



**2015 Avon Descent
Event Rules**

Contents

General Information	3
General Event Background.....	3
Details of the Descent	4
Wild Water – Grades of Difficulty	5
Entry Requirements	6
Entries.....	6
Competitors.....	7
Eligibility to Participate	7
Power Dinghy	7
Paddlers.....	7
Classes	8
Prizes/Trophies.....	8
Presentation Ceremony	9
Pre-Event Requirements.....	9
Authority	9
Specifications for all Craft	11
Power Craft Specifications	12
Paddle Craft Specifications.....	12
Paddle Craft Equipment	14
Personal Flotation Device (PFD).....	14
Scrutineering of Craft and Equipment	16
Safety Briefing	17
Practise Days	17
Support Crews.....	18
Registration	18
Racing Rules.....	19
Competitors.....	19
Support Crews	20
Start Procedure	20
Race Procedure	22
Checkpoints.....	24

Cut Off Times.....	25
Withdrawals	26
Pit Areas	27
Penalties	27
Results	30

General Information

Disclaimer

The following information is intended as a guide only for competitors, support crew and spectators. As the conditions are often dependent on water levels, the Organisers accept no responsibility for the correlation of the descriptions and the actual conditions encountered.

General Event Background

The Avon River drains the Great Southern and Upper Great Southern regions, actually starting as a river near Wickepin. The Avon River is 240 kilometres in length and the basin covers an area of 120,000 square kilometres, extending from Northam in the west to Southern Cross in the east, north to Dalwallinu and south to Pingrup. From its confluence with Wooroloo Brook in Walyunga National Park the Avon becomes the Swan River. Approximately 60% of the Swan River's flow is from the Avon River. The main Northam Pool on the Avon River (start point for the Avon Descent) is the only permanent stretch of natural inland water along the entire Great Eastern Highway between Perth and Adelaide. The Avon Descent passes through some of Western Australia's most picturesque country, and as you travel, you'll pass through the farming regions of historic Northam and Toodyay, forested national parks, steep gorges, the Swan Valley vineyard region and eventually, into the tidal waters of the upper Swan River.

The World's Greatest White Water Event

The Descent is an exciting two-day time trial over 124 gruelling kilometres offering competitors conditions ranging from long stretches of flat water that can test the endurance of the fittest athlete through to rapids, sure to test the skills of all who attempt to navigate their unknown contours. Competitors challenge the Avon and Swan Rivers in a variety of power and paddle craft competing for single, double, triple and teams honours, supported by family and friends as support crews and thousands of spectators line the banks to cheer them on.

What Craft Can Compete

The Avon Descent is open to a range of power dinghy craft (up to 15HP) and paddle craft including single, double and triple kayaks and single or double surf skis. Relay teams of two and four can also compete. Age restrictions apply.

Conditions

The event can be dangerous as water levels in the Avon River can produce dramatic changes in race conditions. Intending competitors should have a high level of fitness and provide evidence of competency as required for paddle or power craft sections. Special training courses are available for novices.

Details of the Descent

The race starts at the Town of Northam, 100 km east of Perth. The course proceeds downriver through the town of Toodyay into the upper reaches of the Darling Range escarpment. The halfway point is Boral Campsite located at Cobbler Pool 20 km west of Toodyay. Day Two sees competitors tackle the valley containing the major white-water obstacles and challenges of the event including Supershoot, Emu Falls, Championship Rapids and Bell's Rapids. The rush of the valley leaves competitors with the marathon 30 km flat water stretch to Bayswater. The victorious burst their way over the finish line and the achievers are happy just to finish.

The Stages

The Course is divided into nine (9) Stages

Day 1		Town of Northam to Boral Campsite	52 Kilometres
	Stage 1	Town of Northam to Katrine Bridge	17 kilometres
	Stage 2	Katrine Bridge to Toodyay	15 kilometres
	Stage 3	Toodyay to Wetherall Reserve	9 kilometres
	Stage 4	Wetherall Reserve to Boral Campsite	11 kilometres
	Overnight Stop		
Day 2		Boral Campsite to City of Bayswater	72 Kilometres
	Stage 5	Boral Campsite to Emu Falls	8 kilometres
	Stage 6	Emu Falls to Stronghill's Farm	10 kilometres
	Stage 7	Stronghill's Farm to Bells Rapid	21 kilometres
	Stage 8	Bells Rapid to Middle Swan	18 kilometres
	Stage 9	Middle Swan to Bayswater	FINISH 15 kilometres

Wild Water – Grades of Difficulty

Grade 1 – Not difficult. Regular stream; regular waves; small rapids; simple obstructions.

Grade 2 – Moderately difficult. Passage free irregular stream; irregular waves; medium rapids, small stoppers eddies, whirlpools and pressure areas*; simple obstructions in stream; small drops.

Grade 3 – Difficult. Route recognisable; high irregular waves; larger rapids; stoppers, eddies, whirlpools and pressure areas*; isolated boulders, drops and numerous obstructions in stream.

Grade 4 – Very difficult. Route not always recognisable; inspection mostly necessary; heavy continuous rapids; heavy stoppers, whirlpools and pressure areas*; boulders obstructing stream, undertow. Grade 5 Extremely difficult. Inspection essential; extreme rapids, stoppers, whirlpools and pressure areas*; narrow passages, steep gradients and drops with difficult access and landing. Grade 6 Limit of Practicability. Generally speaking impossible. Possibly navigable at particular water levels; high risk; even experts risk life.

*Notes * "Pressure areas" refer to water piling up against a rock or other obstacle.

Entry Requirements

Entries

- 100 All entries must be made on the official online entry system.
- 101 The standard entry fee for the 2015 Avon Descent for 1) Single paddle craft is \$280.00 per competitor & double paddle craft is \$250.00 per competitor. (\$40 discount for “Early Bird”) per craft 2) Power craft is \$510 per entry (\$40 discount for “Early Bird”) per craft. 3) One day only competitors; single paddle craft \$190, double paddle craft \$320.
- 102 All dollar amounts stated in these Rules include GST.
- 103 Entry includes support crew passes that gains free entry to Extracts Weir, Emu Falls & Bells Rapid, the Finish and areas under the control of Northam’s Avon Descent Association (NADA). Please note: The entry fees that apply at other locations are not under the control of NADA and entry to these locations cannot be included in the entry fee.
- 104 The entry fee must accompany all entries and is not refundable.
- 105 NADA does not accept entries from competitors with outstanding fines to NADA or other affiliated Associations or Clubs. Payment of fines will be accepted with entry.
- 106 Entries close at midnight on Sunday 17th July 2015 and must be with the Event Managers at that time.
- 107 Late entries between 18th – 27 July 2015 will incur a large fee that shall be noted on the registration system – Paddle craft only.
- 108 Amendments to entries will be accepted up until the closing of entries (17th July 2015) at no charge. After this time all changes must be made at Registration on Friday 31st July and a \$50.00 Administration Fee will be charged and the alteration may be accepted at the discretion of the Event Manager.
- 109 CWA and NADA reserves the right, if deemed necessary due to the condition of the river and in the interest of safety, to limit the number of competitors in any class and, if that right is implemented, to accept entries in the Descent in order of application acceptance.
- 110 By submission of the official entry form it is considered that competitors are aware of the potentially dangerous nature of the course, have read and understood these Rules and are medically fit to participate.
- 111 In K2, C2 or team the age of the youngest competitor will control the category in which a crew can compete.

Competitors

General

- 121 The minimum age of competitors is sixteen years at 31st December the year of the Descent, excepting circumstances described in Rules 122 – 128 inclusive.
- 122 A competitor under the age of eighteen years at the date of the Descent must have written consent from a parent or Legal Guardian.
- 123 A novice competitor is one who has not before competed in the Avon Descent or an event deemed by NADA to be of a status that would preclude the competitor being considered a novice.
- 124 There must be at least two competitors in power craft in Classes 1 - 3 and in each double paddle craft.
- 125 Competitors must meet the Specification requirements of the Class or Sub Class in which they are entered with respect to craft, clothing and protective equipment, competency and fitness.

Eligibility to Participate

Power Dinghy

- 126 Intending power dinghy competitors must have current a PDRC or WCDRC competition licence.
- 127 CWA and NADA reserves the right to accept or reject any single entry or groups of entries.

Paddlers

- 128 A competitor under the age of seventeen years may enter the race in a paddle craft subject to the following conditions:
- a. Be a member of Canoeing Western Australia (Inc) or a member of a Surf Lifesaving Club.
 - b. Have their completed entry form endorsed by a director or similar person of their association or club as applicable, or by an Australian Canoeing Award System qualified instructor or accredited ski coach as applicable.
 - c. Have attained the age of sixteen years at 31st December the year of the Descent
- 129 Intending paddle competitors are required to provide evidence of competency to participate.
- 130 Competency can be established through the following criteria:
- a. Recent Avon Descent experience – have completed (at least 1 day of) the Avon Descent within the previous 3 years.
 - b. Evidence of current paddling fitness subject to NADA review and approval e.g.: other paddling events within previous 12 months of similar distance, e.g. (WA) The Doctor, Bay to Beach combined with Northam to Toodyay race, (International) Fish Marathon, Liffey Descent.

c. Completion of the Avon Descent Safety Skills Assessment – for participants who cannot provide evidence of safety competency (valid 3 years). Avon Descent Safety Skills assessment can be gained through recommended paddle trainers.

Team Competitors (Paddle Craft)

- 131 Competitors in the teams' class complete the event relay style.
- 132 Paddle craft teams shall consist of at least two with a maximum of four members.
- 133 Each member of the team may use a separate craft.
- 134 **ONLY ONE** craft per competitor, this applies to all paddle competitors.

Classes

140 There are 19 classes of entry:

Class No.	Category	Sub Category
1	10hp Sports	Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Husband / Wife, Parent / Child
2	10hp Standard	Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Husband / Wife, Parent / Child
3	10HP Super Standard	Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Husband / Wife, Parent / Child
4	Sundry Power	Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Husband / Wife, Parent / Child
5	Single Kayak	Male, Female, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
6	Single Surf Ski	Male, Female, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
7	Single Plastic	Male, Female, Short Plastic, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
8	Single Sundry	N/A
9	WWK1/Wavehopper	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
10	Double Kayak	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
11	Double Surf Ski	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
12	Double Plastic	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
13	Double Sundry	N/A
14	Triple Kayak	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
15	Triple Surf Ski	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
16	Paddle Team of 2	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
17	Paddle Team of 4	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
18	1 Day Single Craft	Male, Female, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+
19	1 Day Double Craft	Male, Female, Mixed, U/21, 40+, 50+, 60+

Prizes/Trophies

General

- 150 Prizes will be awarded to those who successfully complete the Descent and pass post-race scrutineering.
- 151 Only those prizes identified in the official prize list will be awarded.
- 152 Prizes will be awarded to competitors in order of lowest elapsed race time as measured by the Official Timekeepers subject to the following conditions.

- 153 A craft will be deemed to have started if it is recorded as having started by the Race Starter or passed the first timing point.
- 154 Trophies, cash prizes, merchandise prizes and certificates will be awarded subject to the following:
- a. In order for the cash prize or goods prize to be awarded, 5 or more craft eligible to win the prize must start in a class category.
 - b. In order for First, Second and Third place trophy(s) and/or certificate(s) to be awarded, 5 or more craft eligible to win the prize must start.
- 155 A competitor may win more than one trophy or certificate.
- 156 Prizes may only be won within the class entered excepting those not based on race time.
- 157 Where a competitor(s) wins more than one category within the class, they will receive the greater cash award and gifts only and forgo the lower cash prize and gifts.
- 158 Where a competitor(s) wins a place in another class or sub class the cash prize and goods component of that other class or sub class will lapse and will not be awarded.
- 159 Merchandise, trophies and certificates may not be converted to cash.
- 160 Competitors who complete the entire Descent shall receive a medallion acknowledging that fact.
- 161 Competitors competing in a team that completes the Descent will receive medallions recognising their achievement.
- 162 A competitor(s) found to have breached a Rule for which the penalty is not a time penalty is required to return the prize and award, subject to appeal.

Presentation Ceremony

- 163 Major prizes and awards will be presented at the finish line at 3.00 pm on Sunday 2nd August, 2015.
- 165 Winners should ensure they are close to the stage at the commencement of the Presentation Ceremony.
- 166 Other prizes and awards are to be collected from the prize desk next to the presentation stage on Sunday 2nd August.

Pre-Event Requirements

Authority

- 201 The Avon Descent (also referred to as “the Descent” and “the Event”) is a time trial covering 124 kilometres of the Avon and Swan Rivers, commencing at Northam, passing through Toodyay and the Avon Valley and Walyunga National Parks and finishing at Riverside Gardens Bayswater. It is administered by Northam’s Avon Descent Association (Inc) (NADA).

- 202 The Power Boat section is conducted under the auspices of the Competition Rules and specifications of the Power Dinghy Racing Club (Inc) (PDRC). Rules available on Event website.
- 203 The Paddle section is conducted under the auspices of Canoeing Western Australia (Inc) Marathon and Racing Committee and is run according to the Marathon Racing Rules of the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the Specifications in this document.
- 204 Both these sections are also subject to the rules and specifications in this publication (“these rules”). Should any discrepancy occur between these rules and those referred to in rules 201 to 203 above, then these rules will prevail.
- 205 The Chief Clerk of Course may make a ruling on any matter not specifically covered by the PDRC Competition Rules, the ICF Racing Rules or these rules during the Descent.

Board of Directors

- 210 The awarding of the licence to cover the Management, organisation, direction, development and promotion of the Avon Descent is undertaken by a Board of Directors from Northam’s Avon Descent Association. This Committee meets each month throughout the year to determine the direction and success of the Event.

Chairman	Kevin Harrison
Finance /Treasurer	Rex Adams
Chief Clerk of Course	Jim Smith
Power Boat Delegate	Ian Williamson
Paddle Craft Delegate	Rosalie Evans
Local Government	Jon Vines
Community Liaison	Tully Telenta
Aquatic Sport & Management	David Hunt
Avon Support Unit (ASU)	Michael Orr

Race Control

- 211 Control of the Avon Descent passes to these Officials from 8.00 am on the Friday before the Race Start.

Chief Clerk of Course	Jim Smith
Clerk of Course (Power Boats)	Kim Epton
Clerk of Course (Paddle Craft)	David Hunt
Official Race Starter	Greg Kaeding
Manager (ASU)	Michael Orr

- 212 All Officials of the Avon Descent will be wearing a name tag as a means of identification.

Specifications for all Craft

- 220 All equipment must be labelled with Race ID Number.
- 221 Novice competitors must have a fluorescent strip on their helmet and craft.
- 222 Fluorescent strips will be supplied in race packs or at registration/scrutineering.

Sponsors Advertising

- 225 Major sponsors stickers (as supplied) to be placed on the bow as close to the front of the craft as possible. Small stickers are to be placed on the front of each helmet and of the blade of each paddle. It is compulsory that major sponsors stickers are placed on all craft (as directed by the Race Organisers).
- 226 Logos or promotional material of Companies deemed as Rivals may not be displayed in any area under the control of NADA without the express written permission of NADA. This includes stickers, hats, T shirts, jackets, paddles etc. Areas include the entire course, the start line at Northam, the finish line including the stage and beach landing areas.
- 227 Contravention of this ruling may be grounds for disqualification of the offending competitor.
- 228 Applications in writing for a waiver of Rule 226 must be made to CWA or NADA prior to entry close off date. NADA recognises the need for support sponsorship and requests will be treated fairly.

Rivals

- 229 It is important to recognise and show support to the official sponsors of the Avon Descent. It is requested that support not be given to rivals of official sponsors.
- 230 Competitors and support crew are requested to observe non-promotion of:
 - a. All other businesses that may reasonably conflict with the sponsors and supporters recognised in NADA publications and those which may be subsequently contracted to the Avon Descent.
- 231 Should competitors have any doubts, it is recommended to contact CWA or NADA Committee for approval of individual sponsors. Please recognise and support the sponsors of the Descent and those who have shown their generosity and support for the Descent.

Stickers

- 232 Stickers from previous Descents must be removed prior to the commencement of the 2015 event.
- 233 Stickers will be supplied with your competitor pack and must be placed on the craft in accordance with the Rules.
- 234 Other sponsors' stickers (if provided) should be visible on your craft.

Power Craft Specifications

235 All craft, paddle, PFD's, helmets and other equipment must conform to PDRC competition boat and motor specifications.

236 POWER CRAFT Race ID Numbers

Power Craft must display an Identification Number, adhesive, "computer-cut" black not less than 180mm high as per Helvetica Bold style.

The rectangular, coloured back-ground shall be adhesive, "computer-cut" not less than 400mm wide and 210mm high. This coloured back-ground shall have a 10mm radius on each corner.

The coloured back-ground shall extend not less than 10mm beyond the top, bottom and sides of the black numbers.

EACH POWER CLASS SHALL HAVE A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND COLOUR AS FOLLOWS:

10hp Sports – Yellow (Straw Yellow CMYK – 0, 15, 100, 5)

10hp Standard – White

10hp Super Standard – Blue (Sky Blue CMYK – 43, 3, 3, 0)

Sundry – Pink

This Identification Number, on the coloured background, shall be placed, and be clearly visible, on both sides of the craft, towards the bow.

It shall NOT be displayed on a board mounted on the boat.

237 SUNDRY POWER CLASS.

The NADA Board resolved to allow 15hp power craft to enter ONLY in the 2015 event in the Sundry Power Craft class starting at the rear of the power craft field, 10 minutes following the start of the last 10hp power craft.

Sundry Class will not be eligible for event trophies, prizes or prize money.

15hp power craft entered in the 2015 event will compete with 15hp power standard, manufacturers, Aluminium, unmodified propellers for that make and model.

Paddle Craft Specifications

Listed below are class specifications only. To be eligible for prizes for the open paddle craft category craft only need to comply with rules 267-299. To be eligible for prizes in the sub categories, the entrant must comply with the relevant requirements of rules 240-262. Random scrutineering of craft may take place at the completion of the event.

Kayaks & Canoes

240 Craft must meet either Kayak or Wildwater dimensions as stated for each Class.

241 All types of building material are permitted.

Kayak

242 Kayaks (K1) shall have a maximum length of 6500 mm.

243 Double Kayaks (K2) shall have a maximum length of 7600 mm.

244 Triple Kayaks (K3) shall have a maximum length of 8000 mm.

Canoes

- 246 Marathon Canoes (C1) shall have a maximum length of 5200 mm.
- 247 Marathon Canoes (C2) shall have a maximum length of 6500 mm.
- 248 Canoes shall meet the following specifications:
- a. Sections of the longitudinal lines of the hull of the canoe shall be convexed and not interrupted.
 - b. The canoe must be built symmetrically upon the axis of its length.
 - c. Steering rudders or guiding apparatus are not allowed.
 - d. A keel, if any, must be straight and shall extend over the whole length of the canoe and shall not project more than 30 mm below the hull.
 - e. A Single Canoe (C1) may be open and in any case shall not be decked more than 1500 mm from the stem and 750 mm from the stern, measured from the outer edge of the stem or stern to the fullest point of the edge of the deck, for the fore and after decks respectively.
 - f. A Double Canoe (C2) may be entirely open. The min. length of the opening shall be 2950 mm.
 - g. Removable spray decks may be used.
- 249 Touring craft must comply with Specifications for Marathon Craft.

Wildwater Craft

- 250 Wildwater Kayaks (WK1) shall conform to the following dimensions:
Maximum length of 4500 mm.
Minimum width of 600 mm.
Minimum weight of 10KG
- 251 Wildwater Canoes (WC1) shall conform to the following dimensions:
Maximum length of 4300 mm.
Minimum width of 700 mm.
Minimum weight of 11kg.
- 252 Wildwater Canoes (WC2) shall conform to the following dimensions:
Maximum length of 5000 mm.
Minimum width of 800 mm.
Minimum weight of 17kg.
All craft must be of single hull construction
- 253 It is not possible for Wildwater craft (WK1, WC1, WC2) to meet the required dimensions by the addition of wooden extensions or similar means.
- 254 The craft must be designed to remain within the required dimensions.

Thermoplastic Craft

- 255 Thermoplastic craft must comply to Ski Specifications.

Skis

- 256 The maximum length of a single ski is 6500 mm.
- 257 The maximum length of a double ski is 7600 mm.
- 258 All craft shall be of a safe construction with no sharp edges or protrusions on hull, deflector or rudder system.
- 259 The outer construction should be of fibreglass, plastic or similar material with an outer framework or support.
- 260 The craft must be watertight and have positive buoyancy at the commencement of the event.
- 261 All straps must be securely attached and capable of supporting the weight of the craft.
- 262 All craft must be propelled by competitors using paddles only. The paddler must be sitting on top of the craft but may secure the body position in seat and foot mouldings.

Sundry Paddle Craft

- 263 There are no dimension, construction or design specifications for craft in Sundry Classes. The scrutineer must deem the craft safe and capable of completing the course.

Paddle Craft Equipment**Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**

- 267 The PFD must have sufficient buoyancy to float a 6kg legalised lead weight and be in good condition.
- 268 Particle -filled or inflatable PFDs are not permitted.
- 269 A waterproof whistle must be attached to the PFD and used to attract the attention of rescuers.
- 270 All PFDs must be of Australian Standard.

Helmet

- 271 Each craft must have one helmet per competitor that shall be of a design and material that is safe and strong.
- 272 The helmet shall provide solid protection to the forehead and temple region.
- 273 The helmet must be an approved water sports/paddling helmet, meet Australian Standards and:
- a. be of fitted skull cap design
 - b. or if not fitted allow the passage of water when held at any angle.
- 274 The Race ID Number must be displayed on both sides of the helmet. Numbers must be at least 50 mm high by 6 mm wide with black numbers on yellow background.
- 275 The helmet must be in good repair with particular reference to buckles and straps.

- 276 Motorcycle helmets, non-paddling skull caps, industrial safety helmets and other types of helmets, regardless of modifications are not approved.
- 277 Elastic chin-straps are not allowed.
- 278 Canoe helmets and approved surf helmets are preferred.
- 279 "Gath Hat" as manufactured by Gath Helmets with visor attached is an approved helmet.

Paddles

- 280 Kayaks may have double bladed paddles.
- 281 Canoes must have single bladed paddles.
- 282 Paddles shall be of strong and safe construction and shall have no sharp edges.
- 283 Replacement paddles are permitted.
- 284 Paddles in use shall not be attached to the craft by any means whatsoever.

Other Equipment

- 285 Emergency rations should be carried by each craft and include not less than 400g of high calorific food (i.e. glucose, chocolate, nuts etc.) and a box of waterproof matches or cigarette lighter. Waterproof container should be used.
- 286 All equipment must be in good order and repair (buckles, straps etc.). Particular attention should be paid to equipment that may be sun damaged.
- 287 Only one craft per competitor. Allowable replacement equipment (paddles, spare Race ID Numbers) should be carried by the support crews to avoid failing daily scrutineering if original equipment is lost or damaged.

Race Identification Numbers

- 288 PADDLE CRAFT. Must display their black race identification number that shall measure not less than 100mm high X 15mm wide on a yellow (or colour of the discretion of CWA/NADA).
- 289 Sets of officially approved race identification numbers will be supplied in race packs.
- 290 The numbers 6 and 9 must be underlined.

Steering Rudders

- 291 Steering rudders are not allowed for Wildwater craft or canoes but may be used for kayaks, plastic craft and skis.
- 292 The rudder system must be efficient and designed to flip up on contact with any obstacle to prevent damage to the rear of the craft. The rudder is to be operated by foot pedals connected by flexible cable.
- 293 The maximum thickness of the rudder blade must not exceed 10 mm.
- 294 The rudder forms an extension to the length of the hull and is therefore not included in the hull length measurement.

Handholds

- 295 Wild water craft must be securely fitted (not taped) with hand holds of non-elastic material.
- 296 The minimum diameter of the hand hold material shall be not less than 6mm or a cross sectional area of not less than 10 mm x 2mm.
- 297 Handholds must be securely attached within 400mm of each wild water craft.
- 298 Handholds must be in the form of loops to allow a 100 mm x 20 mm end radius measuring gauge to pass through them.
- 299 Thermoplastic craft may have toggles.

Scrutineering of Craft and Equipment

- 300 Pre-race scrutineering is for all Power craft including and will be held at Riverside Gardens Bayswater on Sunday 19 July 2015 from 8.30am – 10.30am unless otherwise communicated. All paddle craft competitors will have their craft, helmet and PFD scrutineered at Riverside Gardens Bayswater on Sunday 19 July 2015 8am – 10.30am All prize winning craft may be scrutineered following the event and prior to presentations.
- 301 Craft and equipment will be checked for compliance with the specifications.
- 302 Pre-race scrutineering is compulsory for all entries.
- 303 The Scrutineer is a 'judge of fact' and a protest may not be made against their decision.
- 304 Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) will be tested for buoyancy and constriction. A 2015 "pass tag" will be attached. **Paddle Competitors ONLY**
- 305 Department of Transport (Marine Safety) staff will check for compliance with DOT regulations.
- 306 Craft that fail Pre Race Scrutineering must be re-scrutineered prior to the Descent. See rules 311 - 316.
- 307 Competitors may be required to submit their craft for scrutineering during the Descent, if deemed necessary, and if this occurs during "race time" their elapsed time will be adjusted to reflect their time "off the water".
- 308 Interstate/overseas and entrants (power craft) living outside of 200 kilometres of the Perth GPO are not exempt from the above requirements. "Late scrutineering" arrangements must be made with the Event Managers - telephone +61 8 9285 8501

Re-Scrutineering

- 311 Competitors whose equipment fail pre-race scrutineering have the opportunity to rectify the object of failure up to 8pm on Friday 31st July.
- 312 Competitors that fail pre-race scrutineering cannot place craft in the start marshalling area until this re-scrutineering is complete.
- 314 The original Scrutineering checklist must be produced to the scrutineer.
- 315 Failure to provide the original scrutineering checklist will require a complete re-scrutineering of PFD and helmets.

- 316 The late scrutineering fee of \$100.00 may apply subject to approval of NADA must be paid prior to re-scrutineering.

Safety Briefing

- 320 At least one member of each novice entry must attend the compulsory pre-race novice safety at a time and location to be communicated. Evidence of attendance will be established.
- 321 Novice competitors who do not attend the pre-race briefing will not be eligible to start the event. Subject to change by the event director

Post-Race Scrutineering

- 340 Place winning craft will be impounded for scrutineering immediately after the Descent and may not be removed from the scrutineer compound until approval has been granted from the scrutineer.
- 341 NADA reserves the right to strip the outboard motors of the first six place winners in each class to ensure they comply with the PDRC Specifications.
- 342 One representative from each craft must be present at post-race scrutineering.

Practise Days

Power Craft ONLY

- 350 Participation in the Practise Days is the responsibility of the entrant and is undertaken at their own risk.
- 351 Practise Day One is Saturday 25th July 2015, between 12 noon and 6.00pm.
- 352 Practise Day Two is Sunday 26th July 2015, between 8.00am and 12 noon.
- 353 Participants must avoid travel in the upstream direction during practise. Upstream travel under Katrine Bridge is NOT permitted.
- 354 Participants may practise at Northam Weir and Extracts Weir in the timeframe allocated to the Class in which they have entered the Descent.
- 355 Power craft entrants may practise only in the following areas.
Pool above Northam Weir to Posselts Ford.
Below Bells Rapid to Middle Swan Bridge – No further south.
- 356 Power craft shall not be placed on the water upstream of Peel Terrace Bridge at Northam Weir.

Paddle Craft

- 358 Paddle craft entrants must not enter the practise areas outlined in rules 350-356 between the specified times. Penalty of non-adherence to allocated times and areas, is at the discretion of the Chief Clerk of Course.

Illegal Practise/Access

- 359 Entrants practising in the areas described in Rule 356 outside the timeframe allocated to their Class will be penalised. [See Penalties.](#)

- 360 Entrants found practising on any other day in areas with speed restrictions or restricted access (as defined) and/or reported to NADA by authorised Government Officers may face a penalty. [See Penalties.](#)
- 361 For the purpose of Rules 359, 360, any craft on the water is deemed to be practising.
- 362 Support crews/entrants may not use the access road through the Avon Valley between Cobbler Pool and Bells Rapid on Practise Days.
- 363 All practising participants must be entered in the event and wear full race attire as per PDRC Rules and Regulations. Non-compliance will result in a penalty under these rules.
- 364 Power Craft must be in Race Scrutineered condition and a condition that would pass scrutineering as per PDRC Rules and Regulations. Non Compliance will result in a penalty as per these rules.
- 365 Members of the general public are not allowed to stay overnight at the Cobbler Pool campsite and will be removed immediately if found on site, without the approval of NADA or CWA.
- 366 All glass beverages are prohibited from the Cobbler Pool campsite.
- 367 NADA officials hold the right to immediately evict any intoxicated competitor, support crew or spectator from the event. The association will not be held liable for any costs associated with the eviction of any person.

Support Crews

- 370 Each Team shall have a support crew of at least one adult person.
- 371 The support crew vehicle shall display the number of the craft it is supporting & the supplied Support crew sticker on the front right corner of the windscreen of the support vehicle.
- 372 Motorbikes shall not be used for support crew vehicles.
- 373 Each member of the support crew shall make themselves acquainted with these Rules.
- 374 Support crews shall not use orange, red or pink flag material showing their Team Race Identification Number to wave down their craft. A black or white board may be used.
- 375 Only those support crews with a Valley Pass correctly displayed may drive down the Valley Road
- 376 Only team support crews with a Valley Pass may have vehicle access to Bells Rapids
- 377 Only team's support crews with a Support Crew Pass may enter the pickup areas at the finish

Registration

- 380 At least one member of each entry must register on Friday 31st July 2015 at the Northam Swimming Pool.
- 381 Competitors may not start until they are registered. (Note: Competitors cannot be registered on Saturday 1st August 2015.)

382 Registration and the Start Marshalling Area will be open between the hours of 10.00am to 9.30pm on Friday 31st July 2015.

383 Competitors must collect their Start Grid number at Registration. Grids will also be available online from 31st July 2015.

Start Marshalling Area

385 Competitors who have registered should move their craft to the Start Marshalling Area near the main traffic bridge and follow the instructions of the Start Marshall.

386 Craft not in the Start Marshalling Area by 10:00 pm on Friday 31st July 2015 will not be permitted to start.

Racing Rules

Competitors

400 Competitors may not be substituted during the Descent except in the Teams Class.

401 No competitor shall act in a manner detrimental to the performance of another competitor (e.g. ramming of craft) or the environment (e.g. deliberate removal of branches).

402 No competitor shall damage, remove or modify any material or equipment provided by NADA for the duration of the Descent. (e.g. altering bibs, removing signs and/or star pickets).

403 Competitors must wear a PFD and helmets at all times when on the water during practise days and in the Descent.

404 NADA reserves the right to test any competitor for competency (including blood alcohol testing by breathalyser). At the request of an authorised race official competitors shall submit to such a test. A competitor who refuses to submit to such a test will face a penalty. [See Penalties.](#)

405 Competitors' blood alcohol level must be 0.0% during the period from 30 minutes prior to start till completion or withdrawal on each day.

Power Craft Competitors

410 The outboard motor kill switch lanyard is to be worn on the driver's wrist and attached to the motor stop switch at all times while the motor is running (except while operating the motor in the Pit Area).

Team Competitors

411 Team members must change at the designated changeover points.

412 Each member of the Team may use a separate craft.

413 All team paddle craft must pass through all timing gates (4 gates per day). Changeovers must take place after having passed through the timing gate.

Support Crews

- 415 Support crew must park in the allocated area at the Bells Rapids and Day Two Finish Line.
- 416 Support crews must not enter the pick-up area at the Day Two Finish Line before their craft has 'Arrived' on the foreshore.
- 417. Support crews that do not follow the instructions of Officials may be penalised. [See Penalties.](#)
- 418 Support crew must wear a PFD if entering the water.

Start Procedure

- 420 The Day One Avon Descent Start is at Northam. The Day Two Start is at Cobbler Pool, Boral Quarries Campsite, West Toodyay.
- 421 A diagram showing start procedure will be displayed at Registration.
- 422 The start signal will be both visual and audible.
- 423 Any craft observed by the Race Starter to cross the start line prior to the start signal will be penalised 5 minutes plus the infringement period by the Race Starter.
- 424 Competitors who, for whatever reason fail to start in their nominated start grid position may start at a later grid, only with the permission of the Race Starter.
- 425 Craft in this situation must not start between grids and will be recorded as having started in their officially advised start grid.
- 426 The Starter will close the Start five minutes after the last grid. No craft may start after this time.
- 427 No craft is permitted upstream of the suspension bridge at the Northam start line at any time. Any offending competitor(s) may be disqualified.
- 428 The Clerk of Course reserves the right to delay the start for whatever reason, without notice. Times will be adjusted automatically. Minimum visibility for race start shall be 100m on all parts of the river
- 429 Day One Order of start is:
 - Power Craft start at 8.00 am
 - Paddle craft start 30 minute after the start of the last power craft grid (depending on water level and visibility, and determined by the Clerk of Course)
- 430 The Day Two order of start is:
 - Paddle craft start at 7.00 am
 - Power craft start at 12.00 pm
 - (Subject to change by Clerk of Course)
- 431 There will be an interval of 30 seconds between each Start Grid.

Power Craft Start Procedure

440 Competitors may not enter the water without properly wearing their motor kill switch lanyard, PFD, helmet and safety footwear.

Day One

441 Power craft will be permitted on the water 15 minutes prior to the Start.

442 Two power craft in each Start Grid.

443 The Day One Grid Allocation for Power Craft will be determined by the results of a Time Trial conducted on Sunday 19th July 2015.

444 **The Day One start order will be:**

Classes 1, 2 and 3 fastest first (regardless of class)

Day Two

450 Craft will start in accordance with the lowest elapsed time recorded on Day One irrespective of Class, fastest first.

451 Day Two start times and grid positions will be posted by approximately 5:00 pm on Saturday at the Information Centre at the Boral Cobbler Pool Campsite. Power craft will not be permitted on the water prior to the Start.

452 One power craft in each Start Grid.

453 The Day Two start order will be:

a. Fastest first at 12.00 pm (Subject to change by Clerk of Course)

b. All others follow on

454 All power craft must go through chicane at Garvey Park. Non adherence to the rule will incur a 10 minute time penalty.

Paddle Craft Start Procedure**Day One**

460 Paddle craft will start in Class number sequence.

461 Paddle craft in Classes 4 to 17 will be seeded on previous results assessed by officials.

462 The official start grid positions for Day One will be posted at Registration.

463 Paddle craft enter the water into the "Pre Start Area" immediately the first power craft grid starts.

464 Competitors will be advised by Marshals to form into their correct Start Grids and move towards the Start Line in Start Grid formation.

465 40 paddler craft on first grid then up to 20 paddle craft in each start grid starting 1 min apart, however this is subject to change by the Chief Clerk of Course.

Day Two

- 466 On Day Two, paddle craft will start fastest craft first irrespective of Class number.
- 467 Day Two start times and grid positions will be posted after the conclusion of racing on Saturday at the Timing Tent at the Boral Campsite Cobbler Pool.
- 468 Paddle craft may enter the water above the Start Line 15 minutes before the start time.
- 469 Four paddle craft in each Start Grid, 30 seconds apart.

Race Procedure**Timing**

- 490 A Competitor's elapsed time commences at their nominated start time (regardless of when they crossed the Start Line) and ceases when the bow of their craft crosses the Finish Line.
- 491 All paddle craft must pass through timing gates at the finish of each day.
- 492 If a Power Craft entrant wishes to carry out any work on their outboard motor in the Pit Area at Cobbler Pool, after they have completed the Day 1 course, they must inform the Scrutineer of their wish to do so. The Scrutineer will witness the work carried out and the time taken to do so will be added to the competitor's race time. All such work must be completed by 6pm on Day 1 of the event. No such work will be permitted on the morning of Day 2 of the event.

Time Claims

- 494 Claims for time lost in assisting other competitors will only be considered if the other competitors were in danger (this does not include mechanical breakdown, fuel shortage, lost support crew, etc.). Claims of this nature must be verified by the competitors assisted. A decision on whether or not to accept a time claim will be made the Clerk of Course (CoC) and the relevant CoC of the section involved and their decision is final and not subject to Protest.
- 495 Claims will be accepted only till 6.00 pm on Day One and within 30 minutes of the claimants finishing on Day Two.

Environmental Procedures

- 500 Participants in the Descent must not deliberately or carelessly commit any act that will adversely affect the environment.
- 501 Any competitor or support crew found littering will be subject to penalty. [See Penalties.](#)
- 502 The prescribed penalty under Rule 640, for any competitor or support crew found deliberately damaging flora or fauna (including felling of dead trees and the deliberate removal of branches from ti-trees in or around the campsite) will be imposed immediately.
- 503 Competitors and support crews are responsible for the cleanliness of their camping area.

- 504 Competitors and support crew must ensure that no litter is left at official refuelling points.
- 505 Navigable Waters Regulation 8 shall be complied with in relation to the disposal of litter in navigable waters.
- 506 All participants and support crews shall respect the rights of property owners prior to, during and after the Descent.
- 507 Competitors shall follow the directions of officials with respect to courses to be taken to avoid disturbing native fauna.
- 508 Penalties for breaches of the Environmental Procedures are listed in Penalties.

Refuelling

- 510 Fuelling of craft may only take place at the Start Line and Day 1 Pit Area (Cobbler Pool). Refuelling of Power Craft is NOT permitted during race time or on any part of the actual Race Course.

Portaging and Illegal Assistance

- 520 Portage of craft by competitors only is permitted.
- 521 Craft must not deviate more than 30 metres from the river proper.
- 522 No device to assist in portage is to be used unless it is carried in the craft throughout the Descent.
- 523 A competitor may not be accompanied along the course or assisted in any way by other paddle craft not entered in the Descent or by any vessel (e.g. runabout), except for safety reasons, as long as it does not impede other competitors. All assistance must be given from the bank.
- 524 A competitor may receive assistance from support crews on the river bank. Such assistance is limited to first aid services, provision of food, drink and clothes, replacement of faulty equipment, and help with repairs and may not cause their craft to be taken nearer the finish.
- 525 Assistance provided by members of the ASU in improving the safety of a competitor or the Descent shall not be deemed to be progressing the competitor.
- 526 In the event of capsize, a competitor may receive assistance with emptying the craft but may not be progressed in any way.
- 527 Competitors are encouraged to assist other competitors in an emergency situation. Competitors may assist other competitors at any time but may only claim for time lost in providing assistance in an emergency situation (see also Time Claims).

Practise (During Event)

- 528 Competitors may not practise at Cobbler Pool at the end of Day One.
- 529 Competitors are not permitted to travel more than 50 metres past the finish line on day one.

Speed Limits

- 530 All speed limits are lifted for competitors on the Swan/Avon Rivers for the duration of the event.
- 531 The Chicane on the Swan River at Garvey Park on Day 2 of the event must be negotiated by all Power Craft competitors. Craft choosing not to do so will incur a 10 minute time penalty which will be added to their overall race time.

Collisions

- 540 A competitor whose craft collides with another or damages the craft or equipment of another may be penalised. [See Penalties.](#)
- 541 Competitors involved in a collision must stop and determine if assistance is required.

Overtaking

- 550 It is the duty of the overtaking craft to keep clear of the craft being overtaken and not deliberately create a hazardous situation at any time during the manoeuvre.
- 551 The craft being overtaken shall not deliberately obstruct the overtaking craft
- 552 The craft being overtaken shall maintain its line.

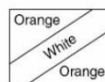
Flags

- 560 The following Official Flags are used in the Descent and their meanings must be complied with:

Red Flag: Stop. Do not proceed past this point.



Orange Flag: with White Diagonal Stripe: Caution to be used in this area obstruction ahead.



Black Flag: Disqualification. Leave the water immediately.



- 561 Support crews shall not use orange, red or pink flag material showing their Team Race Identification Number to wave down their craft. A black or white board may be used.

Checkpoints

- 571 Checkpoints will be identified by a large sign with the letter 'C' displayed in black.
- 572 Checkpoints will be attended by a Checkpoint Operator from Fremantle 4WD Club and a Radio Operation from West Coast Car Club communications team and Official Timing Crew.
- 573 Competitors passing Checkpoints should call out their Race Identification Number to ensure they are accurately recorded. Responsibility rests with competitors.
- 574 Competitors must follow the directions of Checkpoint Officials.
- 575 Penalties as described in Rule 640 apply to those who disobey or ignore directions of Checkpoint Officials.

Cut Off Times

580 Any craft that does not complete Day One cut off time will not be permitted to start on Day Two.

581 The following cut-off times shall apply (subject to change by the Chief Clerk of Course).

Power Craft Cut Off Times

582 **Day One** cut off times for power craft:

Northam Weir	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3 hr 45 min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5 hr 40 min
Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	When the first paddle craft reaches the checkpoint

583 **Day Two** cut off times for power craft:

Emu Falls Checkpoint	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Strong Hills Farm Checkpoint	Start + 2 hr 30 min
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	Start + 3 hr 30 min
Upper Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4 hr 30 min
Middle Swan Checkpoint	5.00pm

Paddle Craft Cut Off Times

584 **Day One** cut off times for paddle craft:

Northam Weir	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3 hr 45 min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5 hr 40 min
Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	Start + 6 hr 30 min
Ti Trees Checkpoint	4.00pm

585 **Day Two** cut off times for paddle craft:

Emu Falls Checkpoint	11.00am
Strong Hills Farm Checkpoint	12 noon
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	1.30pm
Upper Swan Checkpoint	2.30pm or when the first power craft passes Syd's Rapid (whichever is first)
Middle Swan Checkpoint	Between 3.30pm & 4.00pm – subject to DOT Marine Safety instructions & current weather conditions

- 586 Craft which have not passed nominated Checkpoints by a nominated time must leave the water at that Checkpoint and will be withdrawn from the Descent. That time is known as a cut-off time.
- 587 The Clerk of Course may alter cut-off times.
- 588 Two sweep boats will patrol the course. A sweep helicopter will also be engaged if water levels are deemed low (at the discretion of the Chief Clerk of Course).
- 589 Avon Support Unit (ASU) personnel are empowered to enforce cut-off times at any Checkpoint.
- 590 NADA reserves the right to test the physical condition of competitors at Middle Swan to assess ability to reach the finish line prior to cut-off time. A qualified medical physician will perform testing.
- 591 Any competitor who fails the physical test MUST withdraw at Middle Swan.

Withdrawals

- 600 Competitors withdrawing from the race should proceed to the next Checkpoint if possible. If not, proceed to the left bank of the river. At least one person should stay with the craft. If not able to wait for craft pick-up, leave some piece of equipment (e.g. helmet) that will be seen by the Craft Recovery Team.
- 601 Any competitor unable to continue in the Descent for any reason (fatigue, injury, disqualification, damage etc.) must comply with the following procedure:
- a. Report to an Official
 - b. Supply the information required by the Official
 - c. Sign the Withdrawal Form
 - d. If you are unable to report to an official, SMS "Withdrawn" and your "Race ID" to 0425958501.
- 602 Competitors withdrawing within the Avon Valley National Park will be transported by the Recovery Teams to the following locations:
- a. Cobbler Pool to Emu Falls - transported to Emu Falls Airstrip
 - b. Emu Falls to Bells Rapid - transport to Brigadoon Fire Station
- 603 Competitors withdrawn by an Official due to inability to make cut-off times as per Rule 582 - 585 and who do not leave the water will be penalised.
- [See Penalties](#). See Flags 640.
- 604 Competitors who remain on the water after such a direction in Rule 560 shall be deemed to be disqualified from the event. No responsibility will be accepted by NADA for competitors remaining on the water after disqualification.

Pit Areas

- 620 All craft must be placed in the designated Pit Area immediately after their completion of Day One. See Practise.
- 621 Once craft have been placed in this area, they must not be removed until the Starter declares that craft may enter the water on Day Two. Craft may be moved between the main Pit Area and the Power Tool Pit Area.
- 622 The fuel tank and/or propeller may be removed from the Pit Area.
- 623 Outboard motors must not be removed from the Pit Area.
- 624 The Pit Area will be closed at 6.00 pm on Saturday and no entry will be permitted after that time.
- 625 The Pit Area is floodlit and is patrolled by security personnel.
- 626 The use of cordless power tools to effect repairs in the General Pit Area is permitted. Repairs requiring supply power from a generator may only be carried out in the special area set aside for this purpose (the Power Tool Pit Area).
- 627 Competitors may carry out repairs to motors provided that the repair time is recorded by the Scrutineer. This repair time will be added to the competitor's overall elapsed time.
- 628 Removal of cowl tape, for either repair (as above) or inspection must be carried out by Scrutineer.
- 629 Waste fuel is to be discarded in the drums provided for that purpose.
- 630 Entry will be permitted to the Pit Area one hour prior to the start on Day Two.
- 631 Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are prohibited in the Power Tool Pit Area.
- 632 Smoking is prohibited in both Pit Areas.

Penalties

- 640 Breaches of these rules by competitors or support crew may result in a penalty as listed.

	BREACH	MAXIMUM PENALTY
1	Environmental damage (felling trees, branches, etc.)	Disqualification and cancellation/suspension of Competition Licence
2	Incorrect refuelling	Disqualification
3	Beach Landings (unless approved)	Disqualification
4	Failure to assist in an emergency situation	Disqualification and expulsion from PDRC or WCDRC
5	BAC > 0.00% or refusal to submit to a BAC test	Disqualification
6	Passing a checkpoint with an injury requiring medical attention	\$200.00 fine
7	Failure to notify an Official of withdrawal from the Descent	\$550.00 fine
	Failure to notify an Official of withdrawal resulting in a search	\$1000 fine and liable for search costs

8	Failure to leave the water after having been withdrawn by an Official	Disqualification and cancellation/suspension of Competition Licence
9	Abuse of an Official	\$110.00 fine
10	Failure to obey an official flag	Disqualification
11	Incorrect start procedure	5 minute penalty
12	Incorrect portage	5 minute penalty
13	Accepting illegal assistance	5 minute penalty
14	Non-compliance with technical specifications	Disqualification
15	Breach of rules during official practise	Ineligible to start the Descent
16	Unauthorised removal of craft from pit area	Disqualification
17	Offensive behaviour at any time by competitors or support crews during the Descent, Scrutineering, Time Trials, practise days or presentations	Ranging from monetary fine, time penalty or disqualification to the offending competitors or those associated with the offending Support Crew. If Disqualification is imposed, the competitors involved shall not be eligible to enter future events for 3 years
18	Incorrect declaration or deliberate misstatement on the entry form	Disqualification
19	Littering	\$110.00 fine
20	Failure to wear kill switch lanyard	\$110.00 fine and 15 minute penalty
21	Teams Support Crew unauthorised stopping on the Valley Road (i.e. stopping anywhere other than designated checkpoints)	10 minute time penalty
22	Power craft passing through an electronic timing gate	Disqualification
23	Any other breach not listed above	A penalty relative to the breach in line with the above, and determined by a panel appointed by the Board of NADA.
24	Damage to property of CWA or NADA, its contractors, suppliers, volunteers, associated clubs and those assisting with the event	Ranging from a monetary fine, time penalty or disqualification. The offending competitors or those associated with the offending Support Crew shall be liable for the cost of the repair or replacements.
25	Non-compliance with Rules 359-364	Ranging from a monetary fine, time penalty added to the Avon Descents Day 1 race time or ineligibility to start the Avon Descent
641	Monetary fines are payable to Northam's Avon Descent Association Inc.	

Protests

- 650 The right to protest lies solely with any competitor who may consider themselves aggrieved or affected by any decision, act or other person connected with Avon Descent except that there shall be no right protest against a refusal of entry or a judge of fact.
- 651 Persons aggrieved or affected are those who have gained a place or prize or stand to gain a place or prize.

- 652 Nothing in this rule shall affect or prejudice the right and duty of an official, acting in their official capacity, to take such action as they may deem proper in any circumstances regardless of whether a protest has been lodged.
- 653 Protests shall be in writing signed by the entrant, accompanied by the fee of \$110 and addressed to the Clerk of Course. Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to prevent the withdrawal of a protest before the hearing.
- 654 A Protest as to the validity of an entry or entrant shall be lodged not later than one hour prior to the start of the Descent. Protests of this nature shall be required to specify the details of such alleged ineligibility and shall not be accepted otherwise. Protests lodged under this section must be heard by a Protest Tribunal as per Rule 660 – 666 as applicable.
- 655 Protests against any mistake, irregularity or act to the prejudice of the Descent, or other matter occurring or becoming apparent while the Descent is taking place, shall be lodged as soon as possible after the occurrence but in any case not later than 30 minutes after the last craft has finished the Descent.
- 656 A Protest against the compilation of results or the decision of a race official that affects results (including a penalty applied to a Team) shall be lodged as soon as possible after the occurrence but in any case not later than 30 minutes after provisional results have been published or generally made known to competitors.
- 657 Protests arising out of post-race scrutineering must be lodged within 30 minutes of scrutineering results being announced.

Adjudication of Protests

- 660 Protests will be heard by a Protest Tribunal (Panel appointed by the Board of NADA).
- 661 No person may sit on a Protest Tribunal who may be directly concerned or involved in the matter under consideration. They will be replaced by a person appointed by Northam's Avon Descent Association Committee.
- 662 The hearing of protests shall take place as soon as practicable after the lodging of the Protest.
- 663 All parties affected or aggrieved shall be given adequate notice by the Controller of the relevant section of the time, date and place of the hearing of the protest. They shall be entitled to call witnesses, but shall state their case in person.
- 664 All parties affected or aggrieved by the decision of a Protest Tribunal shall be bound by the decision subject only to appeal as provided in these rules.
- 665 Unless otherwise decided by the Protest Tribunal for special reasons, the protest fee shall be forfeited if the protest is dismissed.
- 666 If a protest results in a motor being stripped and the protest is subsequently dismissed, the protest fee shall be awarded to the team whose motor has been stripped.

Appeals

- 667 Persons aggrieved or affected by the decision of a Protest Tribunal (competitors or officials) have the right to Appeal against the decision only.

- 668 An Appeal shall be in writing, signed by the appellant, accompanied by a fee of \$100 and delivered to the Chairperson of the Protest Tribunal within one hour of the decision. The Chairperson shall advise the Clerk of Course of the Appeal as soon as is practicable.
- 669 The details of the Appeal shall be lodged with the Clerk of Course within seven days of the decision of the protest tribunal.
- 670 After the lodging of an Appeal the Team aggrieved shall retain their position in the Event, including start grid position, pending the outcome of the Appeal.
- 671 An Appeal will be heard by an Appeal Tribunal selected by the Chairman of the board of NADA.
- 672 No person may sit on the Appeal Tribunal who may have already participated in a decision on the matter in question or who may directly or indirectly be concerned with it.
- 673 The hearing of an Appeal shall take place as soon as practicable after the decision of the Protest Tribunal.
- 674 All parties aggrieved or affected shall be given 14 days' notice by the Chairperson of the Appeal Tribunal of the time, date and place of the Appeal Hearing. They shall be entitled to call witnesses but shall state their case in person within 14 days.
- 675 It is incumbent on the Appellant to obtain details of the Protest Hearing from the Chairperson of the Protest Tribunal, if required.
- 676 The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final.
- 677 Unless otherwise decided by the Appeal Tribunal for special reasons the Appeal fee shall normally be forfeited if the Appeal is dismissed.

Results

- 680 Competitors/Teams must complete the entire distance on the course to be a legitimate finisher.
- 681 Results are provisional until after the completion of Post-Race Scrutineering and after all Protests and Appeals have been heard.