

RULES TO OBSERVE IN THE HAWKESBURY CLASSIC



by Roger Deane

(7 times competitor, 3 times landcrew, 3 times checkpoint, last 8 years has been race controller)

Read the rules, get the racebook.

Remember that everyone involved is a volunteer... checkpoints, start, physio, Red Cross. Manners make the race rather than rules. This is important from a landcrew and paddlers point of view.

Please observe the following points...

Private property

Land checkpoints are mostly private property. Don't meet landcrew on private jetties/land that are not scheduled. Landowners have complained about this. This year if you are found meeting landcrew outside of your checkpoint you will be disqualified. You won't know if you are disqualified until the end of the race, so you'll paddle the rest of the race and not know.

Landcrew access

Do not meet landcrew at "naughty" Wisemans, ie the beach around the corner from official Wisemans checkpoint. Wee stops etc are fine, but don't meet landcrew. Known illegal spots will be checked by land and water this year. There have been complaints from landowners where people have been meeting landcrew on private jetties etc. The landowners have threatened to call the police, and they are entitled to do this. If we get landowners offside, the event is jeopardised. If the landowners pull the pin, then it will be impossible to run the race. Don't meet landcrew anywhere other than at designated checkpoints.

Ferry crossings

When the orange light is flashing on the ferry, this means that the ferry is moving. Do not attempt to cross the ferry cables at that time. There will be two blue flashing lights upstream of the ferry crossing. Paddlers must wait upstream of these lights until the orange ferry light has stopped flashing. They may then pass between the blue lights and past the ferry crossing. Paddlers have been disqualified for doing the wrong thing at ferry crossings.

Checkpoints

Every other orange flashing light you see will be at a checkpoint where you are asked to call out your number to register as passing that checkpoint. Sackville and Wisemans will have 2 flashing lights: one on the entry and one on the exit. You will need to call your number out twice – as you enter and leave the checkpoint. So when you see an orange flashing light that isn't on the ferry – call out your number.

Litter

Please don't litter. Carry your rubbish in your boat and dispose of it at a landcrew checkpoint.

Manners

Two of the paddlers disqualified were disqualified for abusing the volunteers who asked them to stop. Treat all volunteers nicely – have manners everywhere. That's what the race is about. Read the rules, be courteous to everyone and have a good night.

Paddlers in difficulty

If you see a paddler/s in trouble, give them a hand. At the end of the event, you have 3 hours to lodge a redress, so you can estimate the time you took helping this paddler. Remember their number, state it to race control at the finish, and ask for the time spent assisting to be deducted off your race time.