



Kayak Rules

Compulsory kayaking equipment:

- Air bags / foam pillars 20 litre minimum.
- Paddle , repair tape, spray skirt, kayak helmet, life jacket (50n of buoyancy type 406 with whistle attached)
- Gloves, hat.
- Long sleeved paddle jacket seam sealed.
- Thermal long sleeved top, long leg thermal bottoms.
- Foil survival bag.
- First aid kit.
- Any medication you require.

It is the competitor's responsibility to have adequate skills to negotiate and avoid the hazards on a grade 2 river. Officials have the right to withdraw any competitor that in the officials opinion does not have the skills to safely complete the river section. Competitors must put training time in on grade 2 rivers and ensure their choice of kayak is matched to their ability.

Competitors may use any type of kayak except wave riders, inflatable or sit on kayaks. Pods are not allowed on kayaks. River-specific surf skis may be used but must gain clearance from the River Safety team at least two weeks prior to the race to ensure suitability. Surf skis must satisfy the following criteria to be considered:

- Dedicated over-stern rudder
- River specific, single skin construction on hull
- River specific venturis - highly recommended to have bailer style drain (venturis must have bungs for venture ports in case cowlings are damaged in shallows)
- Competitor must also have an extra lower body layer – either dry-pants, wetsuit, Sharkskin or similar lower body garment

All kayaks must have pillars and two floatation/air bags or extensive watertight sealed compartments that are drainable. The minimum requirement is two rear floatation/air bags of 20 litres each - correctly inflated and secured in the kayak. Wine bladders are not acceptable! Kayaks must have a grab loop at the nose of the kayak. Tandem kayaks supplied by organisers (and most sea kayaks) have large watertight bulkheads for storing gear which also act as a buoyancy aid if capsized, so no additional floatation is required if using these boats. Kayaks using storage bulkheads as floatation **MUST HAVE** waterproof hatch cover **FITTED** before entering the river.

Competitors who withdraw must not leave the riverbank. They must wait for the river officials to officially withdraw them from race.

Kayaking Stage gear scrutineering

There may be gear checks of all compulsory kayak equipment at the start on Saturday.

Kayaking Grade 2 certificates

All new competitors must bring a copy of their Grade 2 Kayak Certificate to registration

Competitors who have successfully completed the river section in the Kathmandu Coast to Coast event, in a single kayak or as the steering member of a tandem, in the last 5 years need only state on the entry form the year(s) they have competed in the Coast to Coast rather than send in another kayaking certificate. If your certificate is older than 2 years and you have not completed the race for 5 years you will need to either complete a refresher Grade 2 course or apply for an exemption supplying evidence of your recent and relevant kayaking experience. We highly recommend people re-certify every 5 years especially if not regularly involved in grade 2 or greater kayaking.

In the Tandem Section, the steering is at the front of the supplied boats and the person steering the kayak MUST have a full Grade 2 Kayak certificate. The second non steering paddler must have a MINIMUM of a river safety certificate which is the completion of the safety section of the Grade 2 Kayak certificate . We also highly recommend you complete a river trip in a double kayak. If the steering kayaker is injured the team member will not be allowed to swap positions and steer the kayak unless they also have a full Grade 2 Kayak Certificate.

Portages

Portages may be used to avoid hazards – they may be recommended or compulsory. Specific information will be given in the Race Briefing. Anyone failing to follow an official's instruction may be withdrawn from the race.

Checkpoints

There may be compulsory checkpoints on the river.

River signals

Please make yourself familiar with river signals. An understanding of river signals is important. The main situation where these could be used on race day is for officials directing competitors to where they are wanted on the river, either for counting or avoidance of hazards.

Jet Boat Operations

Jet boats are used on the Clutha River as part of our safety management and there are commercial operators on the river. Please note:

- They require less water going fast
- They pass going around, pushing the wake away from the kayak
- Please be observant and give them room to pass you as they cannot stop in shallow water