

2024 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic
Advance Race Briefing
Event website: www.canoeclassic.net

Thank you for being part of the 2024 Hawkesbury Classic, the 45th running of this great race.

Race day is Saturday 26th October.

Please take the time to read this important briefing. It will help avoid confusion, it will make registration easier, and it will make things less stressful for your landcrew.

The start

Macquarie Park, Windsor NSW.

Please bring sufficient food and water for the day for yourself and your landcrew. The café will be open, and the Windsor Paddlesports Club will be operating a BBQ.

Travelling to the start

There is a very large air show at Richmond Air Base on 26th October. While most of the 20,000 people expected to attend that event will travel by train, roads into Windsor will be much busier than usual. Please allow sufficient travel time.

When you arrive at Macquarie Park – Paddler Registration

Please head straight to the Registration tent (open from 11am – 2pm). Here the volunteers will ensure you have completed the Landcrew Declaration online, and there are no outstanding issues with your entry.

The Landcrew Declaration must be completed online prior to arriving at Registration. Paddlers will not be authorised to start the event without having provided the declaration and will not receive the info necessary for the Scrutineering process.

The document can be accessed via the home page on the event website:

- Landcrew Declaration: <https://forms.gle/e29yNB5yRZuEAKXa9>

Boat satellite tracking devices

Having GPS trackers with paddlers in 2023 proved a wonderful success with landcrews and both national and international supporters being able to watch their paddlers' progress.

The same devices will be used this year. The devices and technology are again supplied by TrackMeLive – Australia's leading live GPS tracking for sports events and challenges.

A device the size of a matchbox will be issued for each boat at the Registration tent when you check-in. These devices will be in waterproof satchels and preferably are to be inserted into a pocket of the paddler's lifejacket. Alternatively they can be taped to the deck of the boat (please bring your own tape). If you are taping the device to the boat, please ensure it is very secure.

The device will transmit the paddler's location every minute.

Landcrew and supporters can monitor paddler's progress via this web link:

<https://live.trackmelive.com.au/hawkesbury24/>

Using this link, landcrew and supporters can locate a specific boat number. Keep in mind the elapsed time shown for each paddler is the elapsed time since 4pm, even though some paddlers will start at 4:20pm. This timing is for information and is separate to the official timekeeping.

The trackers themselves use satellite technology but access to the above web link will depend on the data coverage of your telco provider at the key checkpoints. Coverage at Wisemans Ferry for landcrew is particularly limited.

The tracking devices, together with your number, must be handed in when paddlers complete their paddle, whether this be an early withdrawal, a Wisemans finish, or a Mooney Mooney finish. Devices not returned will incur a \$330 fee to the paddler.

Boat (canoe) numbers

Paddlers who are cleared to paddle at the Registration desk, will receive a pack to take to Scrutineering. This pack will include your boat number sticker which is to be attached to your boat as a reminder (when you are very tired) of what your boat number is to call out to the checkpoint officials along the river. The pack will also include two (paper) boat numbers for your landcrew to attach to their vehicle (front and back). This will help the race organisers locate the landcrew vehicle if the need arises.

Scrutineering

Is open 11am – 2pm.

After receiving your authorisation and pack from Registration, all paddlers in the boat are to make their way to Scrutineering with your boat and all compulsory gear, including lifejackets. See the event website for the compulsory gear.

First aid and physiotherapy

These services will be available from 1pm. If you use these services, please thank them as they are all volunteers.

Briefing

A 20-minute briefing will commence at 2:45pm. Attendance is compulsory for all paddlers and landcrew.

Race start times

- 4:00pm Brooklyn or Bust (both singles and doubles)
 - All canoes (C1, C2 boats)
 - All outriggers (OC1, OC2)
 - All TK boats
 - All SUPs
 - All Relay and all Dash entries
- 4:20pm Remaining Competitive Class singles
Remaining Competitive Class doubles

Checkpoint changes

The only two checkpoints where landcrew can catch up with their paddlers are major Checkpoint D (Ulinbawn Ski Park, Sackville North) and major Checkpoint I (NSW Ski Gardens, Wisemans Ferry).

Access to these checkpoints by vehicle is the same as previous years.

Paddler access to Sackville (D) is the same as 2023, ie. not at the beach around the sharp right turn of the river, rather at the ramp 50m downstream from the car ferry.

Ferry

Remember to only cross the car ferry cables when told to do so by the SES volunteers and only when the orange flashing light on the ferry is extinguished. Paddlers who fail to comply will be disqualified.

Sponsorship

All adult paddlers are encouraged to have their mandatory \$200 raised by race day. This means less follow-up by the Association. All sponsorship moneys must be raised by 5th November.

A reminder that the major beneficiary of your fundraising is the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation. Arrow is dedicated to helping medical researchers find better treatments – and one day hopefully cures – for diseases treatable by bone marrow transplants. Paddlers have raised more than \$4m for Arrow over the years.

Thank you

The Hawkesbury Classic is not an easy undertaking, either for organisers or for paddlers, so a sincere thank you for joining us in 2024. Enjoy yourselves on this magic waterway and please thank the many volunteers as you go past.

Please email entries@canoeclassic.asn.au with comments you might have from this year's event (what worked well, what needs to change), including how we might increase participation for 2025.

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