



2021 Event Rules

Northam's Avon Descent Association Inc.

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 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.

1.2 Background

The Avon River drains the Great Southern and Upper Great Southern regions, actually starting as a river near Wickepin. The Avon River is 300 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 River becomes the Swan River. Approximately 60% of the Swan River's flow is from the Avon River and the majority of the Avon River's flow is from the Dale River and other streams flowing from Darling Scarp. 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, passing 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.

1.3 The Challenge of a Wildwater Event

The Avon 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 the maze of the ti trees and rapids that will test the skills of all who attempt to navigate them.

1.4 What Craft Can Compete

The Avon Descent race is open to a range of power boats (up to 10hp), kayaks, skis and other paddle craft. Relay teams of two and four can also compete. Entry age restrictions apply. Short races are also held with a range of different craft and classes with their own rules.

1.5 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 need to provide evidence of competency as applicable for the discipline in which they intend to compete. Training courses are available from various commercial and club providers.

1.6 Overview

The Avon Descent starts in Northam, 100 km east of Perth, and proceeds downriver through the town of Toodyay into the upper reaches of the Darling Scarp. The finish of Day One is at the Cobbler Pool Campsite, West Toodyay. On Day Two competitors tackle the challenges of the Avon Valley that include features such as Supershoot, Emu Falls, Championship Rapids, Syds Rapids and Bells Rapids. After the rush of the valley competitors are further challenged with a gruelling 30 km flat water grind to the Finish Line at Bayswater. Finishing the Avon Descent is an achievement of which to be proud.

2 AUTHORITY

The Organising body of the Avon Descent is Northam's Avon Descent Association (Inc.) (NADA).

2.1 Directors

NADA is controlled by a Board of Directors who oversee the event in the lead up to event days. The Board of Directors is supported by a Management Panel consisting of key management personnel

2.2 Race Control Team

Control of the Avon Descent passes to the Race Control Team from 11:00 a.m. on the Friday before the Race Start to midnight Sunday

1. Race Director
2. Deputy Race Director – Kayaks
3. Deputy Race Director – Skis
4. Deputy Race Director – Power
5. Deputy Race Director – Rescue and Recovery

2.3 Rules

- 2.3.1 The Power Boat Category is conducted in accordance with the Competition Rules and Specifications of the Power Dinghy Racing Club (Inc.) (PDRC), available at www.dinghyracing.com.au.
- 2.3.2 The Canoe and Kayak Categories are conducted in accordance with the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Marathon Competition Rules and the Rules and Specifications within this document.
- 2.3.3 The Ski Category is conducted in accordance with ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules and, where applicable, the International Life Saving Ski Specifications.
- 2.3.4 The Ocean Racing Category is conducted in accordance with the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Ocean Racing Competition Rules, the Rules in this document and Specifications accompanying it.
- 2.3.5 The Stand Up Paddle Board Category is conducted in accordance with the International Canoe Federation (ICF) SUP Canoe Racing Competition Rules and the Rules in this document and Specifications accompanying it.
- 2.3.6 Should any discrepancy occur between these Rules and Specifications and those referred to in Rules 2.3.1 to 2.3.5 above, then these Rules will take precedence.
- 2.3.7 Avon Challenge races and other associated races occurring on the Avon Descent weekend may be subject to separate rules and exclusions as appended to this document.
- 2.3.8 During the Avon Descent the Race Director may make a ruling on any matter not specifically covered by the PDRC Competition Rules, the ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules, the Ski Rules, the ICF Ocean Racing Rules, the ICF SUP Canoe Racing Rules, or these Rules.
- 2.3.9 These Rules and accompanying Specifications may be amended from time to time.

3 THE COURSE

The Course is divided into nine Stages

Day 1	Shire of Northam to Cobbler Pool Campsite	52 kilometres
Stage 1	Shire 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 Cobbler Pool Campsite	11 kilometres
Overnight Stop		
Day 2	Boral Campsite to City of Bayswater	72 kilometres
Stage 5	Cobbler Pool Campsite to Emu Falls	8 kilometres
Stage 6	Emu Falls to Stronghills Farm	10 kilometres
Stage 7	Stronghills Farm to Bells Rapid	21 kilometres
Stage 8	Bells Rapid to Middle Swan	18 kilometres
Stage 9	Middle Swan to Bayswater Finish	15 kilometres

4 SAFETY

4.1 Wildwater – 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.
<i>Not encountered in the Avon Descent.</i>	
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.

* 'Pressure areas' refer to water piling up against rocks or other obstacles.

4.2 Safety Briefing

4.2.1 At least one member of each entry **must** attend the safety briefing at Pre Race Scrutineering and for Novices (see **6.1.3**) again in Northam prior to the start of the race. Evidence of attendance may be established and a penalty applied for non-attendance.

4.3 Collisions

4.3.1 A competitor whose craft deliberately or negligently collides with another or damages the craft or equipment of another may be penalised. See Penalties **10.21**.

4.3.2 Competitors involved in a collision must stop and determine if assistance is required prior to resuming racing. Failure to do so may result in penalty or disqualification. See Penalties **10.21**.

4.4 Overtaking

4.4.1 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.

4.4.2 The craft being overtaken must maintain its line and not deliberately obstruct the overtaking craft.

5 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 General

5.1.1 All entries must be made on the official online entry system via the Avon Descent website (www.avondescent.com.au)

5.1.2 Entry open and closing times will be published on the Avon Descent website.

5.1.3 Late Entry (dates per website) will incur a fee of \$120 per entry.

5.1.4 Amendments to entries will be accepted up until the close of Standard Entry at no charge. After that time all changes (subject to the discretion of NADA) must be made prior to Friday Registrations and will be subject to a \$50 administration fee.

5.1.5 NADA reserves the right to accept or reject any single entry or groups of entries.

5.1.6 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 order of receipt of entry fee payment.

5.1.7 By submission of the official entry form it is considered that competitors are aware of and accept the potentially dangerous nature of the course, have read and understood the Terms of Entry, Code of Conduct and the Event Rules and Specifications and are medically fit to participate.

5.1.8 All competitors must complete an Online Waiver form in order for their entry to be considered valid.

5.1.9 In Veteran/Masters Age Classes, in craft with more than one competitor, the age of the youngest competitor is the determining factor for eligibility.

5.1.10 In the Juniors and Under 23 Age Classes, in craft with more than one competitor, the age of the oldest competitor is the determining factor for eligibility.

5.2 Entry Fees

5.2.1 Entry fees will be published on the Avon Descent website when entries open.

5.2.2 The entry fee includes a support crew pass that provides access to various locations along the river course. Specific locations and access procedures are available on the website. Some locations (e.g. Walyunga National Park) are outside of the control of NADA.

5.2.3 The entry fee must accompany all entries and is not refundable. Any entry not accompanied by the applicable entry fee by race start is considered invalid.

- 5.2.4 Those with outstanding fines to NADA or their respective affiliated Associations or Clubs will not be permitted to enter the Avon Descent until all outstanding fines have been paid.

6 COMPETITORS

- 6.1.1 The minimum age of competitors competing in the full race is sixteen years at 31 December in the year of the Avon Descent, excepting circumstances described in Rules 6.3.1 - 6.3.3 inclusive.
- 6.1.2 A competitor under the age of eighteen years at the date of the Avon Descent must have written consent from a parent or legal guardian and explicit consent from NADA to participate.
- 6.1.3 A novice competitor refers to a competitor who has not previously competed in the Avon Descent or an event deemed by NADA to be of a similar or equivalent status and difficulty.
- 6.1.4 There must be at least two competitors in each Power Boat and in each Double Paddle Craft.
- 6.1.5 Competitors must meet the requirements of the Category/Class in which they are entered with respect to competency and fitness.
- 6.1.6 Each individual competitor in a Team or double craft must have evidence of competency as per Rule 6.3.3.

6.2 Eligibility to Participate - Power Boat

- 6.2.1 Power Boat competitors must have a current PDRC Competition Licence.
- 6.2.2 The minimum age of a powerboat competitor entering both days of the event is 17 years at 31 December in the year of the Avon Descent.
- 6.2.3 The minimum age for a Powercraft Short Race competitor (day one only) competitor is 14 years by the date of the Avon Descent.
- 6.2.4 To be eligible to enter the Avon Descent entrants must have competed in **two** of these qualifying events run by the Power Dinghy Racing Club in the year since the previous Avon Descent, OR
- 6.2.5 Competed in **one** of these qualifying events run by the Power Dinghy Racing Club in the year since the previous Avon Descent **and** two of the events in Error! Reference source not found. below
- a. Avon Descent Powercraft Time Trial
 - b. The official Practice Day (see section 9.5)

6.3 Eligibility to Participate – Paddlers (includes members of Relay Teams)

- 6.3.1 A Paddler under the age of seventeen years may enter the Avon Descent provided they:
- a. have attained the age of sixteen years at 31 December in the year of the Descent;
 - b. are a current member of Paddle Western Australia (Inc.), a member of a Surf Lifesaving Club affiliated with SLSA or are competing ONLY as part of the Avon Schools Challenge;
 - c. have their completed entry form endorsed by a director or similar person of their Association, Club or School as applicable, or by an Australian Canoeing Award System qualified instructor or accredited Surf Ski coach as applicable.
 - d. A parent or guardian has completed a Waiver on their behalf.
- 6.3.2 Paddle competitors competing in the 124km event are required to provide evidence of competency to participate.
- 6.3.3 Competency can be met through any one of the following:
- a. Recent Avon Descent experience – completion of both days of the Avon Descent within the previous five years.
 - b. An Australian Canoeing Award System course completion.

- c. Alternatively, the competitor may be signed off by a current qualified and suitable instructor who has deemed the competitor competent in all required proficiencies of the Safety Skills Assessment
- d. Completion of the Avon Descent Safety Skills Assessment – for participants who cannot provide other evidence (a, b, c) of safety competency. The Avon Descent Safety Skills assessment can be attained through NADA recommended paddle trainers, and is valid for three years.

6.3.4 Day One Only competitors will be required to meet safety competency requirements on a discretionary basis.

7 SUPPORT CREWS

7.1.1 Each entry must have a support crew and vehicle with at least one adult person.

7.1.2 The support crew vehicle must display the number of the craft it is supporting and the supplied support crew sticker on the **lower front right** corner of the windscreen of the support vehicle.

7.1.3 Motorbikes may not be used for support crew vehicles.

7.1.4 Each member of the support crew must know these Rules. Competitors may be penalised as per Section **10.21** if their support crew breaches these rules.

8 CATEGORIES AND CLASSES

Race ID No. Range	Category	Class - Craft		Class - Competitor
000-299	Power	10hp Sports		Family, Veteran
		10hp Standard		
		10hp Super Standard		
		Adventurer Class		
300 not used. 301 reserved for previous year winner. Race ID Nos follow on. Race ID Nos issued in order of entry received.	Kayak	Single Marathon Kayak		Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race
		Single Wildwater Kayak		
		Double Marathon Kayak		
		Double Wildwater Kayak		
	Canoe	Single Marathon Canoe		Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race
		Single Wildwater Canoe		
		Double Marathon Canoe		
		Double Wildwater Canoe		
Ski	Open Single Ski	Single Spec Composite	Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race	
	Open Double Ski	Double Spec Composite		
Recreational Paddle	Single Recreational		Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race	
	Double Recreational			
Ocean Racer	Ocean Racer Single		Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race	
	Ocean Racer Double			
Stand Up Paddleboard	Open Single SUP	Single 12' 6"	Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race	
		Single 14'		
Sundry Paddle Craft	Single Sundry		Male, Female, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters, Short Race	
	Double Sundry			
	Triple Sundry			
Paddle Relay	Team of 2		Male, Female, Mixed, Junior, U/23, Open, Veteran/Masters	
	Team of 4			

8.1 Age Classes

8.1.1 Open Age Class

8.1.2 The Open category is defined as having no age, gender, or craft class difference, or an age restriction difference within gender. For example, the winner of the Open Single Canoe/Kayak class is the single competitor who does the fastest time regardless of their age, gender or class of craft (i.e. can be wildwater or marathon). The winner of the Open Women's Single Canoe/Kayak class is the single female competitor who does the fastest time regardless of their age.

8.1.3 Junior Age Class

8.1.4 A junior competitor must have attained the age of 16 years on or before 31 December in the year of the Avon Descent and must be less than 18 years of age at that date.

8.1.5 Under 23 Age Class

8.1.6 An Under 23 competitor must have attained the age of 18 years on or before 31 December in the year of the Avon Descent and must be less than 23 years of age at that date.

8.1.7 Masters/Veteran Age Classes

8.1.8 A Masters competitor can compete in the Masters competitor age class in the year he or she reaches the lower limit of the applicable age class. For example, those in the 35+ age class may be as young as 34 on the day of competition as long as they are 35 years old by 31st December in the year of the Avon Descent

8.1.9 The Masters Age Class commences from age 35-39, increasing in 5 year increments, for example, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74.

8.1.10 Doubles and Mixed Gender Entries

8.1.11 Where two or more competitors are competing in a single craft, they are classified as a mixed gender entry.

8.1.12 In the instance of two or more competitors in a single craft, the age of the youngest competitor will determine the Masters/Veteran age class in which the crew can compete, or in the case of the Juniors and Under 23, the age of the oldest competitor will determine eligibility. Both competitors must meet the age criteria.

8.1.13 A minimum of three competitors must start in an Age Class for it to be recognised in final competition results.

8.1.14 If the number of competitors in a given age class is less than the minimum required to constitute the Age Class then the next class in the hierarchy will be added to the Age Class. For example, if there are only two competitors in the 35-39 Age Class and three competitors in the 40-44 Age Class then for results purposes the three competitors in the 40-44 Age Class are added to the 35-39 Age Class to constitute that Class. The 40-44 Age Class remains unchanged as it meets the minimum requirement of three competitors.

9 PRE EVENT PROCEDURES

9.1 Scrutineering of Craft and Equipment

- 9.1.1 The date of Pre-Race Scrutineering will be as advertised on the website.
- 9.1.2 Craft and equipment will be checked for compliance with the Specifications.
- 9.1.3 Pre-Race Scrutineering is compulsory for all entries but see Rule 9.1.9 below.
- 9.1.4 The Scrutineer is a 'judge of fact' and a protest may not be made against their decision.
- 9.1.5 Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) may be tested for buoyancy and construction. An Avon Descent 'pass tag' will be attached. Paddle Competitors only.
- 9.1.6 Department of Transport (DoT), Marine Safety staff will check for compliance with DoT regulations.
- 9.1.7 Craft that fail Pre Race Scrutineering must be re-scrutineered prior to the start of the Avon Descent. See Rule 9.2.
- 9.1.8 Competitors may be required to submit their craft for scrutineering during the Avon Descent, if deemed necessary, and if this occurs during 'race time' their elapsed time will be adjusted to reflect their time 'off the water'.
- 9.1.9 Interstate/overseas and entrants living more than 200 kilometres from the Perth GPO may apply for alternate Scrutineering arrangements.

For Power Boat entrants arrangements must be made with the PDRC Scrutineer

<http://www.dinghyracing.com.au/contact-page-1/>

For Paddle Craft entrants arrangements must be made with Avon Descent Sporting department.

- 9.1.10 Those who fail to attend Pre-race Scrutineering, and do not have a valid reason for doing so will be subject to a **\$100 administrative fee**.

9.2 Re-Scrutineering

- 9.2.1 Competitors whose equipment fails Pre Race Scrutineering have the opportunity to rectify the issue up to 8:00 p.m. at Friday Registrations in Northam.
- 9.2.2 Competitors who fail Pre Race Scrutineering cannot place craft in the Start Marshalling Area at Northam until re-scrutineering is complete.
- 9.2.3 The original scrutineering checklist must be produced to the Scrutineer.
- 9.2.4 Failure to provide the original scrutineering checklist will require a complete re-scrutineering of PFDs and helmets at additional competitor expense.

9.3 Sponsors Advertising

- 9.3.1 Major sponsors' stickers (if supplied) are 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.
- 9.3.2 Stickers from previous Avon Descents must be removed prior to the commencement of each year's event.

9.4 Rivals

- 9.4.1** Logos or promotional material of companies deemed by NADA 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. Areas include the entire course, Northam Start Line, the Bayswater Finish Line including the stage and beach landing areas.
- 9.4.2** Contravention of this ruling may be grounds for disqualification of the offending competitor.
- 9.4.3** Applications in writing for a waiver of Rule **9.4.1** can be made to NADA prior to close of entry date. Waiver approval must be produced by competitors at scrutineering. NADA recognises the need for support sponsorship and requests will be treated fairly.

9.5 Practice Days

9.6 Power Craft

- 9.6.1** Participation in the Practice Days is the responsibility of the entrant and is undertaken at their own risk.
- 9.6.2** Practice Weekend Dates, Times and Locations will be published on the Avon Descent website
- 9.6.3** Power Boats must not go upstream of Peel Terrace Bridge during Practice Days.
- 9.6.4** Participants must avoid travel in the upstream direction during practice. Upstream travel under Katrine Bridge is not permitted.

9.7 Paddle Craft

- 9.7.1** Paddle Craft entrants paddling in the practice areas outlined in Rule **9.6** during allocated Power Boat times are subject to penalty at the discretion of the Race Director.

9.8 Illegal Practise/Access

- 9.8.1** Entrants practising in the areas described in Rule **9.6** outside the timeframe allocated to their Category may be penalised. See Penalties **10.21**.
- 9.8.2** 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 also face a penalty. See Penalties **10.21**.
- 9.8.3** For the purpose of Rules **9.8.1** and **9.8.2**, any craft on the water is deemed to be practising.
- 9.8.4** Support crews/entrants may not use the access road through the Avon Valley between Cobbler Pool and Bells Rapid on Practice Days.
- 9.8.5** All Power Boat participants practising must be entered in the Avon Descent and wear full race attire as per PDRC Competition Rules and Specifications. Non-compliance will result in a penalty under these Rules.
- 9.8.6** A Power Boat used for practice does not have to be entered in the Avon Descent but must be in a condition that would pass scrutineering as per PDRC Competition Rules and Specifications and be in compliance with DoT regulations.

9.9 Registration

- 9.9.1** At least one member of each entry must attend Friday Registrations in Northam.
- 9.9.2** Competitors may not start until they are registered. (Note: Competitors cannot be registered after Friday Registrations has closed)
- 9.9.3** Dates and times for Registrations and the Start Marshalling Area will be published on the Avon Descent Website.
- 9.9.4** Competitors must confirm their start grid number at Registration. Grids will also be available online prior to event start

9.10 Start Marshalling Area

- 9.10.1** Once registered, competitors must move their craft to the Start Marshalling Area.
- 9.10.2** Craft not in the Start Marshalling Area by 10:00 p.m. Friday of the event Weekend will not be permitted to start.

10 CONDUCT OF THE RACE

10.1 Competitors

- 10.1.1** Non-registered competitors may not be substituted for a registered competitor during the Avon Descent.
- 10.1.2** Competitors must not act in a manner detrimental to the performance of another competitor (for example ramming of craft) or the environment (for example deliberate removal of branches).
- 10.1.3** Competitors must not damage, remove or modify any material or equipment provided by NADA for the duration of the Avon Descent (for example removing signs and/or star pickets).
- 10.1.4** Competitors must wear an approved PFD and helmet at all times when on the water, both during Practice Days and in the Avon Descent.
- 10.1.5** 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 must submit to such a test when requested. A competitor who refuses to submit to such a test will face a penalty. See Penalties **10.21**.
- 10.1.6** Competitors' blood alcohol level must be 0.00% during the period from 30 minutes prior to the start of competition until completion or withdrawal on each day.

10.2 Power Craft Competitors

- 10.2.1** At all times competitors are on the water they must properly wear their outboard motor kill switch lanyard, PFD, helmet and safety footwear. 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 outboard motor in the Pit Area).

10.3 Team Relay Competitors

- 10.3.1** Competitors in the Relay Team Category complete the Avon Descent relay style as part of a paddle team.
- 10.3.2** Team Relay competitors may use any type of paddlecraft that has passed Pre-Race Scrutineering.

Use of unauthorised craft will be subject to penalty or disqualification.
- 10.3.3** Only one craft from each Team entry may be on the water at any given time.
- 10.3.4** There is a maximum of one boat per competitor in a team.
- 10.3.5** Team Relay competitors are required to change only at the designated changeover points.
- 10.3.6** Paddle Relay Teams are classified according to the number of competitors in a team and the number of competitors in a boat.
- 10.3.7** Team Relay competitors must wear the Team Identifier (if provided) at all times while on the water.

10.4 Support Crews

- 10.4.1 Support crew entering the water must wear a personal floatation device (PFD).
- 10.4.2 Only support crew issued with a Valley Pass will be permitted access to the Valley Road.
- 10.4.3 Only Team Relay support crews issued with a Valley Pass may have vehicle access to Bells Rapids.

10.5 Start Procedure

- 10.5.1 The Day One Start is at Northam. The Day Two Start is at Cobbler Pool Campsite, West Toodyay.
- 10.5.2 The start signal will be both visual and audible.
- 10.5.3 Any craft observed by the Starter to cross the start line prior to their designated start time will be penalised 5 minutes plus the infringement period applied by the Starter.
- 10.5.4 A competitor who has failed to start in their correct grid may start at any time thereafter but will be recorded as having started in their nominated start grid.
- 10.5.5 For safety reasons, the Starter will close the Start five minutes after the last grid. No craft may start after this time.
- 10.5.6 No craft is permitted upstream of the suspension bridge at the Northam Start Line at any time. Any offending competitor(s) may be disqualified.
- 10.5.7 The Race Director reserves the right to delay the start for whatever reason, without notice.
- 10.5.8 As a guide, the minimum visibility to allow a race start will be 100 metres on all parts of the river.

10.6 Order of Start

10.6.1 The Day One order of start is:

- a. Power Boats start at 8:00 a.m.
- b. Paddle Craft start at 8:30 a.m.

10.6.2 The Day Two order of start is:

- a. Paddle Craft in fastest first order regardless of Category start at 7:00 a.m.
 - b. Sundry Paddle Craft start 5 minutes after the last Paddle Craft grid.
 - c. Power Boats start at 12:00 p.m.
- (Subject to change by the Race Control Team)

10.7 Power Boat Start Procedure

10.7.1 Day One

- a. The Day One start grids will be determined by the results of the Avon Descent Powercraft Time Trial.
- b. Power Boats will be permitted on the water 15 minutes prior to the Start.
- c. Two Power Boats in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds.

10.7.2 Day Two

- a. Power Boats start from the bank and are not permitted on the water prior to the Start.
- b. Power Boats will start in accordance with the lowest elapsed time recorded on Day One irrespective of Class, fastest first.
- c. One Power Boat in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds.
- e. Day Two start grids will be posted on Saturday at the end of Day One.

10.8 Paddle Craft Start Procedure

10.8.1 The Paddle craft start and grid procedure will be published on the website prior to the event.

10.8.2 Grids may be re-allocated the discretion of NADA.

10.8.3 The Rules, Times and Locations for Paddler Qualifying or Seeding races will be published on the Avon Descent website ahead of the event.

10.8.4 Day One

- a. The start grid positions for Day One will be posted at Registration and available online.
- b. Some grids may contain multiple Categories/Classes of craft.
- c. Paddle Craft enter the water into the Pre Start Area immediately after the first Power Boat grid starts.
- d. Competitors will be 'rafted' into their correct start grids by Marshals and move towards the Start Line in start grid formation.
- e. Eight to 12 Paddle Craft in each start grid.
- f. One grid every 60 seconds.

10.8.5 Day Two

- a. Day Two start times and grid positions will be posted on the Avon Descent website after the conclusion of racing on Saturday.
- b. On Day Two, Paddle Craft start fastest craft first irrespective of Category/Class (except Sundries).
- c. Paddle Craft may enter the water above the Start Line 15 minutes before the start time.
- d. Four Paddle Craft in each Start Grid.
- e. One grid will start every 60 seconds.

10.9 Timing

10.9.1 A craft's elapsed time commences at its nominated start time (regardless of when it crossed the Start Line) and ceases when the bow of the craft crosses the Finish Line.

10.9.2 All Paddle Craft must pass through timing gates at the finish of each day to receive a recorded time.

10.9.3 If a Power Boat entrant wishes to carry out any work on their outboard motor in the Cobbler Pool Campsite Pit Area, after they have completed the Day One course, they must inform the Scrutineer. The Scrutineer will nominate a time for the work to be performed and the time taken to do so will be added to the competitor's race time. All such work must be completed by 6:00 p.m. on Day One of the event. No such work will be permitted on the morning of Day Two of the event.

10.9.4 All Power Boats must go through the chicane (marked by buoys) at Garvey Park. Non adherence to this rule will incur a 10 minute time penalty.

10.10 Time Claims

10.10.1 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, or similar). 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 by the Race Director and the relevant Division Deputy Race Director. Their decision is final and not subject to Protest.

10.10.2 Claims will be accepted only until 6:00 p.m. on Day One and within 30 minutes of the claimant's finishing on Day Two.

10.11 Environmental Management

- 10.11.1** Participants in the Avon Descent must not deliberately or carelessly commit any act that will adversely affect the environment. Competitor or support crew must not deliberately damage flora or fauna, including felling of dead trees and the deliberate removal of branches from trees in or around the Cobbler Pool Campsite.
- 10.11.2** Competitors or support crews littering will be subject to penalty. See Penalties **10.21**.
- 10.11.3** Competitors and support crews are responsible for the cleanliness of their camping area at Cobbler Pool Campsite.
- 10.11.4** Competitors and support crews must ensure that no litter is left at official refuelling points.
- 10.11.5** The disposal of litter in navigable waters must be in compliance with Navigable Waters Regulation 8.
- 10.11.6** Competitors and support crews must respect the rights of property owners prior to, during and after the Avon Descent.
- 10.11.7** Competitors must follow the directions of officials with respect to courses to be taken to avoid disturbing native fauna.
- 10.11.8** NADA officials have the right to immediately evict any intoxicated competitor, support crew or spectator from the event. NADA will not be held liable for any costs associated with the eviction of any person.

10.12 Refuelling

- 10.12.1** Fuelling of craft may take place only at the Northam Start Line and Day One Pit Area at Cobbler Pool.
- 10.12.2** Refuelling of Power Craft is **NOT** permitted during race time or on any part of the actual race course.
- 10.12.3** Water-contaminated outboard fuel must be carefully and safely transferred to a waste fuel drum located inside the Pit Area.

10.13 Portaging and Illegal Assistance

- 10.13.1** Portage of craft is permitted by competitors only. No external assistance other than rescue is permitted. This does not apply to anyone officially entered as a disabled competitor.
- 10.13.2** Craft must not deviate more than 30 metres from the river proper.
- 10.13.3** No device to assist in portage is to be used unless it is carried in the craft throughout the Avon Descent.
- 10.13.4** A competitor may not be accompanied along the course or assisted in any way by other craft not entered in the Avon Descent.
- 10.13.5** 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.
- 10.13.6** Assistance provided by members of the ADSU in improving the safety of a competitor or the Avon Descent will not be deemed to be progressing the competitor.
- 10.13.7** In the event of capsize, a competitor may receive assistance with emptying the craft but may not be progressed in any way.
- 10.13.8** 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).

10.14 Practice (During Event)

- 10.14.1** Competitors may not practice at Cobbler Pool at the end of Day One.
- 10.14.2** Competitors are not permitted to travel more than 50 metres past the finish line on Day One.

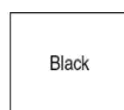
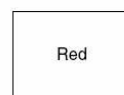
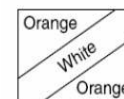
10.15 Speed Limits

10.15.1 All speed limits are lifted for competitors on the Swan/Avon Rivers for the duration of the Avon Descent.

10.16 Flags

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

- a. **Orange Flag:** with White Diagonal Stripe: Caution to be used in this area, obstruction ahead.
- b. **Red Flag:** Stop. Do not proceed past this point.
- c. **Black Flag:** Disqualification. Leave the water immediately.



10.16.2 Support crews must 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.

10.17 Checkpoints

10.17.1 Checkpoints will be identified by a large checkered sign with "Checkpoint" displayed.

10.17.2 Competitors passing Checkpoints should call out their Race Identification Number to ensure they are accurately recorded. Responsibility rests with competitors.

10.17.3 Competitors must follow the directions of Checkpoint Officials. Competitors who disobey or ignore the directions of Checkpoint Officials may be penalised. See Penalties **10.21**.

10.18 Pit Area

10.18.1 All craft must be placed in the designated Pit Area immediately after their completion of Day One. See Practice.

10.18.2 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.

10.18.3 The fuel tank and/or propeller may be removed from the Pit Area.

10.18.4 Outboard motors must not be removed from the Pit Area.

10.18.5 The Pit Area will be closed at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, no entry will be permitted after that time. The Pit Area will be patrolled by security personnel.

10.18.6 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 Power Tool Pit Area.

10.18.7 Competitors may carry out repairs to motors in accordance with Rule **10.9.3**.

10.18.8 Removal of cowl tape, for either repair (as above) or inspection must be carried out by the Scrutineer.

10.18.9 Waste fuel is to be discarded in the drums provided for that purpose.

10.18.10 Entry will be permitted to the Pit Area one hour prior to the start on Day Two.

10.18.11 Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are prohibited in both the main Pit Area and the Power Tool Pit Area.

10.19 Cut Off Times

10.19.1 Any craft that does not complete Day One by the cut off time will not be permitted to start on Day Two. The Race Director may alter cut-off times if deemed necessary.

10.19.2 For powercraft, **Start** refers to the start time of the first powercraft grid (e.g. 8:00 a.m. on Saturday)

For paddlecraft, **Start** refers to the start time of the first paddlecraft grid (e.g. 8:30 a.m. on Saturday)

Cut Off times are the same for all competitors regardless of grid.

10.19.3 Power Craft Cut Off Times

10.19.4 Day One:

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

10.19.5 Day Two:

Emu Falls Checkpoint	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Stronghills Farm Checkpoint	Start + 2 hr 30 min
Syds Rapids Checkpoint	4:15 p.m.
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	4:30 p.m.
Upper Swan Checkpoint	4:45 p.m.
Middle Swan Checkpoint	5:00 p.m.

10.19.6 Paddle Craft Cut Off Times

10.19.7 Day One:

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	4:00 p.m.

10.19.8 Day Two:

Emu Falls Checkpoint	11:00 a.m.
Stronghills Farm Checkpoint	12:00 p.m.
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	1:30 p.m.
Upper Swan Checkpoint	2:30 p.m. or when the first Power Boat passes Syds Rapid (whichever is first)
Middle Swan Checkpoint	3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. subject to DoT Marine Safety instructions and current weather conditions

- 10.19.9** Craft that have not passed a Checkpoint by a nominated cut off time will be withdrawn and must leave the water at that Checkpoint.
- 10.19.10** Avon Descent Support Unit (ADSU) personnel are empowered to enforce cut-off times at any Checkpoint.
- 10.19.11** 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 in such instances. Any competitor who fails the physical test must withdraw at Middle Swan.
- 10.19.12** A sweep boat will patrol the course to verify clearance of craft from the water.

10.20 Withdrawals

- 10.20.1** 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 (for example, helmet) that will be seen by the ADSU Recovery Team.
- 10.20.2** Any competitor unable to continue in the Avon Descent for any reason (fatigue, injury, disqualification, damage) must:
- 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 No. to the emergency number provided at the Safety Briefing.
 - e. Competitors must make every reasonable effort to continue to advise their withdrawal until confirmation by an official is received. The name of the official must be confirmed with the withdrawing competitor.
- 10.20.3** Competitors withdrawing within the Avon Valley National Park will be transported by Recovery Teams to key designated withdrawal locations available in the competitor guide and website.

10.21 Penalties

- 10.21.1** Breaches of these rules by Competitors or Support Crew may result in a penalty as **listed in Appendix 1** at the end of this document.
- 10.21.2** Monetary fines are payable to Northam's Avon Descent Association Inc.

10.22 Protests

- 10.22.1 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 of protest against a refusal of entry or a judge of fact.
- 10.22.2 Persons aggrieved or affected are those who have gained a place or prize or stand to gain a place or prize.
- 10.22.3 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.
- 10.22.4 Protests shall be in writing signed by the entrant, accompanied by the fee of \$120 and addressed to the Race Director. Nothing in these Rules shall be deemed to prevent the withdrawal of a protest before the hearing.
- 10.22.5 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 Avon 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 Rules **10.23.1 - 10.23.7** as applicable.
- 10.22.6 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.
- 10.22.7 A Protest against the compilation of results or the decision of a race official that affects results 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.
- 10.22.8 Protests arising out of post-race scrutineering must be lodged within 30 minutes of scrutineering results being announced.

10.23 Adjudication of Protests

- 10.23.1 Protests will be heard by a Protest Tribunal appointed by the Board of NADA.
- 10.23.2 No person may sit on a Protest Tribunal who may be directly concerned or involved in the matter under consideration.
- 10.23.3 The hearing of protests shall take place as soon as practicable after the lodging of the Protest.
- 10.23.4 All parties affected or aggrieved shall be given adequate notice by the relevant Deputy Race Director 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.
- 10.23.5 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.
- 10.23.6 Unless otherwise decided by the Protest Tribunal for special reasons, the protest fee shall be forfeited if the protest is dismissed.
- 10.23.7 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.

10.24 Appeals

- 10.24.1 Persons aggrieved or affected by the decision of a Protest Tribunal (competitors or officials) have the right to Appeal against the decision only.
- 10.24.2 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 of the Protest Tribunal shall advise the Race Director of the Appeal as soon as is practicable.
- 10.24.3 The details of the Appeal shall be lodged with the Race Director within seven days of the decision of the protest tribunal.

- 10.24.4** 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.
- 10.24.5** An Appeal will be heard by an Appeal Tribunal selected by the Chairperson of the board of NADA.
- 10.24.6** 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.
- 10.24.7** The hearing of an Appeal shall take place as soon as practicable after the decision of the Protest Tribunal.
- 10.24.8** 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.
- 10.24.9** It is incumbent on the Appellant to obtain details of the Protest Hearing from the Chairperson of the Protest Tribunal, if required.
- 10.24.10** The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final.
- 10.24.11** Unless otherwise decided by the Appeal Tribunal for special reasons the Appeal fee shall normally be forfeited if the Appeal is dismissed.

10.25 Results

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

10.26 Post-Race Scrutineering

- 10.26.1** Class place winning craft will be impounded for scrutineering immediately after the Avon Descent and may not be removed from the scrutineering compound until approval has been granted from the scrutineer.
- 10.26.2** 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.
- 10.26.3** One representative from each craft must be present at Post Race Scrutineering.

11 RESULTS/PRIZES

- 11.1.1** Prizes will be awarded to those who successfully complete the Avon Descent and pass Post Race Scrutineering.
- 11.1.2** Only those prizes identified in the official prize list will be awarded.
- 11.1.3** Prizes will be awarded to competitors in order of lowest elapsed race time as measured by the Official Timekeeper subject to Rules **11.1.5 –11.1.12**.
- 11.1.4** 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.
- 11.1.5** 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, five or more craft eligible to win the prize must start in a Class.
 - b. In order for First, Second and Third place trophies and/or certificates to be awarded, five or more craft eligible to win the prize must start.
- 11.1.6** NADA at its discretion may constitute one or more Female classes in the event that there are fewer than five eligible entries and to award Trophies and prizes to these classes as per standard Class awarding rules.
- 11.1.7** A competitor may win more than one trophy or certificate.

- 11.1.8 Where a competitor(s) wins more than one sub-Class within the Class, they will receive the greater cash award and gifts only and forgo the lower cash prize and gifts.
- 11.1.9 Where a competitor(s) wins a place in another Class the cash prize and goods component of that other Class will lapse and will not be awarded.
- 11.1.10 Merchandise, trophies and certificates cannot be converted to cash.
- 11.1.11 Competitors who complete the full 124km Avon Descent shall receive a full distance medallion. Competitors who complete the Avon Descent in a Relay Team receive Team medallions.
Short race competitors shall receive a separate short race finish medallion.
- 11.1.12 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.

11.2 Presentation Ceremony

- 11.2.1 Trophies for first place in each constituted Class may be presented at a Presentation Ceremony at the Bayswater Finish on the Sunday (if held), other placements may be awarded subject to time allowances. Trophies not awarded will be made available for collection after the ceremony.

12 APPENDIX 1 – DESIGNATED PENALTIES

	BREACH	MAXIMUM PENALTY
1	Environmental damage (felling trees, branches).	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.
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 Avon 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 practice.	Not eligible to start.
16	Unauthorised removal of craft from pit area.	Disqualification.
17	Offensive behaviour at any time by competitors or support crews during the Avon Descent, Scrutineering, Time Trial, practice 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 entry declaration or deliberate misstatement.	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 (anywhere other than designated checkpoints).	10 minute time penalty.
22	Damage to property of 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.