



2026 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 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 tea trees and rapids that will test the skills of all who attempt to navigate them.

1.4 What Craft Can Compete

The Avon Descent is open to a range of power boats (up to 10hp), minijets, kayaks, skis, SUP's and other paddle craft. Relay teams of two and four can also compete. Entry age restrictions apply.

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 kilometres 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 Super-shoot, 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 Organiser of the Avon Descent is Northam’s Avon Descent Association (Inc.) (NADA).

2.1 Directors

NADA is controlled by a Board of Directors: Positions may include but not limited to

- Chairman
- Director, Finance
- Director, Sport
- Director, Logistics, Info & Comms
- Director, Risk Management
- Director, Marketing & Media
- Director, Governance

2.2 Officers

The Officers of the Association may include:

- Event Manager
- Avon Descent Support Unit Manager
- Volunteer Manager
- Chief Marshal/s
- Secretary

2.3 Race Control Team

Control of the Avon Descent passes to the Race Control Team from 12.00 noon on the Friday before the Race Start to midnight of day 2, Sunday.

- Race Director
- Deputy Race Director – Power Dingy
- Deputy Race Director – Mini Jets
- Deputy Race Director – Paddle
- Deputy Race Director – Rescue and Recovery

The Team may also consult:

- Director of Sport
- Director of Risk Management

2.4 Rules

- 2.4.1 The Power Boat Category is conducted in accordance with the most current Competition Rules and Specifications of the Power Dinghy Racing Club (Inc.) (PDRC).
- 2.4.2 The Canoe and Kayak Categories are conducted in accordance with the Avon Descent Rules and any reference to ICF rules will be as a guide to differentiate craft type only.
- 2.4.3 The Ski Category are conducted in accordance with the Avon Descent Rules and any reference to ICF rules will be as a guide to differentiate craft type only.
- 2.4.4 The Stand-Up Paddle Board Category is conducted in accordance with the most current International Canoe Federation (ICF) SUP Canoe Racing Competition Rules and the Rules in this document and Specifications accompanying it.
- 2.4.5 The Mini Jet category is conducted in accordance with the most current Competition Rules and Specifications of Mini Jet WA Inc.
- 2.4.6 Should there be any discrepancy between these Rules and Specifications and those referred to in Rules 2.4.1 to 2.4.5 above, then these Rules will take precedence.
- 2.4.7 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.
- 2.4.8 During the Avon Descent the Race Director may make a ruling on any matter not specifically covered in the rules and in consultation with Race Control Team.
- 2.4.9 These Rules and accompanying Specifications may be amended from time to time.

3 The Course

The Course is divided into nine Stages

Day 1	Northam to Cobbler Pool Campsite		52 kilometres
	Stage 1	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	Cobbler Pool 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 Notice of safety issues related to the event will be highlighted and distributed in a variety of communication methods and it is the responsibility of the competitor and their support crews to make themselves familiar with the content.

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 10.23.
- 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 10.23.

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 Earlybird (if it applies) and Standard Entry closures will be notified on the Avon Descent Website and will be subject to the effects of water levels. Late Entries received after the notified entry closure will incur a late fee as determined by NADA.
- 5.1.3 Given special circumstances, a late entry in rule 5.1.2 may be considered by the Race Control and Event Management Teams and the subsequent fee may also be waived.
- 5.1.4 Amendments to entries will be accepted up until the close of Standard Entry at no charge. After this time all changes (subject to the discretion of NADA) must be made prior to Registration and will be subject to an 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 Event Waiver form in order for their entry to be considered valid.

5.2 Entry Fees

- 5.2.1 Entry fees will be published on the Avon Descent website on the day entries open.
- 5.2.2 The entry fee includes a fully inclusive support crew pass for one vehicle that provides free entry to Day One Finish, Bells Rapid, Bayswater Finish Line and areas under the control of NADA. Please note: Fees that apply at other locations (e.g., Walyunga National Park) are not under the control of NADA and entry to these locations is not included in the entry fee.
- 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 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 or Mini Jet Boat

6.2.1 Power Boat competitors must have a current Power Dinghy Racing Club Competition Licence.

6.2.2 The minimum age of a power boat 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 an Avon Power Challenge (day one only) competitor is 14 years by the date of the Avon Descent as long as the second boat participant meets the criteria in 6.2.2.

6.2.4 Members who have not previously competed in the Avon Descent will be required to:

- compete in two official Power Dinghy Racing Club events in the current calendar year; or
- participate in ALL three events below (A, B, and C):
 - a) Participate in a recognised Power Dinghy Racing Club Training Day
 - b) Compete in the Official Avon Descent Time Trial Event (within two weekends prior to the Event weekend).
 - c) Participate in the Official Avon Descent practice weekend in the pre-determined allocated time.

NOTE. If you compete in one Power Dinghy Racing Club event prior to the Avon Descent, then you will need to complete only two of A, B, or C.

6.2.5 Mini Jet Boat competitors must comply with all the rules contained in the Mini Jet WA Rules and Specifications. Mini Jet WA Rules that conflict with those of the NADA race rules will not be considered and the NADA rules will apply.

6.2.6 Mini Jet competitors must have a current Mini Jet WA Competition Licence.

6.2.7 The minimum age of a Mini Jet competitor entering both days of the event is 17 years at 31 December in the year of the Avon Descent.

6.2.8 Members who have not previously competed in the Avon Descent will be required to:

- compete in two official Mini Jet WA events in the current calendar year; or
- participate in ALL three events below (A, B, and C):
 - a) Participate in a recognised Mini Jet WA Training Day prior to the Official Avon Descent Time Trial.
 - b) Compete in the Official Avon Descent Time Trial.
 - c) Participate in the Official Avon Descent practice day(s) and as permitted by the Race Director and Director, Sport.

NOTE. Competing in one Mini Jet WA event prior to the Avon Descent means that completion of only two of A, B, or C is required.

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;
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 an Avon Challenge event. Challenge;
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.
 - b. A parent or guardian has completed a Waiver on their behalf.
- 6.3.2 Paddlers over the age of seventeen years and competing in the two-day 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 appropriate Paddle Australia qualification.
 - 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 at the discretion of the Race Control Team

7 Support Crews

- 7.1.1 Each entry must have a support crew with 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 are not to be used for support crew vehicles.
- 7.1.4 Each member of the support crew must know the Rules. Competitors may be penalised as per Section 10.23 if their support crew breaches the Rules.

8 Categories and Classes

Race ID No. Range	Category	Class - Craft	Class - Competitor
000-299	Power Outboard	10hp Sports	Two eligible competitors
		10hp Standard	
		10hp Super Standard	
Allocated	Mini Jet	Novice–Speed Restricted 55km/hr	Two eligible competitors
		Expert – Speed Restricted 65km/hr	
Race ID Numbers will be provided and commence from the number 301	Composite Kayak	Single Kayak	Male, Female
		Single Wildwater Kayak – As per Specifications	
	Sit in	Double Kayak	Male, Female, Mixed
	Composite Canoe	Single Marathon Canoe	Male, Female
		Single Wildwater Canoe – As per Specifications	
	Sit in	Double Canoe	Male, Female, Mixed
		Double Wildwater Canoe – As per Specifications	
	Composite Ski	Open Single Ski	Male, Female
		Sit on top	Open Double Ski
	Plastic Ski or Kayak/Canoe	Single – Plastic	Male, Female
Double – Plastic		Male, Female, Mixed	
Stand Up Paddleboard	Open Single SUP	Male, Female	
Sundry Paddle Craft	Single Sundry - Subject to capability and safety	Male, Female	

		Double Sundry – Subject to capability and safety	Male, Female
		Other Sundry – Subject to capability and safety	Male, Female,
	Paddle Relay	Team of 2 Ski and/or Kayak	Male Team, Female Team, A female in a male team is a male team
		Team of 4 Ski and/or Kayak	

Refer to Rule 11.1.5 for craft numbers in each category to qualify for finish awards.

8.1 Age Classes

- 8.1.1 Doubles and Mixed Gender Entries: where two or more competitors are competing in a single craft, they are classified as a mixed gender entry.
- 8.1.2 A minimum of three competitors must start in an Age Class for it to be recognised in final competition results.

8.2 Relay Team Category

- 8.2.1 Competitors in the Paddle Relay Category complete the Avon Descent relay style as part of a Team.
- 8.2.2 Paddle Relay Teams consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of four individual competitors.
- 8.2.3 Each competitor of a Team may use a separate craft.
- 8.2.4 A competitor may not use more than one craft.
- 8.2.5 Only one craft from each Team entry may be on the water at any given time.

8.3 Day 2 Valley Only Category

- 8.3.1 Category is only available to solo paddlers.
- 8.3.2 Expressions of Interest are required for the Day 2 Valley Only category.
- 8.3.3 Expressions of Interest will be assessed by a NADA appointed review panel.
- 8.3.4 Novice Avon Descent competitors are not eligible to participate in the Day 2 Valley Only category.

9 Pre-Event Procedures

9.1 Scrutineering of Craft and Equipment

- 9.1.1 Pre-Race Scrutineering of paddle craft will be held within two weeks prior to race date.
- 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 except as per 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 Required Lifejackets 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 the Navigable Water Regulations and other DoT regulations.
- 9.1.7 Craft that fail Pre-Race Scrutineering must be re-scrutineered prior to the start of the Avon Descent. Refer to 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 are exempt from Rule 9.1 above.
 - a. Power Boat entrants—arrangements must be made with the PDRC Scrutineer.
 - b. Mini Jet entrants—arrangements must be made with the Mini Jets WA Scrutineer.
 - c. Paddle Craft entrants—arrangements must be made with Director, Sport or nominated representative.
- 9.1.10 An entrant who fails to attend Pre-Race Scrutineering and does not have a valid reason for such failure to attend 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 5:00 p.m. on the day of Registration in Northam.
- 9.2.2 Competitors who fail Pre Race Scrutineering cannot place craft in the Start Marshalling Area at Northam until this 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 (as 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 It is important to recognise and show support to the official Sponsors of the Avon Descent. It is requested that support of rival official Sponsors is not promoted. Refer rule 9.4.3
- 9.4.2 Competitors and support crew are also requested to observe non-promotion of all other businesses that may reasonably conflict with the Sponsors and supporters recognised in NADA publications and those that may be subsequently contracted to the Avon Descent.
- 9.4.3 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.
- 9.4.4 Contravention of this ruling may be grounds for disqualification of the offending competitor.
- 9.4.5 Applications in writing for a waiver of Rule 9.4.3 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.
- 9.4.6 It is requested that competitor please recognise and support the Sponsors of the Avon Descent and those who have shown their generosity and support for the event.

9.5 Practice Days – Power Craft including Mini Jets

- 9.5.1 Participation in the Practice Days is the responsibility of the entrant and is undertaken at their own risk.
- 9.5.2 Practice Days are restricted to defined days and times as set and authorised by NADA management. This will be a selected Saturday and a Sunday between 7.00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prior to the event weekend as notified prior.
- 9.5.3 If approved, on the Saturday, Power Boat entrants may practise from below Bells Rapid to Middle Swan Bridge – no further downriver. On the Sunday, Power Boat entrants may practise from the pool above Northam Weir to Posselts Ford only, no further downriver.
- 9.5.4 Powered Craft must not go upstream of Peel Terrace Bridge during Practice Days.
- 9.5.5 Participants must avoid travel in the upstream direction during practice. Upstream travel under Katrine Bridge is not permitted.
- 9.5.6 Powered craft are not permitted to practice upstream of Middle Swan Bridge or in areas where it may conflict with paddle craft, from two weeks prior to the race weekend unless participating in designated practice times.

9.6 Practice Days – Paddle Craft

- 9.6.1 Paddle Craft entrants paddling in the practice areas outlined in Rule 9.5 during allocated Power Boat times are subject to penalty at the discretion of the Race Director.

9.7 Illegal Practice/Access

- 9.7.1 Entrants practising in the areas described in Rule 9.5 outside the timeframe allocated to their Category may be penalised. See Penalties 10.23.
- 9.7.2 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 10.23.
- 9.7.3 For the purpose of Rules 9.5.1 and 9.5.2, any craft on the water is deemed to be practising.
- 9.7.4 Support crews/entrants may not use the access road through the Avon Valley between Cobbler Pool and Bells Rapid on Practice Days.
- 9.7.5 All Power Boat ‘participants’ practising must already be entered in the Avon Descent and wear full race attire as per PDRC and Mini Jet Competition Rules and Specifications. Non-compliance will result in a penalty under these Rules.
- 9.7.6 ‘A Power Dinghy or Mini Jet’ 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 and Mini Jet Competition Rules and Specifications.

9.8 Registration

- 9.8.1 At least one member of each entry must attend Registrations on Friday in Northam prior to the event start on the Saturday.
- 9.8.2 Competitors may not start until they are registered (Note: Competitors cannot be registered on the day of the respective event start .
- 9.8.3 Registration and the Start Marshalling Area will be open between 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the day prior to the event start.
- 9.8.4 Competitors must confirm their start grid number at Registration. Grids will also be available online on the day prior to the event start.

9.9 Start Marshalling Area

- 9.9.1 Once registered, competitors must take their craft to the Start Marshalling Area.
- 9.9.2 Craft not in the Start Marshalling Area by 10:00 p.m. on the evening prior to event start date will not be permitted to start.
- 9.9.3 Mini Jet craft may be given alternative instruction to accommodate an entry into the water just upstream of the Northam Wier on the Saturday morning prior to the 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 Lifejacket 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 and/or drug testing). 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 10.23.
- 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.
- 10.1.7 Competitors that have temporarily retired from the race to rectify a gear and equipment problem must not re-enter the race to then hinder the progress of another competitor that is in the race from a later start time.
- 10.1.8 Should Mini Jets start before the Power Dinghy’s on day one, the Mini Jets are to continue to the Cobbler Pool finish should they have successfully negotiated and cleared the Williamson’s Weir (Extracts Weir) prior to 0810 hrs. subject to adjustment if the initial start was delayed.
- 10.1.9 Should Mini Jets start before the Power Craft and find that the performance of their Mini Jet is less than it should be (less than 40km/h) on day one, the Mini Jet is to pull to the bank at 0810, where ever it may be, and allow all of the entered Power Dinghies to pass

or, 1000 hrs to pass, before re-entering and progressing downstream. Mini Jets are not then permitted to overtake a Power Dingy after it has re-entered the race unless the Power Dinghy has withdrawn to the bank or not mechanically performing as it should. Adjustments will be made to the time should fog interrupt the initial start in Northam.

10.1.10 On day one, Mini Jets that have not made it to Williamson’s Wier (Extracts Weir) by 0810 will retire from the race at their achieved location to allow all Power Dinghy’s to pass or 1000 hrs to pass before re-entering the race. Adjustments will be made to the restart time should fog interrupt the initial start in Northam.

10.1.11 Any power Craft that is being overtaken must not hinder and must always give way safely to the passing craft.

10.1.12 A power craft re-entering the river must give way to paddle craft on day one and will no longer be considered as racing however they will be permitted to progress at a speed no faster than 3 knots (5.6km/h) within the designated time limits or withdraw at the next convenient location to obtain consideration for a provisional start option on day two.

10.1.13 Power craft having to pull to the side to allow faster craft to pass (those on a later start time) will not be refunded any elapsed time.

10.1.14 Any craft missing their designated start time, for whatever reason, will be allocated their designated start time when calculating elapsed times for the purpose of official results. Time adjustments will not be considered.

10.2 Power Craft Competitors

10.2.1 At all times competitors are on the water they must properly wear their motor kill switch lanyard, lifejacket, helmet and safety footwear. The 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).

10.3 Team Competitors

10.3.1 Team competitors are required to change only at the designated changeover points.

10.3.2 Each competitor in the Team may use a separate craft.

10.3.3 Where timing gates are installed, all team Paddle Craft must pass through all timing gates. Changeovers must take place after having passed through the timing gate

10.3.4 If provided, Team competitors must wear issued arm bands at all times while on the water.

10.4 Support Crews

10.4.1 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.

10.4.2 Support crew entering the water must wear a Lifejacket.

10.4.3 Only support crew vehicles displaying a current Valley Pass will be permitted access to the Valley Road.

10.4.4 Only Team support crews issued with a current 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 unless otherwise advised.

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 5 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 dinghy start at 8:00 am.
- b. Paddle Craft start from 9:10 am. or adjusted to be 10 minutes after the last Power Craft. Confirmation of start times are made available at registration.
- c. Mini Jets start no less than 45min after the last power dinghy craft or such other period of time as determined by the Race Control Team. This is nominally 9.00am start.

Start position and progress downstream will be subject to water levels and fog.

10.6.2 **The Day Two** order of start is:

- a. Paddle Craft, including Sundry Paddle Craft, in fastest first order regardless of Category start at 7:00 a.m.
- b. Day 2 only paddlers race start to be determined by Race Director and competitors notified before registration day.
- c. Power Boats start at 12:00 p.m. or as determined by the Race Control Team
- d. Mini Jets start 30 minutes after the last Power Dinghy has left the start line or such other period of time as determined by the Race Control Team.

10.6.3 All times are subject to change by the Race Control Team.

10.6.4 No craft will start earlier than the publicly advised times or as per rules 10.6.1 and 10.6.2

10.7 Power Dinghy Start Procedure

10.7.1 Day One

- a. The Day One start grids will be determined by the results of a Time Trial conducted prior to the race weekend (subject to change) – fastest first (regardless of Class).
- b. Power Boats will be permitted on the water 15 minutes prior to the Start.
- c. Two Power Dinghies in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds to 1 minute, as determined by the Race Director.

10.7.2 Day Two

- a. Power Dinghies start from the bank and are not permitted on the water prior to the Start.
- b. Power Dinghies will start in accordance with the lowest elapsed time recorded on Day One irrespective of Class, fastest first.
- c. One Power Dinghy in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds.
- e. Day Two start grids will be posted by approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

10.8 Mini Jet Start Procedure

10.8.1 Day One

- a. The Day One start grids will be determined by the results of a Time Trial conducted prior to the race weekend (subject to change) - fastest first.
- b. Mini Jets will be permitted to start their engines in water 10 minutes prior to their designated Grid Start Time. The Mini Jets are not to move on water if other craft classes are in their start sequence.
- c. Two Mini Jets in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds to 1 minute, as determined by the Race Director.

10.8.2 Day Two

- a. Mini Jets start from the bank and are not permitted on water prior to the Start.
- b. Mini Jets will start in accordance with the lowest elapsed time recorded on Day One irrespective of Class, fastest first.
- c. One Mini Jet Boat in each start grid.
- d. One grid will start every 30 seconds.
- e. Day Two start grids will be posted by approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- f. The start location and process are dependent on water levels.

10.9 Paddle Craft Start Procedure

Summary Start Schedule

GRID (60 sec)	COMPETITORS	QTY	NOTES	
1	Promotional Grid 1	6-12	(If applicable) At the request of NADA Board.	
2	Promotional Grid 2	6-12	(If applicable) At the request of NADA Board.	
3	Promotional Grid 2	6-12	(If applicable) At the request of NADA Board.	
4	Seeded Grid	6-12	Order of placement within each Class listed to be determined by a Qualifying race in the Avon Descent seeding series. Points are allocated for registration in the Avon Descent prior to a seeding race, for participation in the seeding race event, and for performance within that event (placing inside the top 20). Non promotional grids will be determined by entrants with the most seeding points, ranked to those with the lowest number of seeding points, irrespective of classes. Full list of seeding rules available on the Avon Descent website	
5	Seeded Grid	6-12		
6	Seeded Grid	6-12		
7	Seeded Grid	6-12		
8	Seeded Grid	6-12		
9	Seeded Grid	6-12		
10	Seeded Grid	6-12		
11	Seeded Grid	6-12		
12	Seeded Grid	6-12		
13	Seeded Grid	6-12		
FINISH OF SEEDED GRIDS				
14 on	Remaining paddle craft	6-12		Grid Allocation by Receival of Entry
Last	Sundry Paddle Craft	1-12		Grid Allocation by Receival of Entry.

10.9.1 Grids may be re-allocated at the discretion of NADA.

10.9.2 The Rules, Start Location and Finish Location for the Avon Descent paddle craft qualifying races will be published on the Avon Descent website.

10.9.3 Day One

- a. The start grid positions for Day One will be posted at Registration.
- b. Grids may contain multiple Categories/Classes of craft.
- e. Paddle Craft enter the water into the Pre-Start Mustering Area immediately after the last Power Craft has left the start line
- d. Competitors will be ‘rafted’ into their correct start grids by Marshals and move towards the Start Line in start grid formation.
- e. Six to twelve Paddle Craft will be allocated to each start grid.
- f. One grid every 60 seconds to enable start confirmation and announcing.

10.9.4 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.
- c. Paddle Craft may enter the water above the Start Line under instruction of the marshals before their allocated start time.
- d. Four Paddle Craft in each Start Grid.
- e. One grid will start every 60 seconds.

10.10 Timing

10.10.1 A craft’s elapsed time commences at its nominated start time (regardless of when it crossed the Start Line) and ceases when the competitor the Finish Line.

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

10.10.3 A Power Boat or Mini Jet entrant who wishes to carry out any work on their motor in the Cobbler Pool Campsite Pit Area, after they have completed the Day One course 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.

10.11 Time Claims

- 10.11.1 Claims for time lost in assisting other competitors will only be considered if the other competitors were injured or 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 craft Division Deputy Race Director. Their decision is final and not subject to Protest.
- 10.11.2 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.

10.12 Environmental Management

- 10.12.1 Participants in the Avon Descent must not deliberately or carelessly commit any act that will adversely affect the environment. Competitors or support crews must not deliberately damage flora or fauna, including felling of dead trees and/or the deliberate removal of branches from trees in the river and in or around the Cobbler Pool Campsite.
- 10.12.2 Competitors or support crews littering will be subject to penalty. See Penalties 10.23.
- 10.12.3 Competitors and support crews are responsible for the cleanliness of their camping area at Cobbler Pool Campsite.
- 10.12.4 Competitors and support crews must ensure that no litter is left at official refuelling points.
- 10.12.5 The disposal of litter in navigable waters must be in compliance with Navigable Waters Regulation 8.
- 10.12.6 Competitors and support crews must respect the rights of property owners prior to, during and after the Avon Descent.
- 10.12.7 Competitors must follow any directions of officials with respect to courses to be taken to avoid disturbing native fauna.
- 10.12.8 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.

10.13 Refuelling

- 10.13.1 Fuelling of craft may take place only at the Northam Start Line and Day One Pit Area at Cobbler Pool.
- 10.13.2 Refuelling of Power Dinghies or Mini Jet craft by way of pouring fuel is **NOT** permitted during race time or on any part of the actual race course. The swapping of fuel tanks is permitted however.
- 10.13.3 Water-contaminated fuel must be carefully and safely removed from the camp site by the competitor or their designated crew support.

10.14 Portaging

- 10.14.1 Portage of craft is permitted by competitors only – no external assistance is permitted.
- 10.14.2 No external assistance other than by ADSU approved person or rescue is permitted. This does not apply to anyone officially entered as a disabled competitor.
- 10.14.3 A portage must not deviate more than 30 metres from the river proper.
- 10.14.4 No device to assist in portage is to be used unless it is carried in the craft throughout the Avon Descent.
- 10.14.5 Portage trollies maybe considered for Mini Jets only at Williamson’s Weir (Extracts Weir) under instruction from the Race Control Team. Non-racing competitors will not be allowed to assist in any way and the trolley is to be provided by the Mini Jet fraternity.

10.15 Assistance

- 10.15.1 A competitor may not be accompanied along the course or assisted in any way by other craft not entered in the Avon Descent.
- 10.15.2 A competitor may receive assistance from support crews on the river bank. Such assistance is limited to the provision of first aid, food, drink and clothes, replacement of faulty equipment, and assistance with repairs. Any such assistance may not cause the craft to be progressed nearer the finish line.
- 10.15.3 Assistance provided by members of the ADSU will not be deemed to be progressing the competitor.
- 10.15.4 In the event of capsize, a competitor may receive assistance with emptying the craft but may not be progressed in any way.
- 10.15.5 Competitors must 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 - rule 10.10).
- 10.15.6 Where a craft is disabled, not under power/not being propelled, stationary on the bank, or otherwise not able to continue competing for whatever reason(s) the crew of the stationary craft shall, if not in need of assistance, indicate this to passing competitors by giving a ‘thumbs up signal’.
- 10.15.7 The absence of a ‘thumbs up signal’ is indication that assistance may be required.
- 10.15.8 Action by Passing Craft Where Thumbs Up is Signalled:
- return the thumbs up signal and continue.
- 10.15.9 Action by Passing Craft Where Thumbs Up is Not Signalled:
- First arrival - stop to render assistance.
- 10.15.10 Subsequent arrivals - stop and liaise with crew(s) to determine best course of action if more assistance is required such as notification of situation by mobile phone, continuing to next Checkpoint or walking to nearest known/visible road.
- 10.15.11 Failure to comply with 10.15.9 will result in a penalty up to and including disqualification.

10.16 Practice (During Event)

10.16.1 Competitors may not practise at Cobbler Pool at the end of Day One.

10.16.2 Competitors are not permitted to travel more than 50 metres past the finish line on Day One.

10.17 Speed Limits

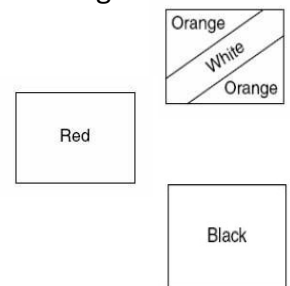
10.17.1 All speed limits are lifted for competitors on the Swan/Avon Rivers for the duration of the Avon Descent. Speed limits outside the permitted race times will be subject to Department of Transport rulings and any subsequent infringement penalties.

10.17.2 Mini Jet competitors must comply with the speed restrictions stated in the Mini Jet WA Competition Rules and Specifications or as per these NADA Event Rules.

10.18 Flags

10.18.1 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.



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.

10.19 Checkpoints

- 10.19.1 Checkpoints will be identified by large signage or flags
- 10.19.2 Checkpoints will be attended by an all-volunteer Checkpoint Team.
- 10.19.3 Competitors passing Checkpoints should call out their Race Identification Number to assist they are accurately recorded. Responsibility rests with competitors.
- 10.19.4 Competitors must follow the directions of Checkpoint Officials. Competitors who disobey or ignore the directions of Checkpoint Officials may be penalised. See Penalties 10.23.

10.20 Pit Area – Dinghy and Mini Jets

- 10.20.1 All craft must be placed in the designated Pit Area immediately after their completion of Day One (See Practice).
- 10.20.2 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.
- 10.20.3 The fuel tank and/or propeller may be removed from the Pit Area.
- 10.20.4 Outboard motors must not be removed from the Pit Area.
- 10.20.5 The Pit Area will be closed at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and no entry is permitted after that time. The Pit Area will be patrolled by security personnel.
- 10.20.6 The use of cordless and cord power tools to effect repairs may only be carried out in the Power Tool Pit Area.
- 10.20.7 Competitors may carry out repairs to motors in accordance with Rule 10.10.3.
- 10.20.8 Removal of cowl tape, for either repair (as above) or inspection must be carried out by the Scrutineer.
- 10.20.9 Waste fuel is to be removed by the race competitor for correct disposal. Full responsibility is with the competitor to keep the environment safe when handling fuel.
- 10.20.10 Entry will be permitted to the Pit Area two hours prior to the start on Day Two.
- 10.20.11 Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are prohibited in both the main Pit Area and the Power Tool Pit Area.

10.21 Cut Off Times

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

10.21.2 Day One Power Boats and Mini Jets Cut Off Times

Northam Weir	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3 hr 45 min
<p>Mini Jets alternate requirements above Williamson’s Weir – MJs to retire at their acquired location should they be upstream of Williamson’s weir at the time of the first Dinghy start.</p> <p>Refer Rule 10.1.8 to 10.1.12 Restart permitted 1hr 40mins after Dinghy Start</p>	
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5 hr 40 min
Julimar Traffic Bridge Checkpoint	When the first Paddle Craft reaches the Checkpoint

10.21.3 Day Two One Power Boats and Mini Jets Cut Off Times

Emu Falls Checkpoint	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Stronghills Farm Checkpoint	Start + 2 hr 30 min
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	Start + 3 hrs 30 mins
Upper Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4 hrs
Middle Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4 hrs 30 mins
Bayswater Finish Line	5:00 p.m.

10.21.4 Day One Paddle Craft Cut Off Times

Northam Weir	Start + 1 hr 45 min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3 hr 45 min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5 hr 40 min
Julimar Traffic Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 6 hr 30 min
Ti Trees Checkpoint	3.45 p.m.
Cobblers Pool	5.00 p.m.

10.21.5 Day Two Paddle Craft Cut Off Times

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.
Middle Swan Checkpoint	3:30 p.m. – subject to DoT Marine Safety instructions and current weather conditions.
Bayswater Finish Line	5.00 pm

10.21.6 Craft that have not passed a Checkpoint by a nominated cut off time will be withdrawn and must leave the water at that Checkpoint.

10.21.7 Avon Descent Support Unit (ADSU) personnel are empowered to enforce cut-off times at any Checkpoint.

10.21.8 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 professional may perform testing in such instances. Any competitor who fails the physical test will be required to withdraw:

10.21.9 A sweep boat will patrol the course to verify clearance of all craft from the water.

10.22 Withdrawals

10.22.1 Competitors withdrawing from the race should proceed to the next Checkpoint if possible. If not, proceed to the left bank of the river downstream. 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.

10.22.2 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 unable to report to an official, a SMS stating Race Number and the word “Withdrawn” must be sent to the mobile phone number designated and distributed for that purpose.
- e. NOTE: Competitors who SMS a withdrawal MUST receive a 'CONFIRM' response from the contact number or assume their withdrawal is not confirmed. 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.

10.22.3 Competitors withdrawing within the Avon Valley National Park will be transported by the ADSU Recovery Teams to the following locations:

- a. Cobbler Pool to Emu Falls - transported to Cobbler Pool;
- b. Emu Falls to Bells Rapid - transport to Brigadoon Fire Station.

10.23 Penalties

10.23.1 Breaches of these Rules by Competitors or Support Crew may result in a penalty as listed.

10.23.2 Monetary fines are payable to Northam’s Avon Descent Association Inc.

BREACH

MAXIMUM PENALTY

	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 and MJWA.

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. Failure to notify an Official of withdrawal resulting in a search.	\$550.00 fine. \$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.	\$500.00 fine.
10	Failure to obey an official flag or general safety rule	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.	\$500.00 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.
23	Mini Jet time infringements	As per the current Mini Jet Competition Rule 36.3

10.24 Protests

- 10.24.1 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.
- 10.24.2 Persons aggrieved or affected are those who have gained a place or prize or stand to gain a place or prize as a result of an incident in the event.
- 10.24.3 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.
- 10.24.4 Protests shall be in writing signed by the entrant, accompanied by the fee of \$110 and addressed to the Race Director. Nothing in these Rules shall be deemed to prevent the withdrawal of a protest before the hearing.
- 10.24.5 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 Rule 10.25 as applicable.
- 10.24.6 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.
- 10.24.7 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.
- 10.24.8 Protests arising out of post-race scrutineering must be lodged within 30 minutes of scrutineering results being announced.

10.25 Adjudication of Protests

- 10.25.1 Protests will be heard by a Protest Tribunal appointed by the Board of NADA.
- 10.25.2 No person may sit on a Protest Tribunal who may be directly concerned or involved in the matter under consideration.
- 10.25.3 The hearing of protests shall take place as soon as practicable after the lodging of the Protest.
- 10.25.4 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.
- 10.25.5 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.
- 10.25.6 Unless otherwise decided by the Protest Tribunal for special reasons, the protest fee shall be forfeited if the protest is dismissed.
- 10.25.7 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.

10.26 Appeals

- 10.26.1 Persons aggrieved or affected by the decision of a Protest Tribunal (competitors or officials) have the right to Appeal against the decision only.
- 10.26.2 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.
- 10.26.3 The details of the Appeal shall be lodged with the Race Director within seven days of the decision of the protest tribunal.
- 10.26.4 After the lodging of an Appeal the Team aggrieved shall retain their position in the Event, pending the outcome of the Appeal.
- 10.26.5 An Appeal will be heard by an Appeal Tribunal selected by the Chairperson of the board of NADA.
- 10.26.6 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.
- 10.26.7 The hearing of an Appeal shall take place as soon as practicable after the decision of the Protest Tribunal.
- 10.26.8 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.
- 10.26.9 It is incumbent on the Appellant to obtain details of the Protest Hearing from the Chairperson of the Protest Tribunal, if required.
- 10.26.10 The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final.
- 10.26.11 Unless otherwise decided by the Appeal Tribunal for special reasons the Appeal fee shall normally be forfeited if the Appeal is dismissed.

10.27 Results

10.27.1 Competitors/Teams must complete the entire distance of the course to be determined as a legitimate finisher.

10.27.2 Results are considered provisional until after the completion of Post-Race Scrutineering and after all Protests and Appeals have been heard.

10.28 Post-Race Scrutineering

10.28.1 Class place winning power and paddle craft may 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.

10.28.2 In the case of Power Dinghy Craft, NADA, reserves the right to instigate the stripping of the outboard motors of the first six place winners in each Class to ensure they comply with the PDRC Specifications.

10.28.3 One representative from each craft must be present at Post Race Scrutineering.

11 Results/Prizes

11.1 Results/Prizes

11.1.1 Prizes and/or trophies as determined by NADA will be awarded to those who successfully complete the Avon Descent. All awards remain subject to passing Post Race Scrutineering requirements.

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.

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 Competitors who complete the entire Avon Descent shall receive a full distance finisher medallion.

11.1.7 Competitors competing in a Relay Team that completes the Avon Descent will receive Team medallions recognising their achievement.

11.1.8 Competitors that start and finish without penalty will be eligible for prizes that may be made available at the discretion of NADA. This may include random selection prizes across paddle and power classes – details to be published on the Avon Descent website and will be dependent on event budget considerations.

11.1.9 Any 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 or at a time as agreed by NADA.