



# AOCRA RULE CHANGES 2021



AUSTRALIAN  
OUTRIGGER CANOE  
RACING ASSOCIATION



# KEY SUMMARY

The name has changed our rules are simply the AOCRA RULES and although it may look different many areas have remained unchanged. Some of the key changes in the document include:

- Changes to the format with inclusion of elements from other key documents such as risk management.
- Reordered rules including separating general rules from race specific rules based on feedback and removed duplication within the rules.
- Modified definitions around eligibility including international competitors.
- Renamed non AOCRA members to a more positive term of new paddler
- Removed definitions that were no longer required especially if they were later defined the document.
- Rebranded club and corporate days as promotional events and not required approval but do require all other rules to be used.
- Removed under 21 division.
- Put majority of minnows rules in one section for ease of use.
- Added drafting rules with options for it to be used or not depending on zone and club wishes.
- Modified rules on right of way to be consistent with IVF international rules.
- Reduced points system to one for marathons and one for sprints for all craft.
- Introduced new unlimited division.
- Rules now allow for prize money.
- Support boat numbers clarified for each event.
- Updated PFD requirements.
- Clarified equipment rules and positive flotation.
- Modified some sprint rules in relation to staying in lane, no ability to do a turn again to avoid disqualification.

Some of the specific changes to sections of the rules:

## INTRODUCTION / VISION & VALUES / GOVERNANCE (INCLUDING HOW RULES CAN BE CHANGED)

These are new sections and an addition from the previous rules editions and includes a short introduction, restates the AOCRA vision & Values and describes our governance. These areas provide a short explanation of the role of AOCRA and how these rules are only part one part of broader governance framework that assists us in administrating our sport. This section also explains how the new AOCRA rules can be changed.

# DEFINITIONS

There have been a number of definitional changes in the new rules including:

- Minor wording changes to some definitions but no change to intent.
- Clarified and changed a number of definitions such as
  - Competitor
  - International competitor
  - New paddler
  - Promotional event
  - Other craft
  - Wind speed limits

# GENERAL RULES

## MEMBER PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

New section highlighting key issues to be managed in our sport such as child protection, taking images of children, anti-discrimination and harassment, sexual relationships, pregnancy, gender identity, responsible service and consumption of alcohol, smoke free environment, cyber-bullying, social networking sites, incident (injuries and equipment damage) reporting, AOCRA privacy policy, complaints procedure, handling complaints, vexatious complaints and victimisation and forms of Discipline. It also provide the link to our management policy that provides guidance on how clubs, zones and individuals can help deal with these issues in our sport.

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

New section that outlines that the AOCRA Anti-Doping Policy shall apply to all members and affiliated organisations and that AOCRA agrees to be bound by the Sporting Administration Body Rules of the Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020 (SIA).

## **GENERAL SAFETY** **(APPLIES TO TRAINING AND ALL REGATTA'S AND EVENTS)**

This section brings together various parts of the old rules editions such as tests and drills but also includes some additional information such weather precautions and information on dealing with sun safety, lightning and wind ratings.

This section also highlights the importance of incident (actual and near misses) reporting so we can learn from these incidents. Safety requirements for being on the water are also identified including the PFD requirements have been updated to current national standards and the recommendation of AOCRA for PFDs to be worn along with the leg rope.

## **COACHING**

This is a new section that outlines the roles and responsibilities of a Coach.

## **PARA VA'A**

This new section outlines AOCRA's support for PARA VAA athletes and adopts the IVF rules for these events and for classifications.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO PADDLE**

This section modifies previous rules so that it is clear that to join an AOCRA affiliated club and become an AOCRA member paddlers must be Australian citizens or a current resident of Australia (documented evidence may be required) and that only AOCRA and affiliated club members, a new paddler undertaking a "come and try" program or an attendee of a promotional event are eligible to paddle.

This section has also been modified to allow for a paddler to join more than one club or enter into arrangements with other clubs to attend training and to access equipment. These arrangements are at the discretion of clubs and may attract a fee. These arrangements can only be in place while a paddler is an AOCRA member. An AOCRA member may only be registered with one club for racing purposes but can transfer as outlined in this section.

## **CANOES & EQUIPMENT**

This section updates previous rules editions. It describes a requirement for positive floatation and defines the positive floatation test. AOCRA approved manufacturers are required to provide a certificate indicating positive floatation in each canoe.

This section also introduces a new division of unlimited canoes (canoes under 130kg).

This section also provides a process for having accessories approved if required.

# **RACING RULES**

## **AGE AND GENDER DIVISIONS**

This section has limited changes however the u21 division has been removed. The section clarifies gender events for V3 and age categories.

The concept of aggregate age events is also allowed for with zones and clubs determining on points systems.

## **REGATTAS, EVENTS AND DISTANCES**

Limited changes in this section however specific requirements are introduced on approval body for regatta types. Minor tweaks to racing distances for some events and guidance provided for changeovers to be not less than 35km.

Also schedule one is included for areas where minnows events can occur.

## **COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY**

Clarifies that competitors for AOCRA sanctioned outrigger canoe races must be an AOCRA member or an international competitor.

For competitors to be eligible for AOCRA national Championships, national selection, or International Va'a Federation (IVF) or International Canoe Federation (ICF) sanctioned events a paddler must be an AOCRA member and a Australian Citizen or a continuous resident of Australia for a minimum of 6 months (documented evidence, such as a stamped passport will be required as evidence).

These rules bring in a requirements that to be selected as an Australian representative a paddler must not have represented another IVF country for a period of at least 2 years before their selection.

International competitors may race in all events but are not eligible for national or zone titles nor can they accrue points in AOCRA events. International competitors must sign an indemnity and release form and have travel insurance that includes coverage for competing in watercraft sporting events.

"Other craft" competitors must be an AOCRA member or have signed an indemnity and release form and have purchased AOCRA day insurance.

## RACE SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES

This section identifies race specific safety requirements such as race communications, spare paddle, tow rope, first aid and safety boat requirements. Please note there has been changes to the number of safety boats required for events so please check the new ratios

## COURSE RULES

In sprint races you must now stay in your lane at all times and there is no ability to do a turn again to avoid disqualification.

Drafting rules have been introduced and is to be at the discretion of the approving body, either the Zone or AOCRA with the decision to apply the rules needing to consider the race type, distance and the conditions expected in the event.

Drafting is not allowed out of outrigger division and gender. Drafting is when a paddler is within 1 meter of the tail, or sides of another competitor or any other water craft on the racecourse for more than 10 seconds.

A competitor must make an effort to exit the drafting zone immediately when boundaries allow. Examples of boundaries include other craft, rocks, canals, submerged objects, bridges and vessels.

Competitors will be disqualified or be awarded a time penalty for drafting any water craft on the racecourse that is not in the same division and gender.

Right of way rules have also been clarified and made consistent with IVF rules see rule 6.5.5.1. Passing: A canoe that is attempting to pass shall keep clear at all times and in no way interfere while it is attempting to pass, nor shall the lead canoe attempt to prevent another canoe from passing. Also rule 6.5.5.2. Rounding Marks/ Turning Buoys: Right of way at rounding marks and turning buoys will be given to the leading canoe. In the case of the canoes being level or overlapping immediately prior to the turn buoy (within 2 canoe lengths), right of way will be given to the INSIDE CANOE and other canoes must not impede or cause interference to that canoe from making their turn. (overlapping is defined as a condition that exists when no open water can be seen between the stern of one canoe and the bow of another, when canoes are viewed at right angles to their course).

The new rules also make clear the process for complaints and incidents during racing events.

# HOSTING A REGATTA

## NOMINATIONS AND FEES

Limited changes

## REGATTA POINT SYSTEM

Rationalised point system to one for marathons and one for sprints.

## REGATTA OFFICIALS

Limited changes

## SCHEDULE 1

### DESIGNATED WATERWAYS FOR MINNOWS RACING

This section updates areas previously provided to current as of 2021 details.

## SCHEDULE 2

### LIFE JACKETS / PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE

New section for links of where to go to find out state PFD requirements.