

# KAHAWAI GUIDE FOR EVENT ORGANISERS



**KIA KAHA I TE WAI BE STRONG IN THE WATER**

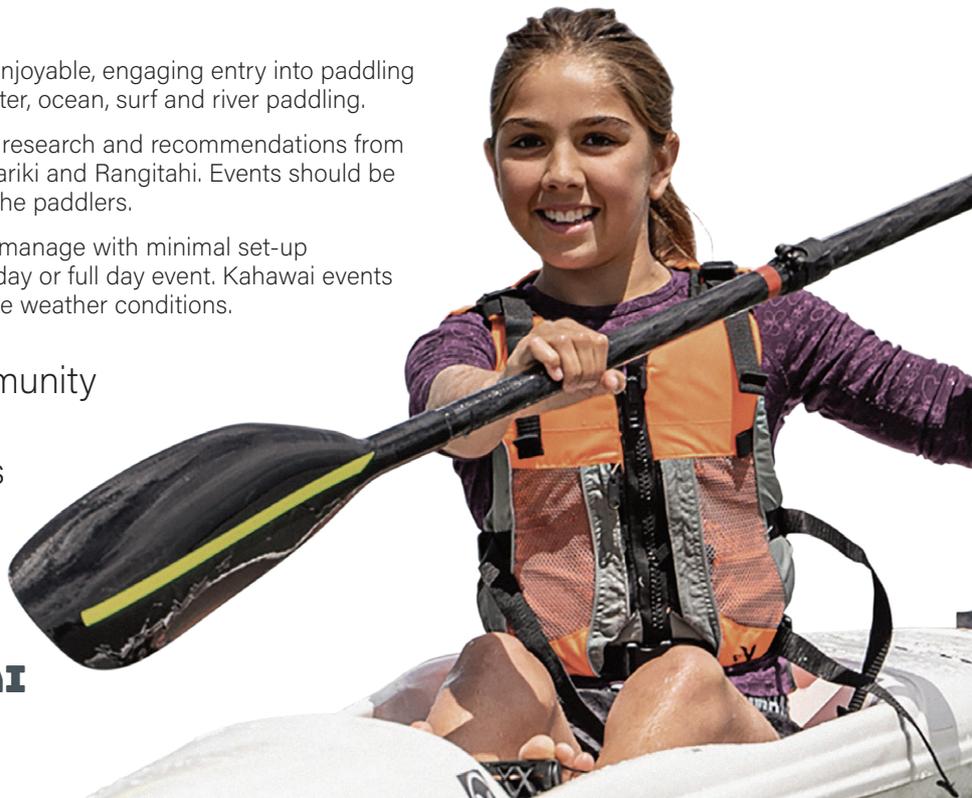
Kahawai is an event concept designed to be an enjoyable, engaging entry into paddling competition, and to build bridges between flatwater, ocean, surf and river paddling.

It has been developed keeping in mind the latest research and recommendations from Sport NZ regarding sport and recreation for Tamariki and Rangitahi. Events should be focused on fun, connection and development of the paddlers.

For event organisers, it is designed to be easy to manage with minimal set-up requirements and able to be completed in a half day or full day event. Kahawai events can be run on any water, anywhere and in variable weather conditions.

Kahawai is about creating a community of junior paddlers and building opportunities to connect paddlers to learn, compete, achieve and enjoy being on the water.

[WWW.PADDLER.NZ/KAHAWAI](http://WWW.PADDLER.NZ/KAHAWAI)



# EVENT REGISTRATION

The **Paddler.nz** website will be the hub of Kahawai, where all Kahawai events around the country (and world) can be listed and found in one place.

Event registration and payment shall be taken through the **Paddler.nz** website. Tell us about your event, and we'll get it set up for you.

Recommended event fee is \$15-\$20 per paddler.



The event divisions are as follows:

- Under 12 girls, Under 12 boys
- Under 14 girls, Under 14 boys
- Under 16 girls, Under 16 boys
- Under 18 girls, Under 18 boys

This is based on age at the 1st January of the year of the event.

# EVENT FORMAT

Racing should be predominantly using the Paddler-X format.

- A series of short races run from the beach/shore, consisting of at least 3 rounds for all paddlers (minimum 2 rounds of heats and then finals).
- Races should aim to be between 2-4 minutes, with a maximum time limit of 5 minutes.
- Each race shall consist of no more than 6 paddlers.
- The format provides opportunities for team events by racing relays, combining paddlers' results into team scores and racing in double kayaks.

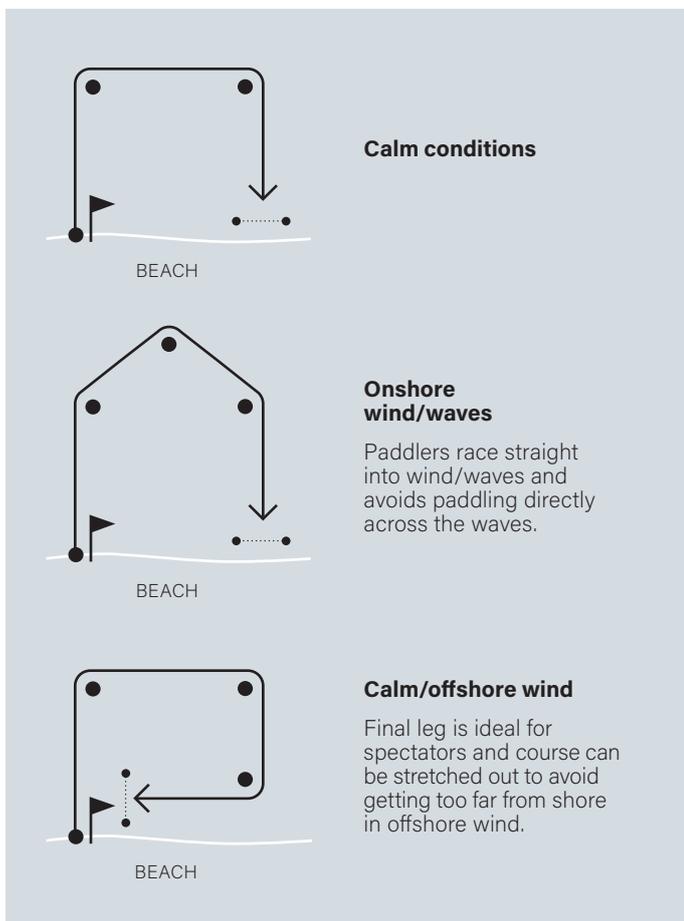
**Paddler-X** is designed to be exciting and spectator-friendly, whilst requiring (and developing) a full range of paddling skills. Paddlers manoeuvre in groups around buoys and ride wash, and may negotiate waves or obstacles. Because of the length of races, paddlers will be rewarded for a combination of speed, endurance, skills and technique.

The course can be one of the Paddler-X courses below or customised to the environment, as long as competitors start in their boats and race out and around 1 or more buoys and back to the finish. Courses can be customised based on the venue or conditions or to include extra elements for fun or challenge.

Courses can be overlaid. For example, U16/U18 divisions can race on the same course area but to buoys that are further away, giving them a longer course.

Organisers can also choose to offer a long-distance race for competitors, following the Paddler-X races, to add another element and develop another skill set for the paddlers.

- Long distance races should be 1km for U12/U14 and 2km for U16/U18.
- Mass starts where boat numbers allow.



# EQUIPMENT

- A minimum of 12x Kahawai class kayaks and paddles are required. See Kahawai class rules below. This will allow 6 boats to be racing while the other 6 are being set up for the next race. Craft do not have to be the same for each age group. For example, older age groups can be allocated more technically challenging craft, provided they fit within the rules.
- Sufficient number of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) for all paddlers to wear whilst racing must be provided.
- VHF radios for fast, easy comms between event staff during operations. The following roles should have radios: Race director, Arena manager, Paddler wrangler, Starter, Finisher, and on-water safety.



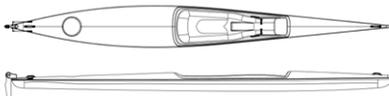
# KAHAWAI CLASSES

The Five2 (single) and Six5 (double) classes give paddlers the ability to participate in all disciplines. The classes are based on a "box rule" with a maximum length and minimum weight the same as an ICF-legal K1 and K2 boats – paddlers may therefore enter sprint competitions or train with sprint squads and enjoy a level playing field. To improve safety and enjoyment of Paddler-X and Long Distance paddling, particularly on the ocean, all boats must have an open, surfski-style cockpit and leash attachment point.

Aside from these few rules, the World is your oyster. Boats may be produced by any builder – an engaged industry is important to foster innovation and build a thriving, successful class.

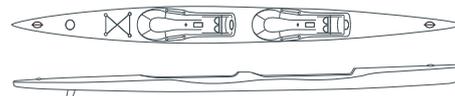
## Five2 (single)

5.2m maximum length  
12kg minimum weight



## Six5 (double)

6.5m maximum length  
18kg minimum weight



### Class rules

- Open cockpit (surfski style – the boat must be built so that the athlete sits on top, with the hull forming one watertight compartment)
- Every boat must have a leash attachment point in or near the cockpit
- There is no minimum or maximum width

The following are permitted:

- A venturi/bailer
- A removable raised seat
- Any design of rudder (internal or over-stern)
- Any mechanism for steering (eg pedals or tiller-bar)
- Any material or method of construction

# COURSE ARENA

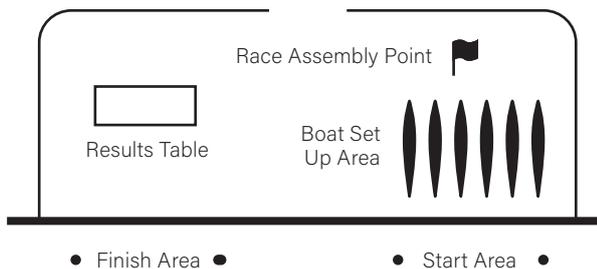
The course arena is to be set in a suitable location, away from boat ramps or other high traffic areas.

Course arena consists of:

- race course buoys
- start line
- finish line
- boat set up area
- results table – situated near the finish where paddlers must pass.
- Race Assembly point- gathering place for paddlers before their race

The area on the beach could be cordoned off and only accessible for paddlers, if suitable.

Organisers could have multiple course arenas (for different divisions) set up next to each other, in the case of a large event.



Possible course arena layout. Can be rearranged to suit venue or whether course is clockwise or anti-clockwise.



## REQUIRED ROLES

The following are the minimum roles required to effectively coordinate the event. It is a fun idea to dress up your officials/helpers to make it easier for them to be found and add to the atmosphere. Fairy wings or tutus are cool!

### Event Organiser/manager

Responsible for overall event management.

### Arena Manager/Safety Officer

Responsible for arena operations, including safety management and decisions regarding courses.

### Paddler Wrangler

Stationed at the race assembly point with the race schedule. Meets each race group at the race assembly point, ensures all paddlers are there and ticked off and inform announcer/commentator if anyone is missing. Check all PFDs are correctly fitted, and hold until ready to get boats set up.

### Boat Set Up x2

Assist the paddlers getting boats set up correctly. Ensure they have PFDs on, and paddles. Assist to bring boats back to set up area following each race. Does warm up activities with the paddlers to get them psyched for their race!

### Starter

Ensures all paddlers in each race are present and ready to go. Gives each group a briefing to ensure they know their course and what to do if they need help on the water. Before starting, radio the race number and the number of competitors in the race. Line up paddlers and start with air horn. Assemble next group and send off when current race has finished.

### On-water Safety x2

Qualified lifeguards on rescue boards, could also be on suitably stable paddle craft or inflatable rescue boat fitted with a prop guards. Responsible for monitoring paddlers during the race, and assisting them if they need it (for example, helping them to remount).

### Finisher

Stationed at the finished with at least 2 sets of placing cards. As paddlers finish, give them a placing card as per finish order (1st, 2nd etc) and instruct them to take it to the results table. Share on radio when all paddlers have finished and safely ashore, so next race can start. Assist with getting boats back to the set-up area.

### Results x2

Set up at table near finish so paddlers must go past. Paddlers give their placing card to this person and tells them their name. Write their placing next to the paddlers name on results sheet, and confirm progressions as it happens.

### Announcer/Commentator

On the microphone, commentating the races, interviewing the paddlers, calling out paddlers to come to the gathering point as required and amping everyone up.

### Medic

Qualified First responder situated on-shore, with comprehensive first aid kit and list of any pre-existing medical conditions and medications of paddlers.

\*Depending on the conditions, it may also be required to have people holding the boats steady on the start line on the shore while the paddlers are in the boats.

## MANDATORY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- At least two safety craft are required on water during the racing. We recommend qualified lifeguards on boards. These people are able to assist paddlers who have fallen off their craft and allow paddlers to continue their race.
- A safety motor boat is to be ready to go (either on the water or on the shore) to perform a rescue if required.
- All paddlers must wear a correctly fitted PFD when on the water.
- All paddlers must confirm they are capable of swimming 50m wearing a PFD and disclose any important medical information through signing a Parent/guardian consent form at registration.
- A qualified First Responder with a comprehensive first aid kit and provided list of any pre-existing medical conditions/medications of paddlers should be at the venue for the duration of the event.
- A compulsory safety briefing must occur prior to the start of racing.
- Comprehensive safety management documentation covering the event, including Risk Management plan and Emergency Action Plan.

## ADDITIONAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE YOUR EVENT AWESOME!

- A photographer to take photos/videos that can be used and shared on social media by paddlers, event organisers and Paddler/Canoe Racing NZ.
- Sound system, with microphone for MC and music playing to create atmosphere.



## EVENT RESOURCES

We have created the following Kahawai event resources to assist event organisers:

- Operational and Safety Management Plan template
- Competitor parent/guardian consent form
- Heats/finals progression plan
- Race Schedule poster template
- Results templates and prizegiving lists
- Placing cards

These can be found in the Kahawai- Race Organiser section of the Paddler.nz website.

For further information about running a Kahawai event at your club or region, contact Danika Mowlem, Participation Lead at Canoe Racing New Zealand.

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