

**2024
SEASON**



**SKI RACING
RULEBOOK**

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2. GENERAL SAFETY

MPBC must provide an adequate rescue service at all times. Paramedic must be in attendance at all times during competitions.

MPBC must hold a pre-race briefing during which fullest possible details must be given concerning navigation, course, and safety of the competition, including the dropping off area at the conclusion of the race.

A nominated MPBC club member will do a visual inspection of the vessel. Any non-compliances may lead to exclusion from the event.

Should an incident occur, it is the responsibility of the race controller to arrange for either the competitor and/or a crew member to complete an Incident Report Form and return it to the Club within **24 hours** following the Incident.

Should the injury to the competitor not be apparent during the event, but become known following the event, then it is the responsibility of the competitor and/or the crew to advise MPBC immediately they become aware of the incident. MPBC will arrange for an Incident Report Form to be forwarded to the crew member who will complete the form and return it to the Club within **24 hours**. A copy of the Incident Report Form is to be forwarded to secretary@mackaypowerboatclub.com

Any participant hospitalised or sustaining any injury during the racing season, which in the opinion of the MPBC management committee that is thought to have an effect on the competitor or others safety, must, if requested, present a doctor's release, in writing, to that Race Controller prior to continuing to race for that or the following season.

Where a medical certificate is required to allow a participant to compete following an injury or illness, the medical certificate is to clearly state that the participant is fit to resume racing at speed. Failure to produce a medical certificate clearly stating this will result in the participant not being allowed to compete.

All boat crew members must wear spectacles if eyesight requires spectacles under normal circumstances.

Any time a boat is under power or testing, outside the pit area on race day, all occupants will wear full race gear. When a boat is on the plane idling back upon completion of an event no race helmets need to be worn (gear) removal is required to be worn.

3. COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS AND SAFETY

When competitors lodge a Membership and Entry, and agree to the terms and conditions within the membership and entry application, competitors are absolving the MPBC and Organising Committee of liability.

Boat drivers and observers must attend compulsory briefings or will not be allowed to start.

Boats and skiers must proceed around the course as indicated at the briefing and must pass on the correct side of all course marker buoys. Failure to comply with these regulations, or any of the Club Racing Rules, will result in disqualification.

In the event of a boat crew member being in difficulties and requiring immediate medical assistance, a team member (one only) shall stand on deck and wave a blue and white medical flag.

Skiers are strictly prohibited from fastening their tow line or the handle of the tow line to their body in any way whatsoever.

The skier must always have at least one hand on his tow line.

Minimum distance of 10 metres between competing boats after the start.

When taking a turn, the boats on the outside must leave room for teams on the inside.

An overtaking boat must not cut in until the skier is 100 metres ahead of the boat being overtaken.

Skiers must ski to the outside of each turn, course, or hazard buoy.

A fallen skier may be passed on whichever side is deemed to be the safest.

The skiers must remain in the wake of the towing boat for the entire race.

Boats or skiers who follow directly in the wash of a previous boat and skier closer than 100m will be disqualified.

Tow Lines must be fed from the boat at the start of an event.

Boats must not whip a skier out during mass type starts.

If a successful start is not made following three (3) attempts to start, the competitor must withdraw from the event.

Boat drivers focus must be ahead at start of race and at all times during the race a glance back is acceptable

Observers focus to be on the skiers and boats in close proximity

Observers will remain in their seats at all times whilst pulling a skier after reaching a plane.

In the case of a fall of a skier/s, the driver must immediately slow the boat and the observer must raise the safety flag.

When picking up a fallen skier, you must slow down, yield right of way to oncoming boats, then turn either direction, whichever is safer and come back along their line. Ski line must be kept as parallel to the course as possible.

A fallen skier is allowed to make physical contact with the boat and crew to enable the replacement of equipment. At all times whilst such action is being carried out, the motor of the tow boat will be dead or in neutral, i.e., propeller not rotating. The safety flag must remain visible until the boat is under way and the skier/s is in proper skiing position.

A driver or observer shall acknowledge the safety flag or a downed skier by putting his hand up. Failure to do so may result in a penalty.

Passing must be on the outside unless specifically stated otherwise at briefing.

A boat or team shall not force a passage between other team/s or a team and course or hazard buoy.

The finish of the ski race shall be determined by the skier.

4. CREW MEMBERS OF THE BOAT

- a) The crew of the boat consists of a Driver and Observer. No boat competing in an event is allowed further boat crew members, unless otherwise approved by the Officials.
- b) All boat crew members competing in events shall be required to wear helmets. Hard hat area of helmet to be of a bright color.
- c) All helmets are to be in good condition and devoid of dents and splits.
- d) Helmet visors shall be in good condition and devoid of cracks and easily detachable (i.e., not bolted down). Visors must not be secured in any way which prevents them lifting up (i.e., taping)
- e) Failure by any team member to correctly wear his helmet whilst under power as a team on race day in the normal accepted manner may incur a penalty.
- f) When a boat is returning from the bank after the completion of an event, no helmets are required to be worn.
- g) All inboard drivers & observers competing at over 75 mph are to wear a fire-proof driver's suit that covers from neck to ankle including long sleeves.
- h) All boat crew members must have at a minimum of a well-fitting, good condition Level 50 (PFD Type 2/3) lifejacket.
- i) Must be securely fastened at all times, while on the course - racing or testing.
- j) Life jackets shall also meet the following inspection requirements: -
 - o Lacing ties and/or straps shall be adequate and in good condition.
 - o Zips, where used, shall be in working order.
 - o Tears or rents or bad repairs whereby buoyancy will leak out, shall not be permitted.
 - o Jackets shall be dry and not oil or water-logged.
- k) All life jackets to be predominantly one or more of the following colours – canary, wattle, goldenyellow, international orange, scarlet or bright colours.
- l) When boat testing and in unofficial practice all crew members must wear all safety equipment.

Boat Drivers:

- a) All drivers must hold a current Boat Driver's License, as specified by the Controlling Government Body and must have attained the age of 18 years.
- b) Drivers must be completely conversant with the competition rules.

Boat Observers:

- a) Observers must be completely conversant with the competition rules.
- b) Minimum age 16 years

Skiers

- a) All Classes Must Wear Ski Racing Approved Skier Helmets
- b) All team members shall wear their helmets in the normally accepted manner during the race and whilst under power on race day or practice periods. When a crew is returning to the bank post a race no helmet is required to be worn.
- c) Over 75MPH classes - Approved ski racing wet suits with built-in flotation.
- d) Under 75MPH classes - minimum of a barefoot style wetsuit with built in flotation. Must comply with a minimum PFD2 Australian standard.
- e) Prohibit the wearing on or attaching to the body or items of apparel any water bottles or other container or receptacle designed or used for the purpose of carrying, retaining, or storing fluids whether or not such fluids are to be consumed prior to, during or subsequent to a race.
- f) No video/GoPro cameras permitted to be mounted either on skier's person or on skier's helmet. Penalty -Disqualification.
- g) Clinch type gloves are not permitted.
- h) Competitors are not permitted to tape ski bindings in any way externally.
- i) It is recommended that when boat testing and in unofficial practice all crew members wear all safety equipment.

Skis

- a) A coloured fluorescent orange paint or adhesive tape at least 15cm in length must be placed on the upper and lower front tip of all skis with a maximum 5mm margin permissible around the perimeter of the ski. Manufacturers' logo must be under the 15cm area.
- b) Either one or two skis may be used, and such skis must be in a serviceable condition.

Tow Lines

The skier shall provide tow lines, preferably of polythene or polypropylene material. No harness is to be used. A harness is defined as any device that is not permanently attached to the tow line, the only exception to this rule will be for disabled skiers, who will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5. COARSE MARKERS

Buoy Colour Code

- a) Orange — Centre Course Markers.
- b) White — Outside Course Markers
- c) Large Yellow Buoys — Course Turn Buoys.
- d) Small Yellow — Safety Hazard or Clearance Buoy.
- e) Black and White or Black and Yellow Checkered — Finish Buoy

6. GENERAL

Entries for events must be completed through the MPBC website.

<https://mackaypowerboatclub.com/racing/enter-a-race-meeting/>

MPBC reserves the right to refuse any entry.

Official Start Method will be determined by the Face Controller who will take into consideration safety factors in relation to location and weather conditions as examples.

The Start will be signaled by the lowering of the National Flag. Skiers MUST NOT be in a ski position until the Start is signaled. Boats MUST NOT be over the Start Line prior to the lowering of the National Flag. In the case of a fall in the start area the boat must idle and turn slowly and return to the skier for a pick up. Wide fast turns will result in disqualification. Safety flag not required in marked Start Area.

The drop-off area for a ski race will be determined by the Chief Judge prior to the event and announced at driver's meeting. Skiers must hang onto handles and must drop off in the area as indicated.

Both instances of finishing either with or without checkered flag is not being used to denote the finish of the race, any boat completing more than the prescribed number of laps shall be issued a Warning. Should incident re-occur after warning loss of race points will apply.

Competitor's age as at 30th June will determine Class in which to run for the oncoming Season. Should a competitor have birthday during the Season they are still entitled to run in their Age Class until the next Season.

Social - The skis used must not have a significant advantage over any of the commonly available and popular slalom skis.

Event Classes will be published on the MPBC and Ski Racing Queensland website for each event.

7. FLAGS



BLACK FLAG:

Signals track is closed – All boats to return to bank safely.
No boats to entre track for any reason
Remains flown between races – not removed until race control states ready for next race



BLUE FLAG:

Signals track is OPEN – raised **3 minutes** prior to race start. All boats to follow race direction to starting point – following Start Boat.



WHITE FLAG:

ONLY FLOWN IN START BOAT – indicates **1 minute** to race start.
Used for heads up on first race of the day – follow start boat at pace to start finish line. Handicap Clock started once called flag has been



GREEN FLAG:

Signals RACE HAS STARTED – racing has commenced flown on lap 1 and Lap 2



YELLOW FLAG:

Signals FINAL Lap – flown as first boat rounds final turn ready for their last lap – end of Lap 2 Bank Flag to radio to all boats when flag is flown – BANK to watch and count Laps from lead boat.



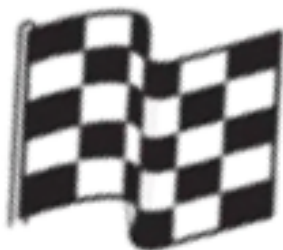
RED FLAG:

Signals DANGER RACE STOP – All boats to stop engines and hold where they are on the track. There has been an incident or conditions are not suitable.



WHITE WITH RED CROSS FLAG:

Signals CAUTION - there is a potential hazard on the course, but racing is not needed to be stopped – DRIVERS PROCEED WITH CAUTION – flown at the flag immediately prior the hazard only



CHECKERED FLAG:

Signals RACE FINISHED – Waved from BANK only when lead boat crosses the line then for each boat that follows.

8. SKI RACE START PROCEDURE

- a) Ski Race Controller will indicate 5 minutes to start.
- b) Competitors will idle to the designated start area.
- c) Driver to raise his/her hand to indicate readiness.
- d) The starter will raise both the green and national flag to indicate a maximum of one (1) minute to start.
- e) The starter will lower the green flag to indicate skiers to enter the water, run out ropes and maximum of 30seconds to start.
- f) The starter will lower the national flag to indicate the start of the race.

9. INFRINGEMENTS & PROTESTS

The Race Controller is the judge of fact!

Disqualifications

Disqualifications may be imposed for any of the following or similar items: -

- a) Where any boat or skier, in the opinion of the Chief Judge, is proved to be behaving in a dangerous manner or contrary to the rules.
- b) Any boat or driver demonstrating poor handling ability or creating a safety hazard.
- c) Any blocking or turning wide.
- d) Exceeding the speed cap in speed limited classes
- e) In the opinion of the Race Controller, any participant exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct during the running of the events.
- f) The violation of running on a Course that is closed will subject the boat and driver to a penalty for the first infringement and disqualification from that meeting for subsequent infringements.
- g) Refusing to give way to other competitors whilst on course.
- h) Should a boat or its competitor commit a breach of these rules which is of a minor or technical nature and in the judgement of the Race Controller has no direct effect on the relative positions of the boats at the finish the Race Controller shall have the power to decide whether or not a boat or competitor shall be disqualified or a lesser penalty may be imposed.
- i) The boat crew must be advised of infringements or penalty by the Race Controller.
- j) No abuse or offensive language to Judges or Officials will be permitted.
- k) Any accident involving property damage or personal injury must be reported on the day to the Race Controller of the event.
- l) A team shall not be disqualified if wrongly compelled to do so by another boat, or where the Race Controller is satisfied that a rule has been breached for safety reasons ONLY, and that the team breaching the rule gained no advantage.

A driver receiving two disqualifications for violations during a single event, may be disqualified for the rest of that day's events. Any driver disqualified for violations three times during a calendar year may be disqualified for the remainder of the races that ski racing year

For a serious contravention of the rules, the Race Controller may, with a majority decision of the MPBC management committee, disqualify and/or recommend the suspension or removal of a ski racing driver's future nominations.

EXCLUSIONS FROM EVENTS

- a) If in the opinion of the Race Controller and or the MPBC management committee, the conduct of a participant/s is against the best interest of the Club the Race Committee may exclude such member/s from participating in future MPBC sanctioned events.
- b) Boats that constitute a danger or non-bonafide entries, shall not be permitted to race. The scrutineer and or the MPBC management committee decision is final.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- a) A competitor who is under the influence of a non-prescribed drug, restricted prescribed drug, cannabis, narcotics, and stimulants (such as amphetamines, cocaine, etc.), shall be liable to immediate suspension from competing in MPBC ski racing events.

- b) A competitor who is found to have used a non-prescribed drug or restricted prescribed drug shall be liable to disqualification and such other penalty as prescribed by such policy.
- c) Subject to (j) hereof, a competitor shall not consume alcohol on the day of an event. A competitor who has consumed any alcohol on the day of the event shall be immediately suspended from competing in all events on that day.
- d) A competitor who is under the influence of alcohol shall be liable to immediate suspension from competing in events and shall be liable to disqualification from events already competed in on that day.
- e) The Race Controller and or MPBC management committee shall have the power to require any competitor at any time during the running of events or prior to the running of events on any day to submit to a breath test or breath analysis for the purposes of ascertaining the concentration of alcohol in that person's blood by use of a breath testing or breath analysis device approved of for that purpose.
- f) Breath testing must be completed by drivers, observers & skiers over the age of 18 years, 15 minutes prior to competitor's start time.
- g) No minor can be breath tested without the consent of his/her parent or guardian or crew member or without the approval and in the presence of the Chief Judge or his/her nominee.
- h) Any competitor refusing to undertake an authorised breath test or breath analysis shall be liable to immediate suspension from all events on that day and shall be liable to disqualification from all events competed in on that day.
- i) Nothing herein contained shall apply to alcohol consumed after the completion of that competitor's competition in events on that day, that is after a competitor reaches the bank following the completion of his/her final event of the day.
- j) A reference herein to a "competitor" shall also include reference to an "official" or other participant in an event.

10. ENGINES

- a) Engines may use the following fuels:
 - Commercially available pump fuel (from a service station)
 - E85
 - Methanol
- b) Turbine and jet engines are not allowed.
- c) All throttle bodies and carburetors shall have an auxiliary steel return spring fitted at the body or carburetor(s) to ensure positive throttle return.
- d) All engine breathers must terminate inside the hull. Breather tanks are highly recommended.
- e) No motor or boat shall emit any substance into the water, aside from water that the boat collects as cooling water.

11. **RECOMMENDED MINIMUM PENALTIES**

The Other Penalties listed in the Rules may be imposed in place of, or in addition to the Recommended Minimum Penalties outlined in the tables below.

INFRINGEMENT	MINIMUM PENALTY
Exceeding the speed cap in a speed limited race	Disqualification from that race and start from the outside grid in the next race of the same class.
Driving and Skiing infringements	Disqualification from the race and start from the outside grid in the next race of the same class.
Verbal abuse of an official, volunteer, spectator, or competitor	Exclusion from event – show cause to enter future events
Physical abuse of an official, volunteer, spectator, or competitor	Exclusion from the event. Exclusion from future events for at least 12 months – show cause after the completion of the exclusion period.
Failure to stop and remain stopped in a red flag situation	Exclusion from the event
Offensive or disruptive comments on social media that impact the MPBC and or its members.	Cancellation of MPBC club membership for 24 months - show cause after the completion of the exclusion period.