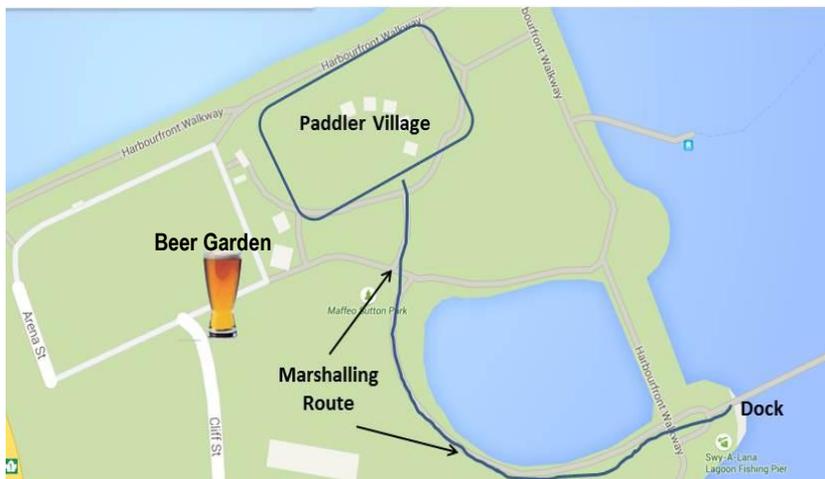


Howdy paddlers, your Crew Marshal here...

Below are some points to ensure smooth, efficient racing ... and my voice lasts till Sunday afternoon.

1. the posted heat or race times are **ESTIMATED** “RACE” times, i.e., *the time when the starter should sound the horn to **start the race***. The posted times have NO RELATION to “marshalling time,” i.e., the time to marshal. Pick a team member to loiter around an hour before your posted “race time” to see when you’ll be marshaled, so you’re at marshalling when I need you.
2. a whiteboard at the Paddler Village (PV) marshalling area will show which race is being marshaled and the *estimated* time before the next race will be marshaled. **Consult that before asking me, “Which race is being marshaled now?”** In years past I’ve used a squirt gun to answer that query, but that was when I was young and patient. Now I’m older & crankier ... and it’s amazing how painful water can be. Go ahead, make my day.
3. PLEASE ask your paddlers not to keep asking me, “are we ahead/behind of schedule?” I have no idea and DO NOT CARE!!! I pay **no attention** to the posted schedule, just to the Dock Master. Related, I have no idea and DO NOT CARE who won what race: look for posted race results instead of asking me. Thanks.
4. if your team strays from the PV (warm up, beer garden, lunch), **please** pay attention to No. 1 above. I use the PA to call teams but it doesn’t reach too far outside the village. Remember, it is your responsibility to be where I can find you, not mine to walk the entire site screaming your team name. If I can’t find your team and you miss a race, don’t unload on me. If you’ve had the luck to be marshaled by me before you know how much effort I put into making it smooth and fun for you, but even I have limits (gasp).



5. marshals lead teams from PV direct to the dock, where you get lifejackets and paddles. We need your cooperation to make this work. My goal is twenty minutes from when I first call you to you on the dock. I hate seeing lazy paddlers standing around in the sun, waiting.
6. wearing race bracelets is **not optional**: no bracelet, no race, no exceptions. Tell paddlers to put bracelets on tight: I don’t believe they can fall off in the shower!
7. Nanaimo Harbour is a BUSY place. Proper

steering is a must. We don’t want steering performances, or right turns to the Dingy Dock! I’ll be watching for drunk steering.

8. Please leave dock immediately after your race finishes! Offering congratulations anywhere on the dock or stairs causes huge traffic problems, affecting race schedule (and causing possible safety issues). Thank you.

That’s about it. I am in full and fine voice as I write this and raring to start. Paddles Up!

Cheers and Good Luck,
Crew Marshal