



Flatwater Racing Association

Summer Series Rules & Information for Competitors & Team Leaders

1. Race organisation

The Summer Sprint Series exists to encourage Sprint racing in a club context. The series of events run by the associated clubs is coordinated by the FRA Committee and run in accordance with the rules agreed by the representatives of the associated clubs.

Competitors race as part of a team with a nominated **Team Leader**. Team Leaders must ensure that their clubs have the necessary internal processes in place to give them authority to pass their members' details to the FRA. The Team Leader is responsible for endorsing the entry of their paddlers. Team Leaders should ensure that their paddlers understand race behaviour and safety procedures. If the expected Team Leader is not present with their team at a race, a competent substitute must identify themselves at the booking-in desk on the day.

Each event is run by a club which nominates one **Race Organiser**. The Race Organiser is accountable for race organisation including safety, marshalling and recording competitive performance, sorting out queries, declaring results and providing basic refreshments, all within the framework of the rules. Race administration including booking in competitors, the recording and processing of results, and preparing preliminary results for challenge, will be undertaken by the FRA using the Summer Series spreadsheet.

Dates & venues will be publicised on the FRA website (www.flatwaterracing.org.uk). All regattas will start with booking in at 9:30 am & 10:00 briefing unless otherwise stated. The published programme for the day is for guidance only and may have to be adjusted according to factors such as the number competing and the weather. Organisers reserve the right to cancel the race at any time.

2. Classes

There are male and female classes in each of the following age groups: u10, u12, u14, u16, u18, u23, 23+ and 34+. C1 and Paddle-Ability paddlers will additionally be entered into separate C1 and Paddle-Ability classes. At some races, SUP entries may also be accepted at the discretion of the organiser (only where stated on the race details for the specific event).

Age: For the purposes of the Summer Series, the age of a competitor is that on the 1st January for the year in which the series takes place. Team Leaders must ensure that their paddlers are entered in the correct class.

Note: medals are awarded based on paddlers' performance within their class, but paddlers compete in groups organised by speed, not class.

3. Paddlers' Details and Pre-Entries

In order to compete, competitors must be entered for the series by their Team Leader, who is endorsing their suitability and fitness to participate. Team Leaders will be provided with a form to submit their team entry details in advance which they are strongly recommended to use, especially for new team members.

In order to facilitate the grouping of competitors with others of similar speed, Team Leaders will need to provide an **estimated 500m time** for each new paddler entering the series.

Pre-booking team members (by the Friday before the each event) is highly recommended in order to assist the Race Organiser to make suitable provision for the expected number of competitors.

4. Booking In, Entry Fees & Race Boards

There will be a single non-refundable seat fee of £5 (under 18 on 1st Jan) or £10 (seniors) for the whole day's racing.

At check-in paddlers/team leaders will be issued with a Number Board for the day. Where craft are not equipped with board holders, sticky labels should be requested instead.

Team Leaders must ensure that all the boards for their team are returned to the booking desk at the end of the day – there is a £5 charge for every missing board. Those not racing for a BC-affiliated club may be required to leave a returnable £5 deposit when they collect their board.

We will use **photographs** taken at the event in race reports and other publicity for future events – if you have any issues about this or any other personal data that we collect about competitors, please raise any issues with the booking in desk on arrival.

5. Insurance & Boat Licencing

The event is endorsed as a Local Regatta under the British Canoeing Sprint Racing Committee. All paddlers must be able to provide a current BC number and expiry date (either On-Water or Club Associate), or else purchase competition Event Insurance ("Day Ticket"). All boats must be licenced as required for the water on which the event is taking place

6. Safety

Race Organisers are responsible for obtaining any permissions necessary to run the event, and ensuring that the event complies with British Canoeing event safety guidance. A Risk Assessment and Safety Plan for each event endorsed on behalf of the host club by a named person who has attended BC's Event Safety Management training must be made available on the FRA website prior to the race.

The pre-event documentation must make clear the criteria which will be applied at each regatta for enforcing PFDs (e.g. age and/or rank), and this will be reflected in the Risk Assessment and Safety Plan. Team Leaders will be responsible for assessing the standard of those who have not previously competed. Any paddlers may be instructed to wear buoyancy by their Team Leaders or at the Race Organiser's discretion.

A **briefing** for paddlers will be held before the race start.

7. Racing

The FRA race number boards/labels provided must be clearly displayed by each competitor.

Numbers will be used to call competitors forward from the pre-start.

Competitors will race in small groups of approx. 4

Starters will say “Ready, set, GO”

Competitors should stay on the water between races, except at the lunch break.

Paddlers who are booked in may also race in **K2, K4 or relay races**. Although names & positions may be recorded and published, these races are entirely for fun and do not contribute to the day’s points or the positions of individual paddlers in the series. Crew boats/relay teams should be put together with guidance from Team Leaders/Coaches. Crews/teams can comprise members from different clubs subject to the agreement of their Team Leaders.

Team Leaders should give a list of crews/teams to the booking in desk. Please give paddlers’ race numbers (rather than names) in number order.

For K2 or K4 races ideally younger or less experienced paddlers should be paired up with the best paddlers, as the less experienced ones get a lot out of this. Crews should display the number board with the lowest number on their boat.

Relay Teams should also be made to balance the ability in teams. If a relay team is short of a member, the fastest team member should paddle twice. Teams may pick a name to be known by.

8. Protests

Preliminary results will be displayed as soon as possible to enable any problems to be resolved before prize giving. Protests after prize-giving are too late. Any protests must be made in writing by the Team Leader (or declared representative on the day) to the Race Organiser. A panel of three will be put together on the day (usually the Race Organiser, a representative from the Flatwater Racing Association and an independent Team Leader or Coach) and their decision will be final.

9. Scoring & Race Awards

For each singles distance, paddlers’ fastest times will be used to determine their rank over that distance. For each paddler, their rank for each distance raced will be used to calculate their overall position at the event.

Within each age/sex class, the three highest ranked paddlers will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed C1s, Paddle-Ability, and (where offered) SUP paddlers on the day will also be calculated. Where C1/Paddle-Ability/SUP paddlers achieve a top-three place in their age/sex class as well, they will receive the higher of the two medals.

10. Series Awards

NOTE: For 2023 there will be no series awards.

Series points will be allocated to each competitor according to their position within their age/sex class at each of the events they have attended. There will be 10 points for each first place, 9 for each second place, 8 for third etc down to 2 points for 9th place or lower. Paddlers will accumulate series points at each Summer Series regatta they attend during the season and those who attend two or more Summer Series regattas will be eligible for series trophies. For each paddler, their series positions will be determined by totalling their best scores across all possible races, less one race (e.g. best 3 scores from a 4-event series).

The FRA will provide a first place Series Class award for the eligible paddler who finishes the series with the highest position within each age/sex class. These awards will be made at the final regatta of the series and must be collected by the paddler. In the event of a tie in points, the winner will be determined by the number of wins or (if still tied) the competitors' relative positions at the last event of the series.

A 1st Paddle-Ability Series award will also be made within each age/sex class (unless the paddler concerned is already in receipt of a Series Class award).

11. Results

Results will be published on the Flatwater Racing Association website (www.flatwaterracing.org.uk).

Updated: 28 August 2023