



To: Victorian paddlers
From: Canoeing Victoria Marathon Committee
Date: 23rd April 2015
Subject: **Victorian Canoe Marathon Portage Policy**

Portage is an integral part of marathon canoe and kayak racing. We recognize, however, that some paddlers are unable to portage for health or injury reasons. This document explains our policy with respect to portage at Canoeing Victoria Canoe Marathon events.

A time adjustment will be applied for those who do not portage who otherwise should have portaged. We understand that this is not a perfect alternative; for example, paddlers not portaging may gain an advantage by dropping paddlers who are portaging from a wash group at portage, which changes the dynamics of the race. In addition, paddlers who are portaging are exposed to increased risks, such as capsize on exit or re-entry, trips and falls or boat damage. However, in the interests of a practical and simple system we believe the time penalty approach provides an appropriate balance.

The time adjustment will include an allowance to compensate for the additional risk borne by paddlers who portage as required. Importantly, the time penalty has been set, based on actual data, to reflect the time difference for veteran paddlers who are unable to portage, not the time difference elite paddlers may take to portage.

1. Portage may be part of the prescribed course at CV marathon events for international class boats (i.e. K1, K2, C1 and C2, etc., including "masters" K boats). Touring boats, sea kayaks, skis, SUPs, outriggers and para-class paddlers do not need to portage at CV events.
2. In age-based racing U12, U14 and V60+ crews do not need to portage. In divisional racing Divisions 6, 7, 8 & 9 do not need to portage.
3. If portage is specified at championship races paddlers in international "selection" classes (i.e. U18, U23 and Open) will need to portage. Paddlers can request assistance at portage for bona fide health reasons consistent with ICF rules. However, not portaging is not an option in these classes. Non-portaging athletes will be recorded as "Did Not Finish" (DNF).
4. Paddlers in V35 to V55 international classes may apply to the Chief Official prior to the race for exemption from portaging due to health issues. We rely on the paddler's integrity to only seek exemption for genuine reasons. The reason does not need to be disclosed unless the paddler wishes to do so.
5. Paddlers granted approval not to portage will be assigned a time adjustment decided by the Chief Official, which will be advised prior to the race. This adjustment will apply for each portage not undertaken. The same time adjustment per portage will apply to all paddlers granted exemption, regardless of age, gender or racing class.
6. The time adjustment (i.e. time added) for a portage of ~100m distance with good exit and re-entry points and clear track in between will typically be 50 seconds per portage. For a portage such as at Geelong Canoe Club, of ~200 m length, the time adjustment will typically be 70 seconds per portage.

Joe Alia
Chairperson, Canoeing Victoria Marathon Committee