

2019 Tonks Small Boat Race

Description: This is a 6km time trial held on the Whanganui River on or about the second Sunday of each October, commencing at 9.30am. Start is from the AWRC big pontoon, heading down river, turning adjacent to the Treadwell Gordon / National Library building and back up to the Aramoho 2km Course finish line. Open to all man powered water craft although to be eligible for the trophy, rowing boats must be four man or smaller, coxed or coxless. Results are based on crew prognostic times with the winning **rowing** boat receiving the Tonks trophy.

Conditions of Entry, Safety & Rules

General

1. As a safety precaution, any non-participants of this race will be discouraged from using the area of the river advertised as the course.
2. All participants do so at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety whilst participating in the event. The Whanganui Rowing Assn. accepts no liability for any accidents which occur.
3. All crews wishing to taking part must email the provided entry form to:
whanganuirowing@gmail.com by Noon the Saturday prior to race day. Form must include all requested info.
4. Reps of the Whanganui R.A. will endeavour to make an early call and notify participants beforehand should river / weather conditions not be suitable for the race to take place.
5. Coxswains MUST wear lifejackets.
6. All rowing skiffs must comply with all FISA / RNZ rules for safety (i.e. heel restraints / bow balls). Whanganui R.A. accepts no responsibility for checking heel restraints or bow balls which shall at all times remain the responsibility of the individual crew using the skiff.
7. Each participating crew will have an identifying bow number allocated to them.

Safety Boats

1. Two Safety boats will be positioned on the river, at the start and the turn buoy.
2. The start safety boat will follow the last crew away being careful not to cause wash for other competitors. The turn safety boat will follow the last crew/s back to the finish line.
3. All safety boat drivers must carry PFDs and equipment as required by the NZ Rowing Water Safety Code, have the ability to contact each other by supplied radio or mobile phone should an emergency arise and be suitably qualified coach boat operators.
4. The starter shall also carry a radio.

Start Procedure:

1. Each crew will be started individually beginning with the fastest crew (based on prognostic times).
2. The Starter will call your crew by bow number at approx 15 sec intervals. When your crew is called you can start rowing so you hit the start line at race speed. The timing device starts as you cross the start line.
3. A crew not at the start at the appropriate time or numerical order may not have a time recorded.
4. Any crew crossing the start line prior to being called will be disqualified.
5. Crews must not engage in "practise starts" in the start zone.
6. Crews must obey all instructions and proceed as directed by the Starter or Safety Boat Operator.

Safety & Navigation during the race:

1. The safety of all competitors is of obvious prime concern and all participants need to be aware of the rules of river usage, particularly the need to remain on the correct side of the river, which is the Western side (Aramoho) while racing downstream and the Eastern side (Whanganui East) going up stream. Crews observed ignoring this rule will be disqualified.
2. Buoys will be positioned on all bends where a crew crossing to the incorrect side of the river would endanger other users or achieve an advantage. All crews shall pass such buoys on the Western (Aramoho) side. Any crew failing to do so shall be disqualified.

3. Should a crew member go overboard, the crew must standby to assist recovery.
4. When overtaking during racing, the overtaking boat must always pass on the port side (stroke side or left side) of the boat being overtaken and not on the bow side /right side of the boat being overtaken i.e. the overtaking boat should not pass between the boat being overtaken and the bank.
5. The boat being correctly overtaken must give way to the boat attempting to overtake by moving to their bow side / closer to the shore. A failure to do so can incur disqualification.
6. This assumes that there is sufficient room to move to their bow side / right side without incident. In the event that there is insufficient room to move over, the boat being overtaken should warn the overtaking boat that they must move further out in order to complete the manoeuvre safely.
7. **Any crew passing on the incorrect side does so at their own risk.**

The turn:

1. Will be the same set up as the Winter series. Two buoys 50m apart.
2. Within 50m of the turning buoy will be a “no passing” zone.
3. You are welcome to go around the outside of a slower turning crew but pushing up the inside has to stop before someone gets hurt.
4. Failure to go around the turn buoy will incur disqualification.

The Finish:

1. On crossing the finish line all crews are to quickly move their craft up stream so as not to impede following boats.
2. Move away from the finish line before commencing to turn around, especially important on an outgoing tide.
3. Any crew heading back down stream must ensure they are as close as possible to the Aramoho Bank and must pay particular attention to those other boats still racing.

Sanctions:

The Whanganui Rowing Association reserves the right to impose any penalties or sanctions which it considers appropriate for any transgressions of these conditions.

Known Hazards:

1. **All bridge pylons.**
2. **Sandbar adjacent to Kowhai Park.**
3. **Sandbar and snags around the Motorboat Club curve, Whanganui East side.**
4. **A sizeable log poking up out of the water in the middle of the river out off the Treadwell Gordon building, be careful when coming to the turn buoy.**
5. **A submerged log just within metres of the tip of WCS slipway, only visible on a very low tide.**

Let me know if there are others that we need to warn about please.