



Marathon Racing Committee

Marathon Racing Rule Changes

Announcement to Clubs, Race Organisers and Team Leaders

The Marathon Racing Committee has agreed further changes to the rules for competition which will apply with immediate effect.

These changes will be included in the HRM in addition to the K2 amendments already in hand.

Demotions

Automatic demotions, which have been in place for the last two seasons, will no longer apply.

Demotions from divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be made by the Ranking Officer.

Demotions from divisions 4 to 8 will be made by the Regional Marathon Adviser from applications made to him by club coaches. The Regional Marathon Adviser will confirm his decision in writing to the club coach and to the Race Records Officer. The club coach may appeal to the Ranking Officer where the club disagrees with the Regional Adviser's decision.

Any demotions made will be limited to one division.

Automatic promotions will continue to apply in divisions 4 to 9.

The aim of the ranking system is to ensure that paddlers race in the division appropriate to their ability. It was felt that automatic demotions were not assisting this aim. The committee is giving thought to introducing a requirement for clubs to run bi-annual time trials to assess their paddlers' rankings so that necessary adjustments can be made and paddlers new to marathon enter the appropriate division.

BCU Membership

Clubs and paddlers know that it is a requirement of the BCU that competitors in Group A marathon races must be current Comprehensive members of the BCU or its constituent nations – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales. It gives insurance cover to the competitor, his club and the host club. It is important, therefore, that competitors are current members.

Many paddlers race without having up-to-date comprehensive membership and many race time and again on Event Tickets.

Members and their clubs are reminded of the importance of having BCU membership. Clubs running races are reminded of the need to check that each competitor racing has current Comprehensive membership.

To enforce better this requirement stronger rules will apply in future.

At all Regional Hasler events, the Hasler Final and National Championships each paddler MUST produce his/her current BCU membership card or a photocopy at race check in and if they cannot do so, then:

- a) paddlers ranked in divisions 1 to 6 will not be permitted to race.
- b) paddlers ranked in divisions 7, 8 and 9 may purchase an Event Ticket.

Checks of race results for current membership will continue to be made. Where any paddler is found subsequently not to have had current membership or to have purchased more than one Event Ticket per season, their Hasler points will be deleted and the race will not count as a Hasler qualifying race.

The rules will apply similarly for juniors ranked in divisions 7, 8 and 9 who must prove their membership of the Youth Section of their club.

Check now that all your paddlers have current Comprehensive membership.

Regional Champions

In recent years the appointments of Regional Champions has fallen into disuse and the Trophies at the Hasler Finals have seldom been awarded.

The Committee has decided to reallocate the trophies as follows:

Rhodes-White Trophy will go to the Senior Man K1 with the fastest time over the 12 mile course.

Barber Trophy will go to the Junior K1 paddler with the fastest time over the 12 mile course.

David Shankland Trophy will go to the woman K1 paddler with the fastest time over the 12 mile course.

Marathon Racing Committee
February 2009