



## Competitor Briefing for Riverland Paddling Marathon

### **Your Safety is our concern but it is Your responsibility to be safe**

This event is being conducted under the Australian Canoeing Marathon Competition Rules. The ICF Marathon Racing Competition Rules (2015) therefore apply as modified by the Australian Rules and this document. The event is also conducted under the bylaws of Australian Canoeing.

*Please remember that all officials and helpers are working as volunteers at the RPM, please treat them with respect and courtesy.*

The event management committee takes the safety of all paddlers very seriously, to this end, we have implemented some additional mandatory safety requirements for all paddlers. We have implemented these new requirements after reviewing known incidents in past events and to also comply as a minimum with International Marathon Rules.

### **EVENT SAFETY**

Competitors must comply at all times with the rules of the river, the most understandable of the navigation rules (including canoes and kayaks) to be followed in a river such as the River Murray:

Keep to the right hand side of the waterway in the direction you are travelling as far as is practicable. Jutting snags, sandbars etc, can denote the navigable channel. Note that not only is it illegal but it is very dangerous to cut corners on the wrong side of the river.

Competitors may however, be required to access our various checkpoints and will be required to move to the left hand side of the river to the riverbank to do so.

*Non-compliance with racing rules renders the competitors liable for time penalties or disqualification and possible exclusion from the event.*

### **PFD's**

All participants are to wear an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) whose construction meets Or exceeds Australian Standards for PFD Level 50 or PFD Level 50S (previously known as PFD Type 2 and PFD Type 3) at all times while on the water.

*A new requirement for the event this year is that a Pea-Less Whistle must be also attached to the PFD.*

### **CAPSIZE**

In the event of a capsized; at least one passing paddler/crew must stop to render assistance *and not proceed until the capsized craft paddler/s is/are back in the craft and underway.*

Event officials would prefer two paddlers/crews to provide assistance to paddlers/crews who have capsized or otherwise are considered to be in difficulty.

We would appreciate if one of the rescuing/assisting paddlers/crews can report the position of the boat, boat number and number of people involved to the nearest event official downstream. The Race Director will make time adjustments for claims of lost time by paddlers providing assistance and/or reporting incidents.

*The paddler/crew who capsizes will be required to report in at the next check point to meet a Canoe Medic to ensure their wellbeing is considered before completing the event.*

### **RPM200 Paddlers:**

Are additionally required to carry a torch in/on their craft.

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