

# MASTERS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS GUIDELINES

Refer to the International Competition Rules except as amended in this document.

## ORGANISATION

Masters European Championship status has been granted to the master's events in the following categories.

Men	K1, K2, C1, C2 all age groups
Women	K1, K2, C1, C2 all age groups
Mixed	K2 in two (2) age groups 35-49 and 50+

Although the above events are now Masters European Championships, **they are a level 4 status** in terms of the ICF rules and **are not organised to the same level as the Level 1** Senior, U23 and Junior events. It is intended to continue to organise the events in much the same way as previous Masters Cup events with certain aspects being of a different status and protocol to the Senior, Under 23 and Junior European Championships.

Any other additional masters events held at ECA European Championships are not an actual ECA European Championships. Other master's events should be given a suitable name like "Masters Cup" events to separate them from having Masters European Championship status.

Although the above-mentioned events are separate from the Senior, under 23 and Junior European Championships it is important that they are well organised. With this in mind the events will be controlled and managed by the ECA Canoe Marathon Committee.

The ECA/CAM will appoint the Chief Official, Chief Course Umpire, Chief Portage Official, Chief Raft Marshal and some other key officials if necessary.

## VALIDITY OF COMPETITION

**A valid Masters European Championship is held only if there are at least five (5) boats from five (5) different nations in the event.** If during the course of the event some competitors drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected.

**If the above criteria not achieved 10 days before the first day of the competition the events will not be a European Championships. They may still be held but will have Masters Cup classification.**

**For the 2026 Masters European Championships the European Championships events will be held in following classes subject to the required entry being achieved.**

See for correct classes

Men	K1, K2, C1, C2 all age groups
Women	K1, K2, C1, C2 all age groups
Mixed	K2 in two (2) age groups 35-49 and 50+
Mixed – European Cup status	K2 65+ without portages**

The program of events should be arranged in a schedule which will allow for the separation of the classes when necessary to facilitate fair racing and minimize interference between classes.

The exact order and time schedule may vary at different European Championships.

At least seven (7) days before the competition information should be available on the event website, containing the following information:

- Detailed information on the course and their markings;
- Starting times and procedures;
- Starting line;
- Finishing line;
- Preliminary start list;
- Obligatory safety equipment requirements.

Invitations – No separate invitations or programmes will be drawn up.

Timing- It is a requirement that a free day be included between the master's races and the European championships to provide more time for the organisers to prepare for each event and to provide more of a separation between the two events and create a training day for the elite .

Accreditation - The accreditation facilities for the masters will be separate from the seniors, U23 and juniors or sufficiently staffed to avoid queuing problems. It may also not be necessary to have the same level of accreditation for the masters. A much simpler system could be considered if appropriate.

## **THE COURSE**

It is recommended that the course have a lap format with the start, finish and portage in the same area. The course should use the same concept as for the Senior, Under 23 and Junior European Championship events

Masters men in kayaks in their 64th year and younger will race five (5) laps of the course for the Standard distance European Championships events;

Masters Women in kayaks in their 64th year and younger will race four (4) laps;

Masters men and women in kayaks in their 65th year and older will race one (1) lap less than the younger Masters and will not be required to do portages. i.e. 4 laps for men and 3 for Women.

All Canoe classes will race 3 laps.

K1 Masters men	(ages: 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54)	5 laps+1 short lap/4 portages
K1 Masters men	(ages: 55-59, 60-64)	5 laps+1 short lap/4 portages
K1 Masters men	(ages: 65-69, 70 and more)	4 laps+1 short lap/ No Portages
K1 Masters women	(ages: 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54)	4 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
K1 Masters women	(ages: 55-59, 60-64)	4 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
K1 Masters women	(ages: 65-69, 70 and more)	3 laps+1 short lap/ No Portages
C1 Masters men	(ages: 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54)	3 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
C1 Masters men	(ages: 55-59, 60-64)	3 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
C1 Masters men	(ages: 65-69, 70 and more)	3 laps+1 short lap/No Portages
C1 Masters women	(ages: 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54)	3 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
C1 Masters women	(ages: 55-59, 60-64)	3 laps+1 short lap/3 portages
C1 Masters women	(ages: 65-69, 70 and more)	3 laps+1 short lap/No Portages
K2 Mixed	(ages: 35-44, 45-54, 55-64,	3 laps+1 short lap/2 portages
K2 Mixed	(ages: 65+) European Cup Only.	2 laps+1 short lap/No portages

ALL AGE GROUPS IN DOUBLE AND ALL CLASSES 35-44, 45-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, etc.

The ICF rule for Wash Riding on other classes will not be enforced for master's races as the number of classes racing at the same time will make this impossible to enforce fairly.

## ENTRIES AND COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Paddlers can enter the events individually and not through their federation if they wish but the **individuals should be authorised by their National Federation** to make an entry.

In K2/C2 events the age of the youngest competitor will determine the age group in which a crew can compete.

**Entries will be permitted from in doubles from mixed nation combinations. One mixed double will only be counted as one nation in terms the number of nations when establishing the European Championship classes**

## TEAM LEADERS MEETING

There will be no team leaders meeting as most of the entries will be from individuals that do not have a team leader. The organiser must therefore make sure that all the required information for the course, boat numbering, race program etc is available to the competitors online and at the venue in in **a master's guide booklet in good time** for the competitors to access. A video presentation of the course and final information should also be prepared.

## BOATS AND EQUIPMENT CONTROL

Prior to the competition the HOC must provide a certified weighing device in a suitable place so the teams may check the weight of their boats.

Before each race, masters athletes are required to pass the ID/raft marshal control.

At the end of the race, the first four (4) boats may be checked using regulated equipment.

## **MEDALS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1.7.1 - The protocol for the medal presentation or prize giving is the same as for Elite European Championships: National anthems will be played, **national flags raised for the races following the European Championships criteria with participation of minimum 5 nations for the European Championships title (ECA rule).**

The medal presentations should be completely separate from any Senior, Under 23 or Junior European Championship activity.

Medal presentations will only be held in the Masters Cup events if 3 or more boats (4) complete the race. No medal presentation will be held unless all three individuals or combinations are present. This information must be clearly indicated to competitors in the bulletins and final information

**ICF Canoe Marathon rules will apply to all races of the Masters European Championships as follows but not limited to:**

The Chief Official, who is also the Chair of the Competition Committee, will decide on all matters arising during the actual competition, which are not dealt with in the rules.

### **13. 9 Paddling on the course**

13.9.1 - Athlete must not wash riding an athlete in another class. **THIS RULE will NOT be applied for the Masters Races.**

13.9.3 - Athletes who have been lapped will end their race at the most suitable time and location and as soon as possible after the race leader has passed the last portage. The normal location for ending a lapped paddlers race will be at the portage. They will be recorded in the place where they are at that point in the race.

### **10.12.1 DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PENALTIES**

Any athlete who attempts to compete in a race by any other than honourable means or who breaks the racing rules, or who disregards the honourable nature of the racing rules will be penalized or disqualified for the duration of the race concerned.

10.12.2 - Should an athlete have failed to follow the correct course of the race (for example missed a turning buoy) the athlete has broken the racing rules and will be subject to a penalty:

10.12.2.a If the Race Umpire believes the athlete has gained a small advantage on other athletes: Time penalty of 15 seconds will be given.

10.12.2.b If the athlete has gained a major advantage a disqualification (DSQ) will be imposed.

10.12.2.c Should a buoy be missed as a result of a collision in group racing during a turn this will be investigated and the boat that caused the collision will be disqualified (DSQ), see article 10.12.3. The athlete who missed the buoy due to collision will not be penalized.

### **10.12.3 - Collision or damage:**

10.12.3.a Any athlete who is considered by a Course Umpire or Race Official to have been responsible for a collision ( 10.7.3 A collision will be an event where an athlete or any part of their boat or paddle touches another athlete, boat or paddle in a way that disadvantages others in the race), or who damages the canoe or kayak or paddle of another athlete or unnecessarily deviates from the direct racing line or deliberately blocks the path of an athlete may be penalized or disqualified.

10.12.3.b If it is considered that other paddlers have only had some minor disadvantage compare to other athletes as a result of the incident the responsible athlete will get a time penalty of 30 seconds;

10.12.3.c If it is considered that the incident has given other paddlers a major unfair disadvantage the penalty will be disqualification (DSQ).

### **10.12.6 - Handling of penalties for Masters**

10.12.6.a Time penalties as decided by the Chief Course Umpire are not subject to protest and must be taken at the earliest opportunity during the race;

10.12.6.b Time penalties must be executed in a designated area at the portage and supervised by a Race Official or will be added to the athletes finishing time if a time penalty stop is not used in the competitions. For those not doing portages, time will be added to the finish result time and identified in the results as a note.

10.12.7 - If an athlete is observed by a race official to discard any waste item or rubbish such that it ends up in the water, they will receive a 30 second penalty. The decision is to be confirmed by the Chief Course Umpire and cannot be the subject of a protest.

Competitors must not dispose of their drink bags or small plastic energy syrup packets while on the water or on the portage pontoons and ramps. Drink bags and small plastic energy syrup packets must be discarded only on the portage anywhere between the pontoons/ramps.

### **Applying of Penalties**

-Penalties that are incurred during the race will be imposed at the portage in the penalty box or added to the competitor's time if not possible to be taken during the competition.

-A yellow flag will be displayed in the beginning of the portage area when a penalty has been imposed. There will be a (electronic) notice board at the beginning of the portage indicating which boat number has been given a penalty and the length of the penalty.

### **It is the paddler's responsibility to check the penalty board.**

The penalized competitor will be required to stop in the penalty box for the designated period at that portage.

The penalty box will be at the end of the portage on the right-hand side. A timing clock is at the penalty box indicating the penalty time.

10.12.8 - All penalties or disqualifications must be confirmed by the Competition Committee in writing immediately, giving the reasons.

## **Protests and Appeals**

**There is no Jury for Masters Championships, so no appeals are possible. The highest authority for protest is the Competition Committee.**

11.1.2 - A protest made during a competition (against a decision from a Competition committee) must be in a written form, addressed to the Chief Official and handed to the Competition Committee not later than 30 minutes after the official result is published.

13.10.8 - Final results should be prepared, and medals and trophies presented after the Competition committee decision is announced or the time limit for protest has expired (whichever is the latter).

The protest form will be given in the Competition Committee office (see map for exact location).

All protests must be accompanied by a fee of 75 Euros. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld (11.1.6)

The decision of the Competition Committee is final.

Matters of fact considered during the competition cannot be contested further.