



ERWSD Vail Whitewater Race Series Rules

To standardize the competition, kayak length may not exceed 9'6". Whitewater-specific plastic and heavy-duty composite boats only. Stand Up Paddleboards may not exceed 11'. Rafts may not exceed 10'6". Inflatable Kayaks & Packrafts are allowed, but only if they are robust whitewater models worthy of the conditions. If in doubt about your vessel, ask Race Directors at least 24 hours in advance of competition.

- Hand Paddlers are **ALLOWED** | Sea kayaks & foot rudders are **NOT ALLOWED**.
- Properly sized PFD, helmet, and protective footwear are **REQUIRED**.
- Equipment will be reviewed at the start. The organizer has the right to refuse any non-conforming equipment (i.e., bicycle helmets, nylon spray-skirts, improper PFDs, etc.).
- Athletes are **REQUIRED** to **ALWAYS** wear competitor bibs outside their PFDs.
- Athletes **MUST** be checked in and registered by 5:15pm.
- Athletes **MUST** attend the Safety/Rules/Course review meeting at 5:20pm sharp.
- The top 9 racers move to the Championship bracket. All other racers move to the Consolation bracket.

COMPETITION:

- If a participant false starts in the time trial, **15 seconds** will be added to time. If a participant false starts during the brackets, the participant will be **Disqualified**.
- If a paddler is being overtaken by a "faster" paddler from behind, they must yield to the faster/overtaking paddler in a safe and respectful manner. The paddler being overtaken will be **Disqualified** if they intentionally block or do anything deemed unsportsmanlike.
- If a participant does not proceed through a gate in the designated way, **15 seconds** will be added to the participant's time.
- Participant must be on vessel and in control while ringing bell, crossing obstacle, or finishing. SUP participants must be on their feet when completing an obstacle. Failure to do so will result in a **15 second** penalty.

Participants in R2 Category:

- If there is a coed group, then the participants will race in the men's division.
- Since R2 is a team discipline, we require you to have the same R2 partner throughout the R2 series. If a partner is unable to attend a race, you may look for a replacement to compete in the race and win prizes for that day. If both R2 partners are not racing together, they will not receive any series points for their R2 Team.
- **To keep operations as smooth as possible, we ask that R2 partners bring their raft back to the start (unless told not to) for the next team to use.**

A participant will be deemed DNF (Did Not Finish) if:

- The participant's body passes through the vertical plane of the East end of the International Bridge before the last obstacle is completed.
- In bracket competition, the participant misses any of the gates.

A participant will be deemed DSQ (Disqualified) if:

- In the time trial, the paddler being overtaken does not yield to the faster paddler.
- Any action by a competitor during or in between races is deemed "Unsportsmanlike."
- In bracket competition, the participant false starts.
- Participant races without race bib or bib is unreadable.
- Raft participants do not bring raft back to start for the next racers.

If disqualification occurs after the participant's last race, the racer may be disqualified for the following week's race.

A protest of a judge's call can be grounds for disqualification.

Race Format:

- Time Trial:
 - Down Creek: everyone gets a time and is seeded.
 - The top 9 finishers move on to the head-to-head championship bracket.
 - Places 10 and lower, get a consolation round in groups of 2, 3, or 4.
- Top 9 finishers get seeded into brackets as follows:
 - Heat #1 - seeds 1, 6, 9
 - Heat #2 - Seeds 2, 5, 8
 - Heat #3 - Seeds 3, 4, 7
- The winner of each heat will enter the final head-to-head race to determine the champion.
- Seeds 10 and lower go in consolation heats in groups of 2, 3 or 4.

Results:

- Places 1-3 will be determined by their final head-to-head race.
- Places 4-9 for series points will be determined by their time trial time.
- Place 10 and lower will be determined by their head-to-head consolation race.

Series Points:

You are competing for points and awards at each race and the top overall male/female point scorers in each category at the end of the series will also receive prizes. Points are accrued each week based on your finish position. The lowest scoring race for individuals will be dropped from the final point total so series champions are determined based on their best four of five races.

1st – 50 points

2nd – 45 points

3rd – 40 points

4th – 35 points

5th – 30 points

6th – 25 points

7th – 20 points

8th – 15 points

9th – 10 points

10th – 5 points

Participation – 5 points

Tie Breaker:

In the case of a tie, the highest average points per event will be used to break the tie. For example, if one paddler has 100 points and has participated in five races (20 points per race average) and another paddler has 100 points but has participated in four races (25 points per race average) the paddler with the highest average will be declared the winner. If two paddlers have the same number of points and the same average, a head-to-head tie breaker will be used to declare the winner (whoever won the most head-to-head races). If each paddler is still tied, then the LAST race in the season in which BOTH paddlers participated will be used to decide the head-to-head tie breaker. If two paddlers are tied and did not compete head-to-head against each other, then the paddler who finished the latest race in the calendar will be the winner.