

Safety Brief

Kevin Dobson Memorial Time trial

General safety points:

- Paddlers are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of those around them, and accept this is an assumed risk race / event.
- Race boats must have been cleaned thoroughly prior to the race in order to manage and reduce risk of water born diseases.
- It is strongly recommended that all competitors wear a PFD (Personal Flotation Device) and it is compulsory for juniors and those competitors ranked div 7/8/9 or who are unranked. The race committee reserve the right to require PFD's for all competitors should weather conditions warrant it.
- It is also recommended that all competitors carry a mobile phone to enable contact with Safety Marshall's.
- All competitors must register at race control, where they will be issued with their race number.
- Competitors must provide a contact number in the case of emergency or retirement against their race number
- The race number must be mounted vertically on the boat throughout the race and be visible from the left bank. Any boat which is not displaying a number when it crosses the finishing line may not be timed.
- Race numbers must be returned to Race Control at the finish of each race.
- Boats will be started at one minute intervals. Competitors may start (or join the queue waiting to start) at any time.
- Competitors and their support crews must comply with instructions given by race officials, the pre-race safety briefing, or during the course of the race.
- Failure to obey the instructions of a race official will result in a time penalty for each offence. For more serious offences, competitors may be disqualified.

Specific Safety Points:

- Wind: Although the course will have been checked, there is a risk of branches and debris on the course. Paddlers to approach with caution and be mindful when overtaking.
- Cold / Ice: In the event of low temperatures, sheets of ice could still be present in some places; paddlers should approach with caution and be mindful when overtaking. Appropriate clothing should be worn for the conditions.
- Capsize: As an assumed risk water-sport, there is a risk of capsize. For the short course race, a safety boat will follow along the course, with Marshall's positioned at key points. Competitors on observing a capsize should carry out a welfare check; provide assistance if required; inform a Marshall at the earliest opportunity.
- Boat traffic: this is a working canal and boat traffic can be expected. There are sections of the course that are narrow making over-taking unsafe and paddlers should treat such sections with caution. Paddlers should also obey the river rules i.e. river traffic is always required to stay to the right-hand side of the channel (unless it is unsafe to do so, or when over-taking).
- Swan attack: There are nesting swans along the course that can be aggressive. Paddlers should give swans as much space as possible, avoid antagonising them and slow down from race pace on approach, to avoid collisions.
- There are no official portages on the race course, but paddlers may choose to portage to avoid swans; to bypass fallen tress or debris, or to avoid one of the two swing bridges. Such portaging should be approached with caution in adverse weather conditions.