



**SURF LIFE SAVING®**  
NEW ZEALAND

A photograph of four surf canoers standing on a beach. They are wearing neon green tank tops and blue shorts. They are looking out at the ocean. The canoes are white with blue accents. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# **SURF CANOE EVENTS**

## **SECTION 5.**

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## SURF CANOE EVENTS

### IN THIS SECTION YOU WILL FIND:

GENERAL CONDITIONS

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# SECTION 5.

## SURF CANOE EVENTS

### 5.1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

5.1.1. Details of Events relating to surf canoe Events are described in this section and Circulars which may be issued from time to time.

5.1.2. A canoe crew shall consist of four Competitors, A crew must commence each Race with all four Competitors.

5.1.3. Canoe Races may be conducted in the following Events:

Under 19

Open

Masters

5.1.4. A "warm-up" area may be provided for canoe crews but strict observance of the Event Referee's directions relating to its use shall be observed. (refer to rule 2.15 Marshalling). Encroachment onto the Competition Area or interference with any Race may result in disqualification.

5.1.5. Canoes shall be paddled with single bladed paddles.

5.1.6. A Canoe Paddlers Panel may be appointed to discuss canoe racing conditions at Competitions with the Event Referee and to represent Competitors. The Canoe Paddlers Panel may contain representatives from different Clubs, depending on the nature of the Competition. The Event Management Committee shall endorse the Members of the Canoe Paddlers Panel for that Competition. The Canoe Paddlers Panel shall act as a communication link between the Competitors and Officials, and act under the following guidelines:

- (d) The representatives of the Canoe Paddlers Panel shall liaise directly with the Event Referee on matters pertaining to the conduct of the Event.
- (e) The Committee may assist the Event Referee in setting Competition courses prior to the commencement of the

Event.

- (f) Any protests regarding surf canoe Events shall be dealt with in accordance with section 12 of this Manual and the relevant Circular and Entry Form.
- (g) The Canoe Paddlers Panel representatives shall abide with any decision of the Event Referee or Competition Appeals Committee.

5.1.7. A seventh buoy shall be laid and may be used at the discretion of the Event Referee.

## 5.2. SURF CANOE RACING

### 5.2.1. The Course

- (a) The course shall be as detailed in the Figure 5.1.
- (b) The canoe turning buoys and the gate buoys should be of distinctive colours in the following order from left to right:
  - No. 1 red and yellow
  - No. 2 black
  - No. 3 green and white
  - No. 4 red
  - No. 5 blue and white
  - No. 6 yellow
  - No. 7 white and black
- (c) The turning buoys should be set at a minimum of 400m from the water's edge depending on prevailing surf conditions, and should be set in such a position to allow the canoes to clear other course buoys by taking a straight course to and from their respective turning buoys.
- (d) The turning buoys should be set so as to provide a course which is as fair as possible and which will give all crews the same distance to paddle, regardless of which position they are allocated.
- (e) The gate buoys, which are optional at the Event Referee's discretion for usage on the return journey, should be:
  - (i) Set in line with the turning buoys on the seaward side

of the break area and inshore from the turning buoys.

- (ii) Negotiated as directed by the Event Referee.
- (f) The finishing line shall be a line of sight drawn between two orange and blue diagonal flags (or other colour(s) as determined by the Event Referee) on poles positioned far enough apart to correspond with the number of buoys laid (see Figure 5.1), and to allow all canoes to finish afloat.
- (g) As an alternative to the above, there is also an option for dry starts and finishes in any combination with wet starts and wet finishes.
- (h) Large elevated markers in the corresponding buoy colours may be positioned on the beach behind each position to assist crews returning to the beach to determine their position relative to their buoy position.
- (i) When it is not possible to provide a fair course over the full number of positions, the Event Referee at their discretion may reduce the number of crews in each Race, including the finals, to improve the fairness of racing.
- (j) If it is clearly evident that the turning buoys are not parallel to the beach and therefore not fair for all crews, the buoys may be adjusted immediately at the discretion of the Event Referee.

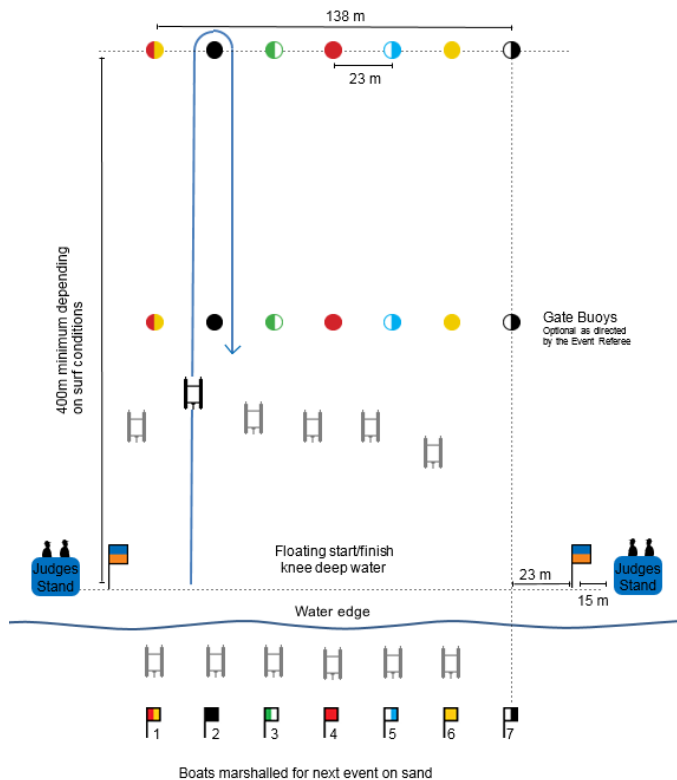
### 5.2.2. Pre-Start

- (a) For each Race the canoe crews shall be marshalled to their allocated positions on the beach near the water's edge.
- (b) At the appropriate time for a wet start, the check starter shall direct the crews to float and hold their canoes in their allocated positions approximately 23m apart, in readiness for a Race start.
- (c) Starts may be wet or dry and will be decided by the Event Referee. In the event of a dry start being utilised, coloured markers corresponding with the buoy colours will be placed in line on the beach, approximately 10m from the water's edge. A crew Member from each crew shall line up behind their allocated marker in readiness for a Race start. The remaining three crew Members (plus a handler, if required), shall hold the canoe either floating in the

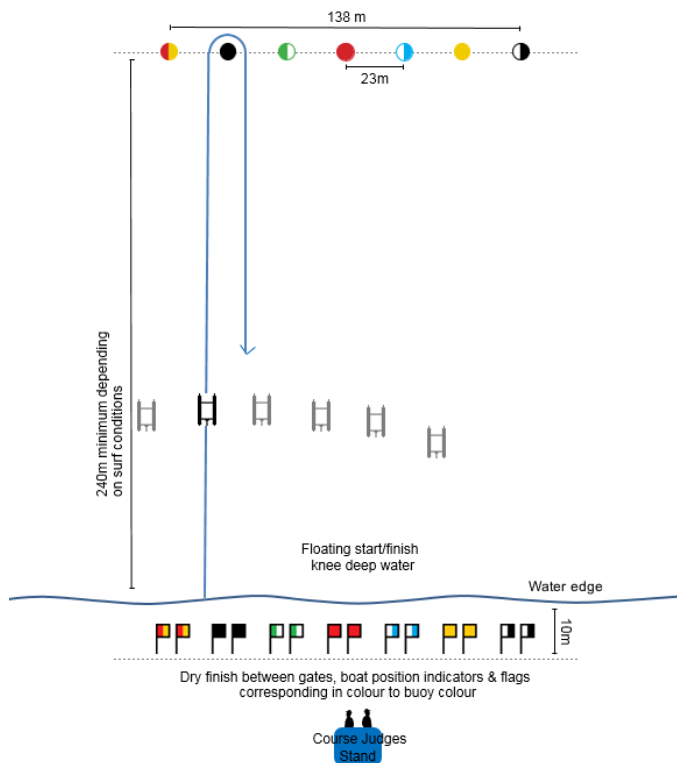
water or at the water's edge under the direction of the check starter.

- (d) A handler shall not be considered to be a Competitor but shall be required to:
  - (i) Be a Member of the same Club as the crew (exemption may be given by the Event Referee for a Member of another Club to be a handler).
  - (ii) Wear a Competition cap.
  - (iii) Comply with all instructions of the Officials.
  - (iv) Make every effort to ensure that they, or the equipment that they are handling, does not impede another Competitor, otherwise their crew may be subject to disqualification.
  - (v) Handle the canoe and/or paddle as directed by the relevant Official.
- (e) The check starter shall hold a flag aloft when the crews are in line and ready to race. At the discretion of the paddlers, a crew may draw their canoe back from the line if they so wish, provided the canoe is stationary at the time of the start. If crews disregard the directions of the check starter or starter they may be disqualified.
- (f) When the check starter raises his flag, this signals to the starter, who should be in an elevated position approximately mid-field on the beach, that the crews are ready to race.
- (g) Prior to the start, if a crew has a problem, the paddlers may raise their arm to indicate that their crew is not ready to race. If this situation occurs, the check starter may lower his flag and the starter may lower his gun. Once the problem has been rectified the start process may recommence. If a crew disregards the further directions of the check starter they may be disqualified.

**Figure 5.1**  
**SURF CANOE LONG COURSE**



**Figure 5.2**  
**SURF CANOE SHORT COURSE**





### 5.2.3. The Start

- (a) The starter shall make every effort to ensure that all crews are given a fair and even start. However, the decision for the crew to “in and away” is ultimately the responsibility of the paddlers, and crews cannot protest the start. If the Event Referee, starter or check starter is not satisfied that the start has been fair for all crews, the Race shall be recalled by way of a second shot from the gun or by a whistle blast.
- (b) For a dry start, when the start signal is given, a crew Member shall run to the canoe. When they visibly touch any part of the canoe (not the paddles) the crew may board the canoe and commence paddling. Failure by the runner to visibly touch any part of the canoe (not the paddles) before the crew boards may result in disqualification.

### 5.2.4. The Seaward Journey

- (a) On the starting signal the canoes shall be paddled to sea. Crews should endeavor to steer a straight course to their allocated turning buoy. Failure to steer a straight course to their allocated turning buoy may result in a disqualification if another crew is impeded or disadvantaged by such action.
- (b) During the seaward journey, if a canoe is swamped and overturns, the crew may right and empty the canoe and continue the Race. To achieve this, it may be necessary for the crew to return the canoe to shore. If a time limit has been advised and it is clearly evident that a restarting crew will not complete the course in the allowed time, the Event Referee should withdraw the crew from the Race to prevent delays to the programme.
- (c) Canoes, paddles, and other gear/equipment may be replaced only during the seaward journey of a Race by other Club Members. Club Members may place replacement gear for collection by the crew at the water's edge and adjacent to the starting line as directed by the relevant Officials.
- (d) It is permitted for any crew Member(s) to assist in removal of damaged or lost canoes and/or gear from the Competition Area to assist in maintaining safe Competition.
- (e) It is not permitted for any non-crew Member to recover lost canoes and/or gear and place the recovered canoes and/or

- gear on the start line for reuse by a crew during a Race.
- (f) If a crew runs aground whilst steering a straight line to their allotted turning buoy, the Event Referee may halt the Race and re-run that particular heat of the Race or place the crew in another heat or round of the Race.
  - (g) If a crew Member is ejected from the canoe during the race they are permitted to climb back into the craft as long as they complete the full course.

#### 5.2.5. The Turn

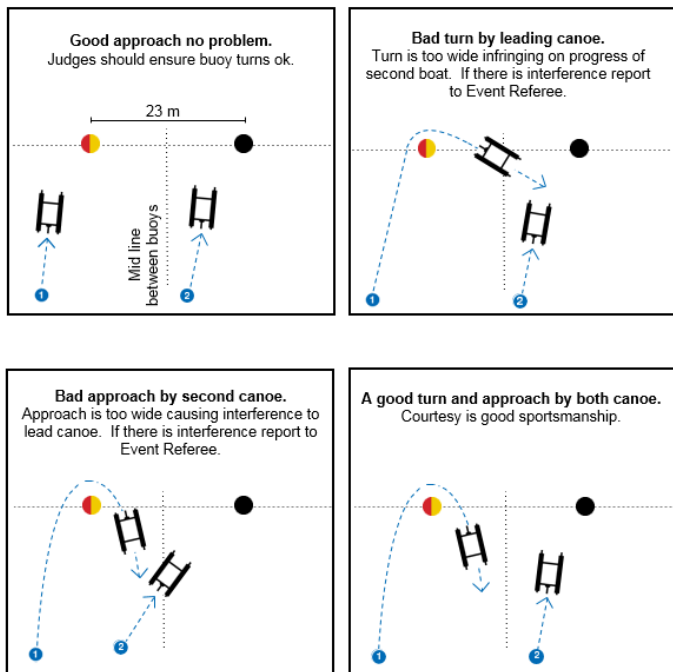
- (a) Turns are usually made from left to right (right hand in). However, this may change at the discretion of the Event Referee after giving due consideration to the sea conditions applicable at the time of that round. If a decision is made to change from “left to right” to “right to left”, all crews must be informed of this change. Failure to make the turn in the correct direction shall result in disqualification.
- (b) The turn shall be effected giving due consideration to other competing crews. The turn should be kept as tight as is required, so as not to impede other competing crews. This applies when approaching and departing the turning buoys (see Figure 5.3). Impeding another crew may result in penalty or disqualification.
- (c) If a crew overturns its canoe after completing the turn and before crossing the finishing line (or in the case of a dry finish, the runner completing the course), the crew may be permitted to continue in the Race after ensuring the safety of all crew Members who rounded the buoys in the canoe.
- (d) This is to be demonstrated by all crew Members who rounded the buoys regaining physical contact with their canoe before the crew crosses the finish line (or in the case of a dry finish, the runner completing the course). Once this contact has been completed the crew may proceed to complete the Race as described in rule 5.2.7 of this Manual.
- (e) Only those crew Members who rounded the buoy in the canoe are eligible to assist their canoe to finish the Race.
- (f) Should a canoe in a Race cause another canoe to overturn, the Event Referee may assess the circumstances and shall decide whether the affected crew may progress to the next round.

However, there shall not normally be a re-run of a final in such circumstances.



Figure 5.3

## SURF CANOE TURNING AT BUOYS



### 5.2.6. The Return Journey

- (a) After completing the turn, crews should make every effort to steer a straight course to the finish line. Failure to do so may result in penalty or disqualification if another competing crew is impeded or disadvantaged by such action.
- (b) Canoes taking a wave must keep clear of canoes in front of them and may pass other canoes on either hand. Failure to comply may result in a penalty or disqualification if another crew is impeded by such action.
- (c) When gate buoys are in use, crews must pass through their allocated gate as decided by the Event Referee. The Event Referee shall advise crews of the canoe buoy usage. Any changes made during the Event shall also be advised to crews. Failure to negotiate the correct gate shall result in disqualification. If another crew cannot pass through their gate buoy as a result of failure by another crew to correctly negotiate their correct gate, the matter shall be adjudicated upon by the Event Referee.
- (d) Should a canoe on the return journey, when close to the finish line be stopped by grounding, this canoe shall be deemed to have finished the Race provided that the canoe is properly equipped and under control. This canoe may be allocated a placing as decided by the finish judges.

### 5.2.7. The Finish

- (a) A wet finish placing shall be determined when any part of the hull of the canoe crosses the finish line under the control of the crew and properly equipped from the seaward side between the finishing flags, or when a canoe runs aground. The crew may recover a canoe that has crossed the finish line not under control and/or properly equipped, and then again cross the finish line correctly to record a finish placing result.
  - (i) "Under control" is defined as a canoe being in an upright position with a crew of at least two Members in contact with the canoe and the canoe moving in a direction towards the finish line.
  - (ii) "Properly equipped" is defined as a canoe equipped with a rescue tube, a minimum of two paddles which shall be in the canoe or being held by the two

### Competitors finishing the Race.

- (b) A dry finish is determined when a crew Member leaves the canoe and runs to their allocated position marker and crosses the line. The crew Member may leave the canoe at any time after the turn has been completed and must cross the line whilst remaining in an upright position on their feet and have dropped their paddle prior to crossing through the finishing gates.

An alternate to crossing the line to finish may be prescribed by the Event Referee. In such circumstances, the crew Member leaves the canoe as described and then is required to touch the crew's finish marker whilst remaining on their feet.

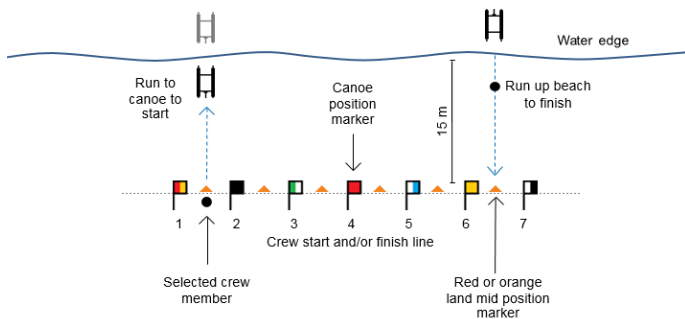
- (c) Any canoe that dislodges a judging stand so as to impede judging shall be disqualified. If one canoe causes another canoe to dislodge a judging stand then the matter shall be adjudicated upon by the Event Referee.



## Figure 5.4 ALTERNATE START & FINISH

Canoe and three of the crew on beach or in water at crew's discretion.

Selected crew member may leave canoe at any time after canoe has rounded their buoy.



## 5.3. ROUND ROBIN RACING

5.3.1. SLSNZ may conduct surf canoe Events in either elimination or “round robin” format.

5.3.2. The Event Management Committee or Event Referee shall decide if there are to be any variations to the standard format for round robin racing and shall advise Competitors accordingly prior to the commencement of the first Race of the Event.

### 5.3.3. Round robin canoe racing procedures

- (a) Surf, beach, weather and time constraint issues conditions permitting, “round robin” racing may be conducted over rounds to determine qualifiers to further rounds in canoe Events or to determine medal winners. Progression into further rounds and finals shall then be by elimination. The conditions detailed are not to be subject to protest.
- (b) Qualifiers to further rounds of the Event, or medal winners, will be determined based on total points gained in the round robin rounds (unless otherwise disqualified from the Event). The points available in each of the rounds of the round robin will be determined by the Event Management Committee.
- (c) In the event of a dead heat in an individual round of the round robin, equal points shall be allocated for the placing achieved.
- (d) If a count back is required to determine the crews to progress to further rounds of the Event, or the medal winners, the following shall apply in this order:
  - (i) The crew with the most first places will be declared the winner.
  - (ii) The crew with the worst result shall be declared second.
  - (iii) The crew that has the best result in the last Race shall be declared the winner.
- (e) Prior to the first round of an Event commencing, the Event Referee shall advise the number of qualifiers to progress to the elimination rounds of each division of the Event or the finals (as appropriate).



- (f) If a crew is disqualified from the Event, they cannot compete in further rounds of that category of canoe Competition from which they are disqualified and lose all standing in that Event.

## 5.4. SHORT COURSE CANOE EVENTS

5.4.1. The surf canoe rules set out in this section 5 will apply, except where varied as follows:

- (a) Race distances will be a minimum of 240m from the water's edge depending on prevailing surf conditions, and should be set in such a position to allow the canoes to clear other course buoys by taking a straight course to and from their respective turning buoys.
- (b) At any point after having successfully rounded their buoy, one Member of the crew may leave their craft.
- (c) The crew Member must then run up the beach and, whilst remaining on their feet, discard their paddle prior to crossing through the finishing gates and either:
  - (i) Run through the beach markers indicating their team's beach position on the finish line or,
  - (ii) Run through the electronic finishing gate that will be located on the finish line. Gates will be identified by the team's buoy colour.
  - (iii) During the short course, one Member of the crew is to finish through the finish gates.
  - (iv) If a Competitor goes through the wrong finish gate it will be deemed a disqualification.

## 5.5. PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 5.5.1. In the event of a rule infringement in any of the Events set out in this section 5, a crew may be either penalised or disqualified as determined by the Event Referee or Arena Referee.
- 5.5.2. If a penalty is applied in an elimination round, a crew may be allocated a placing and could continue in the Event or be eliminated, based on the placing allocated.
- 5.5.3. If a penalty is applied in a round robin, the crew may be allocated a placing (and/or placing points) and shall be permitted to continue in the round robin to determine progression to the next round of the Event.
- 5.5.4. If a crew is disqualified in an elimination round, they cannot compete in further rounds of that category of the Event from which they are disqualified and lose all standing in that Event.
- 5.5.5. If a crew is disqualified in a round robin Race for a matter other than “abuse/inappropriate behaviour” or competing unfairly, they will lose all standing in that Race (i.e., placing/ points) but may continue in the “round robin”.

