or team, and in any case identify their results in relation to the programmed race.
- 20.4 Each club or region which enters a competition must submit names of a club or regional representative to the Organising Committee. Only these persons shall handle all entry and competition enquires for the respective club or region.
- 20.5 An individual may be a member of more than one club but may only compete for one club in any one event. Exceptions may however apply; see section 21 for the relevant eligibility rules.
- 20.6

21 Eligibility

- 21.1 Residency: To be eligible to compete at a National Championship, competitors must be a New Zealand citizen, or have been a continuous resident in New Zealand for a minimum of three (3) months prior to the event, or be from a country with Domestic Status; namely the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.
- 21.2 Member of a club or region: Each competitor must be a member of a club or region affiliated to NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).
- 21.3 Entry to region or club regatta: Eligibility for entry to a regional or club regatta shall be at the discretion of the Organising Committee unless otherwise regulated by the respective region for such matters.

- 21.4 Age: Competitors must be of the qualifying age for eligibility.
- 21.5 Gender: Competitors must be of the gender specified for the race they wish to compete in.
- 21.6 Competing for one club: Competitors may only compete for one club unless paddling under conditions set by the Organising Committee for a specific event.
- 21.7 Crew composition: In principle, National Championships are club based events. As a result, W6 crews shall be made up of competitors from one club. However, W12 crews can be made up of competitors from up to two clubs from the same region in any of the following divisions:
- Taitamariki
 - Intermediate
 - Senior Master
 - Golden Master
 - Master 70
 - Master 75
 - Master 80
- This rule only applies where a club does not have sufficient paddlers to form their own, stand-alone, W12 crews in those age categories.
- A W12 crew made up of 2 clubs may be a combination of any number of paddlers from those two clubs. They must satisfy all other rules as specified in this document.
- 21.8 Flotation devices: All Taitamariki and Intermediate competitors must wear Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) approved non inflatable flotation devices regardless of swimming ability.
- 21.9 Swimming ability: It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that individuals who are not able or confident to swim a distance of at least 50 meters wear a personal flotation device when competing.
- 21.10 Paddling ability: It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that only competitors that can competently paddle may enter races.
- 21.11 Steerers for taitamariki crews:
- a. A competent steerer may rudder steer a taitamariki crew by replacing the taitamariki steerer. He/she may rudder steer only.
 - b. A W12 may have two (2) competent steerers (who replace the respective taitamariki steerers). They may rudder steer only.
 - c. Adult/competent Steerers who steer for taitamariki teams will be provided with a HI Vis Vest that must be worn throughout the race. This will identify them to the course judges.
 - d. Rudder steering is defined as follows. The paddle shall be in contact with the hull and no forward motion is to be generated by the steerer's paddle.
- 21.12 Mixed crews: Crews in mixed races are to be of mixed gender. At least 50%

of paddlers must be female and in the case of change races there must be at least 50% female paddlers in the waka at all times.

- 21.13 International teams or individuals: The organisation sanctioning the race may approve the Organising Committee to run races in which international paddlers may compete.
- 21.14 Paddlers with impairments: The organising committee may suspend certain rules or allow exemptions for paddlers that are physically impaired so that they can compete. Any such suspensions or exemptions must be reasonable and not disadvantage fellow competitors and must be approved by the organising committee or race director prior to the event commencing. Where the impairment is not obvious, the organising committee may require a medical certificate.

22 ID cards and birth verification

- 22.1 Identification (ID) cards are issued through NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ). These cards have a life of five (5) years for those issued to paddlers under 20 years old or 10 years for those issued to paddlers over the age of 20 years. On expiry the card will be renewed with a new current photo. The ID card will be current once the club has confirmed membership and financial currency annually. This card may be used as entry to club, regional, national and international regattas sanctioned by either NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) or the International Va'a Federation.
- 22.2 Each Club shall be responsible for submitting to NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) an updated list of registered club members' names with their corresponding ID card number at least annually. This must be updated by the date specified annually by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).
- 22.3 Each competitor must carry their ID card at a competition.
- 22.4 In the event of failing to produce an ID card as required, a competitor may be liable for an additional registration fee for that competition. The Organising Committee sets this fee.
- 22.5 At a National Championship, the Race Director may refuse competitors entry without their ID cards or verification.
- 22.6 Verification of birth dates and names of registered paddlers is set procedurally at the time of issue of the ID card.

23 Events

- 23.1 National Sprint Championships shall include the following events:

Division	W1	W6 (straight)	W6 (turn)	W12
Taitamariki	250m	250m	-	250m
Intermediate	500m	500m	500m	500m
Junior 16	500m	500m	1000m	500m
Junior 19	500m	500m	1000m	500m

Under 23	500m	-	-	-
Premier	500m	500m	1500m	500m
Master	500m	500m	1000m	500m
Senior Master	500m	500m	1000m	500m
Golden Master	500m	500m	1000m	500m
Master 70	500m	500m	500m	500m
Master 75*	500m	500m	500m	500m
Master 80 *	250m	250m	500m	500m

*These categories are for Sprint Events only at this stage

23.2 Mixed races may also be run in the respective divisions but only in the W6 and W12 over 500m.

23.3 The Organising Committee may increase the distances of 1000m and 1500m races to 1500m and 2500m respectively. It may also decrease the distances to 1000m and 500m respectively. For a National Championship any such changes must be notified at least two months prior to the event taking place unless extreme weather conditions deem it necessary.

23.4 The Organising Committee may offer races for W2 or W3 over 500m.

24 Divisions and age requirements

24.1 Competitors compete in the following divisions based on their age. Age is taken as reaching the specified age in the year of competition (Year of competition is from 1 January to 31 December).

Division	Minimum age Age paddler can turn in the year of competition	Maximum age Age paddler can turn in the year of competition
Taitamariki	6	10
Intermediate	6	13
Junior 16	11	16
Junior 19	14	19
Under 23	16	23
Premier	14	none
Master	40	none
Senior Master	50	none
Golden Master	60	none
Master 70	70	none
Master 75*	75	none
Master 80*	80	none

*These categories are for Sprint Events only at this stage

- 24.2 At the organising committee's discretion, paddlers may be eligible to compete in more than one division, as long as they meet the relevant age requirements.
- 24.3 Until such time a grade has more than one heat i.e., more than 8 entries, that grade shall be able to compete in the same event in another W6 grade provided all paddlers are eligible.
- 24.4 Competitors must be of the gender (born male/female) specified in the division they wish to enter.

25 Registration, replacements and withdrawals

- 25.1 The Organising Committee shall set registration fees and deadlines. Fees are non-refundable but may be transferable to replacement paddlers from that club.
- 25.2 The Organising Committee shall set the closing date for registrations. A penalty fee as set by the Organising Committee may be imposed if registration takes place after the closing date.
- 25.3 If sufficient notification is not given for a late withdrawal from an event, the club concerned may be subject to a penalty fee as set by the Organising Committee. This fee must be paid or an arrangement made with the Race Secretary, before the club can proceed to participate in the event.
- 25.4 Only those competitors registered for the first heat of an event may progress throughout the competition with the following exceptions:
 - a. Competitors registered for the first heat of an event who withdraw from that event may take part in other competition events only if they can produce a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner certifying that the paddler has been examined and had a legitimate medical reason for not being able to paddle at that particular event and time, but is now deemed fit enough to continue to paddle in future events at the competition that the paddler has previously registered an entry in.
 - b. Competitors seeking to withdraw from an event as per rule 25.4 must notify and receive confirmation from race officials no less than 1 hour prior to their next scheduled event.
 - c. Competitors who have to withdraw from a race progression for religious reasons may be replaced for races on that day by another eligible registered competitors from the same club, so long as the Race Secretary is notified in good time.
- 25.5 Competitors unable to continue racing as defined in rule 25.4 may only be replaced by eligible paddlers named on the club roster form.

Race schedule

26 Race schedule

- 26.1 At least 24 hours before the first qualifying race, printed information pertaining to the race schedule shall be available from the Organising

Committee. Information pertaining to placings, times and lane allocation shall be posted visibly each day.

- 26.2 Each crew or W1 competitor must be informed of any changes to the race schedule affecting them after the start of that race day.
- 26.3 The Race Director may
- a. alter the race schedule should unforeseen circumstances require him/her to do so.
 - b. run two races together if the total number of entries for both races does not exceed the number of lanes available;
 - c. eliminate heats and place competitors in other heats should there be any withdrawals;
 - d. allocate an additional lane if there is one more entry than available lanes for a heat, or in other special and unforeseen circumstances. However, this additional lane should only be used if that lane does not unduly disadvantage the competitor in that lane.
- 26.4 [repealed]

27 Seeding of races

- 27.1 The Organising Committee shall be responsible for verifying the eligibility and approving the entries of all competitors and crews, as well as seeding competitors into races as appropriate.
- 27.2 For the allocation of W6 crews into heats, the allocation shall be 'random' but ensuring regions and clubs are spread across heats where possible.
- 27.3 Seeding of competitors for W1 heats will be based on their placing in the previous National Championship and/or previous regattas in that event and/or by regional seeding indicators.
- 27.4 Seeding of progressions will be on the basis of ensuring paddlers with 'like winning conditions' are fairly spread over progression races to ensure fastest times do not compete unnecessarily against each other in that event before the final. Lane allocations on progression shall be based strictly on times.
- 27.5 In a case where a seeded paddler withdraws from their race after the lane draw has been released, the organising committee may fill that lane with any other eligible paddler. There shall be no right to the next seeded paddler to claim that lane.

28 Progressions

- 28.1 In order to qualify for progression to semi-finals and finals, competitors shall
- a. start only with those competitors on the entry form;
 - b. progress only with the starting competitors, unless otherwise permitted as per rules 25.4 and 25.5;
 - c. have sustained no faults or breaches to rules throughout the race.

- 28.2 Progression will depend on the number of lanes and the number of entries in each event. The Organising Committee shall inform paddlers before the regatta about the system of progression used.
- 28.3 At a National Sprint Championships there shall be eight (8) lanes available for each turn race or nine (9) in the case of nine entries for a heat. There shall be up to twelve (12) lanes available for each straight race or thirteen (13) in the case of thirteen entries for a heat.

In a progression the ninth or thirteenth lane may be allocated should the Race Director deem it necessary [usual progression is based on eight paddlers/teams or twelve paddlers/teams]. The procedure for race progression shall be:

28.3 progressions (Turns races or straight races using full lanes)	28.3 progressions (straight races using half lanes)
<p>a. 1 Heat - Less than 9 entries will have a seeding race to determine lanes followed by a final</p> <p>b. 2 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>c. 3 Heats -first 4 placings to go to semi final plus next 4 fastest times to semi finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>d. 4 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest four to semi finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>e. 5 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest one to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>f. 6 Heats - first two placings plus other fastest four to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>g. 7 Heats - first two placings plus other fastest two to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>h. 8 Heats - first in heats to semi-finals - next three placings plus fastest other eight to quarter finals - first two placings plus first in heats to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest two to a final.</p> <p>i. 9 Heats - first in heats to semi-finals - next three placings plus fastest other five to quarter finals - first placing plus first in heats and fastest other three to semi-finals - first three placings plus fastest other two to finals.</p> <p>j. 10 Heats - first in heats to semi-finals - next three placings plus fastest other two to quarter finals - first place plus first in heats plus fastest other two to semi-finals - first three placings plus fastest other two to a final.</p> <p>k. 11 Heats – 1st two in heats directly to quarter finals – 3rd & 4th from heats plus fastest other 10 to four repechages. Fastest 10 from the repechages plus the first 2 from the heats to quarter finals [4]. First two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi-finals [2]. First three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p> <p>l. 12 Heats – 1st two in heats directly to the quarter finals. 3rd & 4th from heats plus fastest other 8 to four repechages. Fastest 8 from the repechages plus the first 2 from the heats to quarter finals [4]. 1st two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi- finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p>	<p>a. 1 Heat - Less than 13 entries will have a seeding race to determine lanes followed by a final</p> <p>b. 2 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>c. 3 Heats -first 4 placings to go to semi final plus next 12 fastest times to semi finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>d. 4 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest twelve to semi finals – first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>e. 5 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest nine to semi-finals – first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>f. 6 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest six to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>g. 7 Heats - first three placings plus other fastest three to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>h. 8 Heats - first two in heats to semi- finals plus other fastest eight to semi- finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>i. 9 Heats - first two in heats to semi- finals plus other fastest six to semi-finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>j. 10 Heats - - first two in heats to semi- finals plus other fastest four to semi- finals - first three placings plus other fastest six to a final.</p> <p>K. 11 Heats – -1st three in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th from heats plus fastest other 13 to two repechage. First 2 in each repechage plus next Fastest 11 to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p> <p>l. 12 Heats – 1st three in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th from heats plus fastest other 12 to two repechage. Fastest 12 from the repechage to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p>

<p>m. 13 Heats – 1st in heat directly to the quarter finals. 2nd, 3rd & 4th in each heat plus the fastest other 9 to six repechages. 1st place from repechages plus fastest other 13 plus 1st in heats to quarter finals [4]. 1st two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p> <p>n. 14 Heats – 1st in heat directly to quarter finals. 2nd, 3rd & 4th in each heat plus fastest other 6 to six repechages. 1st place from repechages plus fastest other 12 plus first in heats to quarter finals [4]. 1st two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p> <p>o. 15 Heats – 1st in heat goes directly to the quarter final. 2nd, 3rd & 4th in each heat plus the fastest other 11 to seven repechages. 1st place from repechages plus fastest other 10 plus 1st in heats to quarter finals [4]. 1st two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p> <p>p. 16 Heats – 1st in heat goes directly to the quarter final. 2nd, 3rd, 4th in each heat plus fastest other 8 to seven repechages. 1st place from repechages plus fastest other 9 plus first in heats to quarter finals [4]. 1st two from each quarter final plus fastest other eight to semi finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other two to the final.</p>	<p>m. 13 Heats – 1st three in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th from heats plus fastest other 11 to two repechage. Fastest 12 from the repechage to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p> <p>n. 14 Heats – 1st three in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th heats plus fastest other 10 to two repechage. Fastest 12 from the repechage to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p> <p>o. 15 Heats – 1st three in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th from heats plus fastest other 9 to two repechage. Fastest 12 from the repechage to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p> <p>p. 16 Heats – 1st two in heats directly to the quarter finals. 4th heats plus fastest other 8 to two repechage. First two plus Fastest 12 from the repechage to quarter finals [4]. 1st three from each quarter final plus fastest other 12 to semi-finals [2]. 1st three placings plus fastest other six to the final.</p>
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Rules infractions

29 Disqualification

- 29.1 Disqualification shall occur for any fault that is made before, during or after any race. This includes any breach of the race rules.
- 29.2 The Organising Committee may approve the use of a black flag to be used by officials as an indicator of a disqualification at any point of the race.

- 29.3 Disqualifications shall be notified immediately to the Head Course Judge and once confirmed, disqualifications shall be publicly posted and/or announced.
- 29.4 Disqualifications may be called by any official at official stations including registration, loading bay, start, safety boats, and finish.
- 29.5 Disqualification may occur for any misconduct or bad behaviour at an event. This shall be at the total discretion of the Race Director.
- 29.6 The following provisions, as stated in these rules, are cause for automatic disqualification (DQ):
- a. Competing while not a member, affiliated or otherwise, of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) (section 21.2);
 - b. Competing for more than one club in the competition not allowed as an exception by the Organising Committee (section 21.6);
 - c. Not meeting the age requirements (section 1);
 - d. Non-compliance with the anti-doping provisions (section 2);
 - e. Paddling at any time during a race outside the designated lane and/or starting and finishing outside the designated lane (section 16.1);
 - f. Paddling in a non-seated position (section 6.5);
 - g. Not following the starting rules (section 14);
 - h. The bow of the canoe being across the start line at the raising of the green flag (while the Black flag is raised) (section 14.5);
 - i. Not turning the canoe counter-clockwise around the flag. During a turn, the canoe shall not run over the flag (section 15.1)
 - j. Failing to complete a turn within the designated lane (sections 16.1 and 15.3);
 - k. Paddling with an illegal paddle (section 9);
 - l. Paddling with non-registered or replacement paddlers other than those who paddled in the first heat of the event (section 25.4, 25.5 and 28.1);
 - m. An outrigger canoe crosses the finish line without its full crew (section 17.2);
 - n. Paddling without the correct uniform (section 11).
 - o. Throwing a paddle during or post race
 - p. Intentionally standing up in the waka (Does not include the act of getting in or out of the waka at shore, or needed to change seats)
- 29.7 The organising committee or race director may replace automatic disqualification under rule 29.6, items e, g, h, i, and j, by a time penalty of 10 seconds per infringement, for specified regattas and events (e.g., for junior events). This must be publicised prior to the event in question.

30 Protests

- 30.1 Protests made during the competition must be addressed to the Head Course Judge in writing no longer than fifteen (15) minutes after the particular race has finished or in the case of disqualification, no longer than fifteen (15) minutes after the posting of the disqualification.
- 30.2 All protests shall be accompanied by a fee that will be set by the Organising Committee. The fee is only refundable if the protest is upheld.
- 30.3 The Head Course Judge shall notify all parties directly involved in the protest.
- 30.4 Procedure on receiving a protest:
 - a. If three [3] or more official stations call a disqualification, the protest shall be disallowed by the Head Course Judge.
 - b. If two [2] official stations call a disqualification, the Head Course Judge may consult with the Protest Committee. The Head Course Judge shall make the final decision.
 - c. If only one [1] official station calls a disqualification, the Head Course Judge shall call a meeting of the Protest committee. The Protest Committee shall make the final decision.
- 30.5 The Head Course Judge shall inform all involved parties of the final decision.

31 Appeals

- 31.1 The Organising Committee may allow appeals. If appeals are allowed, it shall define the process that is to be followed.
- 31.2 [repealed]

Officiating

32 Event committees

- 32.1 Organising Committee
 - a. Competitions shall have an Organising Committee responsible for the complete organisation of the competition, including (but not limited to) the planning of pre-competition, race-day and post-competition logistics and activities.
 - b. The committee shall be accountable to the organisation sanctioning the competition. In case of races sanctioned by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ), the committee shall be accountable to NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).
 - c. The committee shall liaise with relevant organisations, iwi and government authorities to ensure all necessary protocols are in place.
 - d. The committee shall appoint all head officials involved in the running of the competition.

- e. The committee shall, where required, monitor the performance of the Race Director and Event Manager according to their respective responsibilities.
- f. The committee shall have such other duties and responsibilities as defined in these rules.
- g. The Organising Committee will ensure there is a Registered Medical Practitioner available to competitors either on site or at a venue notified clearly to all clubs by the start of the first day of competition to ensure that competitors are able to abide by rule 25.4.

32.2 Protest Committee

- a. The Race Director or Organising Committee shall appoint a Protest Committee. In case of a National Championship this committee may include regional representatives, race officials or Waka Ama NZ staff or Board members. At least three [3] members shall sit on any one matter with any potential 'conflict of interest' being taken into account in any selection from the overall pool.
- b. The Protest Committee is to be confirmed and announced prior to the beginning of the competition.

33 Officials

- 33.1 Competitions are run under the direction of head officials whose roles are defined in sections 33.2 to 33.12.
- 33.2 If circumstances permit, one person may care for two or more of the defined roles.
- 33.3 Site Manager: The Site Manager shall be appointed by contract to NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ) and be responsible to the Organising Committee for successfully managing site organisation of the event, which excludes any matter relating to the competition/race. Such functions may include:
 - a. Managing the arrangement of all necessary resources leading up to and for the running of the event, including administration requirements and facilities, spectator facilities, accommodation for officials, vendors, media, entertainment, the concluding event social function(s) and any other task that may be determined by the Organising Committee.
 - b. Liaison with venue owners and government authorities to ensure all necessary approvals are in place.
 - c. Liaison with the Race Director to ensure the smooth running of the event.
 - d. In conjunction with the Organising Committee, assist appointment, as necessary, persons to conduct secretarial and support duties, marketing and promotion, sponsorship, on-site co-ordination, media liaison, finances, food vendors, health and safety (including Registered Medical Practitioner for rule 25.4 functions), venue security and entertainment and any other role deemed necessary by the Organising Committee.

- 33.4 Race Director: The Race Director shall be responsible to the Organising Committee for the successful organisation and running of the competition. He/she is responsible for supervising and training the head officials and for all other duties as called for in the race rules. He/she may appoint other officials in addition to the head officials to assist in the running of races. He/she may delegate his/her authority as needed.
- a. Race Director in consultation with the protest committee and head course judge, may make the decision to re-run a race in extra ordinary circumstances
- 33.5 Head Starter: The Head Starter's duties include aligning the canoes at the start line, starting of races and signalling a false start. He/she shall work together with the aligner.
- 33.6 Head Course Judge: The Head Course Judge shall supervise the following duties:
- a. that the course remains clearly marked throughout the entire event;
 - b. checking that all official stations are interpreting the race rules in a consistent manner;
 - c. checking that all official stations are recording and then reporting disqualifications;
 - d. ensuring the safety of competitors and support and safety boats on the course;
 - e. receiving and notifying all disqualifications;
 - f. receiving all protests;
 - g. convening protest committee meetings.
- 33.7 Head Turn Judge: The Head Turn Judge shall check that no infringements are made on turning buoys and no lane infringements occur.
- 33.8 Head Finish Line Judge: The Head Finish Line Judge shall supervise the following duties:
- a. recording the order in which competitors cross the finish line;
 - b. operating, where available, a finish line camera to record finishes;
 - c. the official in charge of the camera shall re-run the finish pictures to confirm and record the finish placings where necessary;
 - d. in the event that there is a discrepancy between the recorded placings and the placings recorded by the camera, the Head Course Judge shall make the decision based on their interpretation of the evidence available.
- 33.9 Head Timer: The Head Timer shall:
- a. supervise the timing of races;
 - b. ensure that the timing device(s) are ready and in good working order;
 - c. ensure that the times, placings and notified disqualifications are recorded and dispatched to the Head Recorder.

33.10 Head Recorder: The Head Recorder shall:

- a. supervise the recording of results of each race;
- b. prepare any information necessary to the progression of events;
- c. help the Secretary and Announcer to ensure that race information is made available to the public and officially posted in a designated public area to fulfil protest rulings.

33.11 Race Secretary: The Race Secretary shall have overall responsibility for all paperwork involved in the competition.

33.12 Head Announcer: The Head Announcer shall supervise:

- a. keeping both the competitors and the spectators informed;
- b. calling events in progress where possible and giving any commentary which enhances the spectator interest in the sport;
- c. announcing any official results.

III – LONG DISTANCE RACE RULES

Introduction

34 Introduction

- 34.1 These rules are applicable to any National event organised and controlled by, or on behalf of NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).
- 34.2 These rules are binding on any member region, club and/or organisation running any long distance race involving waka ama in New Zealand waters, whether sanctioned or otherwise by NKOA (WAKA AMA NZ).

Waka ama specifications

35 Waka ama components

- 35.1 Waka Ama (W1, W2, W3, W6 and W12) shall consist of the waka, seats, two kiato and ama. The ama shall be lashed on the left side.

36 Waka ama requirements

- 36.1 Any construction material may be used. However, design and construction must ensure seaworthiness; kiato and ama must be securely affixed to the waka.
- 36.2 Any Waka ama must have watertight compartments or other positive flotation sufficient to keep it afloat when swamped with water.
- 36.3 Except for paddles, any moving objects within or outside the boat that help propel the boat forward, are prohibited.
- 36.4 Paddling, including any stationary use of the paddle in the water, is to be carried out only in a seated position on the seat.
- 36.5 In addition to these requirements, waka ama intended for use in open water and offshore conditions must be designed, built and maintained to withstand extreme conditions.

37 W1

- 37.1 W1 shall meet the requirements as set out in section 7, with the following exceptions.
 - a. The use of a rudder shall be optional for long distance races unless otherwise specified by the Organising Committee. National Championships shall be offered for both rudderless and ruddered W1, but races for ruddered and rudderless classes must not be run at the same time.

- b. There is no minimum weight of a W1 at long distance races
- 37.2 [repealed]
- 37.3 Cockpit-equipped W1 must carry an adequate bailer
- 37.4 Sit-on-top W1 must be fitted with one short leg leash.
- 37.5 All W1 must carry
- a. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flotation device per paddler.
Note: For intermediate, junior and novice competitors these:
- cannot be inflatable flotation devices regardless of swimming ability
 - must be worn for the duration of the race;
- b. one (easily accessible) spare paddle;
- c. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flare, emergency locator beacon or a cell phone in a waterproof pouch OR a Hand Held Waterproof VHF radio.
- 37.6 The W1 requirements may be checked before and/or after any race.

38 W2 and W3

- 38.1 The use of a rudder shall be optional for W2 in long distance races. No rudder shall be used for W3.
- 38.2 Cockpit-equipped W2 and W2 must carry an adequate bailer.
- 38.3 All W2 and W3 must carry
- a. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flotation device per paddler.
Note: For intermediate, junior and novice competitors these:
- cannot be inflatable flotation devices regardless of swimming ability
 - must be worn for the duration of the race
- b. one (easily accessible) spare paddle;
- c. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flare, emergency locator beacon or a cell phone in a waterproof pouch OR a Hand Held Waterproof VHF radio.
- 38.4 The W2 and W3 requirements may be checked before and/or after any race.
- 38.5 There is no minimum weight for W2 and W3 at long distance races.

39 W6

- 39.1 There are generally no specific design requirements for W6 (except for the requirements set out in sections 35 and 36).

- 39.2 W6 must be fitted with spray/deck skirts and carry adequate bailing or pumping devices (hand or foot pumps only). Motorised pumps are prohibited.
- 39.3 W6 must carry
- a. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flotation device per paddler.
Note: For intermediate, junior and novice competitors these:
 - cannot be inflatable flotation devices regardless of swimming ability
 - must be worn for the duration of the race
 - b. two (easily accessible) spare paddles;
 - c. one (easily accessible) MNZ approved flare or emergency locator beacon or a cell phone in a waterproof pouch OR a Hand Held Waterproof VHF radio.
 - d. extra lashings in case repairs are necessary to kiato and ama;
 - e. an approved tow rope of 12mm x 25m minimum length. One end must be securely fitted to the front taumanu with the rest stored either in a bag or fastened to the front taumanu.
- 39.4 There is no minimum weight for W6 at long distance races

Accessories

40 Paddles

- 40.1 Paddles must have one blade and may be of any shape or size. It may be constructed from any material.

41 Numbering

- 41.1 All Waka Ama or competitors shall display a clearly visible number.
- 41.2 Every number shall be positioned in the same place and be of the same type on every outrigger canoe or competitor.
- 41.3 Numbers (and the associated labels or number holders and plates) are the responsibility of the Organising Committee.

42 Club uniforms

- 42.1 For applicable rulings regarding club uniforms, refer to section 11 (Sprint Race Rules).

Race course

43 Course markers

- 43.1 The course of the race and the race distance is to be decided by the Organising Committee.
- 43.2 Course markers used to mark the race course may include (but are not limited to) buoys and natural features such as islands.

44 Support and safety boats

- 44.1 Safety boats shall be provided to ensure the safety of the event. The number of safety boats shall be determined by the Organising Committee or Race Director dependent on race length, conditions and location. The number of safety boats shall also be in compliance with NKOA's sanctioning policy and there shall be no fewer than three (3) safety boats under any circumstances.
- 44.2 Support boats give support to individual W6. For all change-over races there must be one support boat for each crew.
- 44.3 Each safety and support boat must have sufficient power to travel faster than the W6 so that water changes and/or rescues can be made safely.
- 44.4 Each safety and support boat must carry sufficient fuel to finish the race in the worst conditions expected.
- 44.5 Each safety and support boat must meet all Coast Guard and Maritime New Zealand requirements and carry compatible communication systems.
- 44.6 Each safety and support boat must be of appropriate design and size to operate in the race conditions and to carry safely the boat crew and, if required, provide assistance to any competitors.
- 44.7 It is recommended that each safety boat carries at least one person trained in First Aid.
- 44.8 Each support boat must be of sufficient size to carry safely the boat crew and the whole crew of the W6 it supports. It must also be able to tow the W6. It is recommended that the boat have a cabin or canopy.

45 Support boat operation.

- 45.1 Support boats for change-over races must stay clear of the start line and at least 200m from any waka for the first thirty (30) minutes of the race.
- 45.2 First paddler changes can take place only after the race has been in progress for thirty (30) minutes.
- 45.3 Support boats shall not unfairly interfere with or provide unfair assistance to any waka, including by boat wash or by getting too close to any waka.
- 45.4 Except when going ahead to drop off relief paddlers, or to render assistance, all support boats shall remain behind or to the side of the waka they are supporting.
- 45.5 The Race Director shall ensure that officials

- a. brief drivers of support boats regarding their responsibilities;
- b. provide support boat drivers with all relevant race information, including maps of the race course;
- c. make support boat drivers aware of the courtesies to observe so as not to unfairly interfere with any waka in the race.

Race phases

46 Start

- 46.1 Competitors must be present at the start line for their race as shown on the programme. Starting signals shall be given regardless of absentees.
- 46.2 The start shall be controlled by the starter located in a boat approximately 60 metres in front of the start line or on the side of the race course in line with the start line.
- 46.3 The order of the start is as follows:
 - a. Raising of the white flag indicates the race is in the aligner's control and competitors should move up to the start line.
 - b. Raising of the red flag indicates to paddlers that they must hold and align their canoes.
 - c. Raising of the green flag by the starter indicates the start of the race.
- 46.4 If the starter is aligning on a visible marked start line, crossing that start line at any time before the raising of the green flag shall result in a disqualification. Alternatively, the organising committee may apply a time penalty of one (1) minute as a default unless another time penalty is notified by the event organiser at least 24 hours prior to the race start.
- 46.5 If the organising committee determines that a moving start line procedure is to be utilised, competitors shall be informed of the start procedure before each race.
- 46.6 Not following starter orders shall result in disqualification or time penalties as determined by race organisers.
- 46.7 Should any paddler accidentally break their paddle during the start or racing, competitors may substitute the broken paddle with any spare paddle they carry.

47 Racing

- 47.1 Any outrigger canoe must complete the entire race distance on the course set by the Organising Committee.
- 47.2 In the case of overturns, the competitors or crew may resume their places in the outrigger canoe and continue racing.
- 47.3 The Race Director may authorise the interruption of a race if an unforeseen problem occurs. A red flag on the lead safety boat shall be used to halt the race. If a race is interrupted or stopped, crews are to follow the officials'

instructions.

48 Finish

- 48.1 Competitors complete the race once the bow of their outrigger canoe crosses the (official) finish line.
- 48.2 Any outrigger canoe crossing the finish line without its full crew shall be disqualified.

Entries

49 Entries

- 49.1 For applicable rulings regarding entries, refer to section 20 (Sprint Race Rules).

50 Eligibility

- 50.1 The minimum age for participation of any paddler in a long distance event shall be 11 years. Age is taken as reaching the specified age in the year of competition.
- 50.2 The minimum age for participation of any paddler in an open water event shall be 16 years. Age is taken as reaching the specified age in the year of competition.
- 50.3 Any paddler competing in a long distance race must
 - a. be capable of handling their outrigger canoe in any conditions;
 - b. be able to swim and be comfortable in any conditions;
 - c. be trained in and capable of self-rescue techniques (e.g. righting a capsized outrigger canoe);
 - d. have an adequate degree of skill and fitness to enable them to finish the race in any conditions that might be expected;
 - e. be dressed for the expected conditions;
 - f. carry (or have easy access to) adequate food and drink.
- 50.4 W1 paddlers may have the option of competing for another club in a W6 event, if the club for which they are registered in the W1 event does not have sufficient numbers to field a W6 crew.
- 50.5 The Organising Committee may impose further requirements it deems necessary to ensure the safe operation of the regatta or race.

51 Identification and birth verification

- 51.1 For applicable rulings regarding identification, refer to section 22 (Sprint Race Rules).

52 Events

- 52.1 For W1 W2, W3 races, the following distances may be used as a guide for both men and women events:
- a. Junior and Master 70: 8-15 km
 - b. Premier and above: 15km and more
- 52.2 For W6 races, the following distances may be used as a guide:
- a. Junior and Master 70: 12-20 km
 - b. Premier and above: 20km and more
- 52.3 Change-over races include changes and may include
- a. nine (9) persons per W6 entry in the men's division;
 - b. ten (10) persons per W6 entry in the women's division; and
 - c. two (2) or three (3) persons per W1 entry.
- 52.4 Marathon races shall not include changes and may not exceed six (6) paddlers per W6 entry and one (1) person per W1 entry.

53 Divisions and age requirements

- 53.1 For divisions and age requirements, refer to section 50 above and section 24 (Sprint Race Rules).

54 Registrations

- 54.1 The Organising Committee shall set registration fees and deadlines. Fees are non-refundable but may be transferable to replacement paddlers from that club.
- 54.2 The Organising Committee shall set the closing date for registrations. A penalty fee as set by the Organising Committee may be imposed if registration takes place after the closing date.

Rules infractions

55 Disqualification

- 55.1 Disqualification shall occur for any fault that is made before, during or after any race. This includes any breach of the race rules.
- 55.2 The Organising Committee may approve the use of a black flag to be used by officials as an indicator of a disqualification at any point of the race.
- 55.3 Disqualifications shall be notified immediately to the Race Director. Once confirmed, disqualifications shall be publicly posted and/or announced.
- 55.4 Disqualifications may be called by any officials on official stations including registration, loading bay, start, safety boats, and finish.
- 55.5 Disqualification may occur for any misconduct or bad behaviour at an event. This shall be at the total discretion of the Race Director.

56 Protests

- 56.1 The Organising Committee may allow protests. If protests are allowed, it shall define the process that is to be followed.

57 Appeals

- 57.1 The Organising Committee may allow appeals. If appeals are allowed, it shall define the process that is to be followed.

Officiating

58 Committees

58.1 Organising Committee

- a. Competitions shall have an Organising Committee responsible for the complete organisation of the competition, including (but not limited to) the planning of pre-competition, race-day and post-competition logistics and activities.
- b. The committee shall be accountable to the organisation sanctioning the competition. In case of races sanctioned by NKO A (WAKA AMA NZ), the committee shall be accountable to NKO A (WAKA AMA NZ).
- c. The committee shall liaise with relevant organisations, iwi and government authorities to ensure all necessary protocols are in place.
- d. The committee shall appoint all head officials involved in the running of the competition.
- e. The committee shall, where required, monitor the performance of the Race Director and Site Manager according to their respective responsibilities.
- f. The committee shall have such other duties and responsibilities as defined in these rules.

58.2 Protest Committee

- a. If the Organising Committee allows protests, the Race Director or Organising Committee shall appoint a Protest Committee. In case of a National Championship this committee shall be regionally representative from which at least five [5] members shall sit on any one matter with any potential 'conflict of interest' being taken into account in any selection from the overall pool.
- b. Committee membership is to be confirmed and announced prior to the beginning of the competition.

59 Officials

- 59.1 Competitions are run under the direction of head officials whose roles are defined in section 33 (Sprint Race Rules).