

# 2014 International Liffey Descent Race Briefing

## RACE PACK

Included in your Race Pack will be the following:

1. Race Bib(s)
2. Meal Card(s)
3. Canoeing Ireland Membership Cards (if pre paid)

## SAFETY

- + All competitors must wear approved buoyancy aids and all craft must have securely fitted and adequate buoyancy.
- + Where necessary, there should be footbars or adequate padding fitted.
- + It is compulsory for all competitors in General Purpose Classes, Wild Water Racers, Touring Doubles, and all Canadian classes to wear approved helmets. Competitors in all other classes are **highly recommended to wear helmets.**
- + Adequate footwear should be worn, as the terrain at the start and at the portage is very uneven. It is also important to consider, because of the possibility of changeable weather conditions, that adequate thermal gear(i.e. wetsuit) is worn or carried.
- + **Competitors not reaching Leixlip Portage by 2.30 pm or Wren's Nest by 3.30 pm should retire from the Race as Rescue and First Aid will be withdrawn at these times and notify Race officials as such.**
- + **If you wish to withdraw from the Race at anytime, inform a Race Official AND send a text with your Race Number to 085 7303865 ASAP.**
- + **Canoe and/or Diver Rescue will be provided at all major weirs. Competitors are also obliged to give assistance should it be called for during the course of the race.**
- + **The First Aid Co-ordinator, Shane Claffey, will be in radio contact with First Aid and Rescue Crews, can be contacted on 087 672 4265 throughout the day of the Descent.**

**First Aid Crews will be located at the following points:**

Straffan Weir  
Salmon Leap Canoe Club Bridge  
Leixlip Portage (Re-entry point)  
Sluice Weir  
Lucan Weir  
Wrens Nest Weir  
Palmerstown Weir  
The Garda Boat Club (The Finish)

## BIB COLLECTION

**Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Bib collection begins at 17.30 at the Garda Boat Club, until 21.00.**

**Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> - The Start Car Park from 8.30am to 9:30am**

## BIBS

- + Your **RACE BIB** must be worn with the "Canoeing Ireland" logo to the front. In C2, K2 and T2, both paddlers must wear race bibs. Bib Race Numbers must be clearly visible at all times. Do not obscure your Bib Race Number with water bottles, etc.

## SCRUTINEERING

All craft/equipment must be examined before the race by an official scrutineer in the Start Car Park. Do not leave the Car Park unless your craft and equipment have been examined. Any competitor who does not have a scrutineer's approval sticker will not be allowed through the gates to the river. Check that you have all your equipment before you leave the Car Park.

Scrutineers will be moving through the Start Car Park examining craft and equipment, or alternatively you can bring your craft and equipment to the designated Scrutineering Area which will be located within the Start Car Park. Scrutineers will only be located in the Start Car Park, so do not arrive at the gates without a sticker. Race Bibs should be fitted before you leave the Start Car Park

## EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Scrutineers will check that.....

- + you have an approved canoeing helmet if you are participating in a class that must have helmets (**Competitors in all other classes are highly recommended to wear helmets.**)
- + ensure that your helmet is in good condition and pay particular attention to the helmet strap.
- + your personal buoyancy aid is adequate and in good condition.
- + your boat's buoyancy and footrest are adequate and fitted securely. In particular, Canadians must have sufficient buoyancy.

If any of the above are inadequate or insecure, approval to participate in the race will be withheld by scrutineers.

**Your buoyancy aid and racing bib must be worn when passing through to the Start Area.** Each year a small number of competitors are refused access because their equipment fails a scrutineer's examination.

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Avoid disappointment by making sure your equipment meets the necessary requirements.

## Access to River and Start

- + Announcements will be made in the Car Park at regular intervals advising competitors when to proceed to the gates which access the river. Do not leave the Car Park with your boat and equipment until instructed to do so over the PA.
- + River Access will close at **10:30 sharp**. No competitor will be allowed through the gates after this time.
- + Quickly get on the water and paddle upriver. If for any reason you need to exit the river do so on the river right bank. Do not get off the river onto the hotel grounds.
- + Read and be familiar with the Race Start Procedure.

## RIVER ENTRY AREA

When you get to the River Entry Area get on the river as quickly as possible - **do not hang about**. An area of the riverbank will be cordoned off where you can enter the river. **Anyone not at the River Entry Area by 10:30 will not be allowed on the river.**

As soon as you get on the water you should paddle upriver to the **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA**. All competitors must be in **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA before 10:45**.

Anyone who has not reached the **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA** before 10:50 must pull in to the bank and remain there until the **last start group** has passed by, otherwise they will obstruct the Start Groups, the first of which will leave the Start Line at 11:00.

## LOCATION OF START & PRE START LINES

As you paddle upriver you will pass the **START LINE** which will be indicated by a banner on your right hand side. The **PRE START LINE** will be approximately 200 metres upriver from the **START LINE** and will be similarly identified by a banner on your right bank side.

The **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA** will start approximately 300 metre upriver from the **PRE START LINE**. The start of the **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA** will be indicated by a banner on your right hand side. You must paddle upriver to the **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA**. Do not congregate around the **START** and **PRE START LINES**.

## START GROUPS

It is necessary, because of the number of classes in the Descent, to group several classes together into **START GROUPS**. The sequence of the **START GROUPS** as listed opposite will also be the order in which each group will be brought forward to the **PRE START** and **START LINES**.

## PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA

In the **PRE START ASSEMBLY AREA** you should position yourself along the river in sequence with the order of the **START GROUPS** as listed below. Signs on the river left bank

will approximately indicate the location of your **PRE START AREA**.

Remain in your **PRE START AREA** until your **START GROUP** is called forward. Your **START GROUP** will be given sufficient time to assemble and will be moved forward by the **PRE STARTER** from the **ASSEMBLY AREA** to the **PRE START LINE**. When a **START GROUP** reaches the **PRE START LINE** the **PRE STARTER** will hand over the group to the **RACE STARTER**.

## START LINE

Each **START GROUP** will be led from the **PRE START** to the **START LINE** by the **STARTER** - any paddler attempting to break away from its Start Group will be penalized or disqualified. Video recording will be present at the start.

Furthermore, any competitor not obeying start officials will incur five-minute penalties or face disqualification if an infringement of the Starter's instructions continues.

When a **START GROUP** has assembled before the **START LINE**, a blast from a hooter will signal the start of the race for that **START GROUP**. After you leave the **START LINE** paddle quickly towards Straffan Weir - remember another **START GROUP** will be following quickly behind you.

The first start will be AT 11:00am with approximately 5-minute intervals between the different start groups. The timing of each start will depend on the situation below the weir. Be patient - you will be kept fully informed through the PA.

After you shoot Straffan Weir do not congregate below the weir. If you are paddling in a group wait just beyond the bridge on the river right bank.

## START GROUPS

**Group No. 1** All K2 Classes  
Including Mixed Kayak Double  
Veterans Kayak Double

**Group No. 2** All K1 Classes  
All Wild Water Racer Classes  
ICF Canadian Single

**Group No. 3** Touring Kayak Doubles

**Group No. 4** All General Purpose Classes  
Canadian Singles

**Group No. 5** Touring Canadian Doubles  
Touring Canadian Threes

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## **MEDAL PRESENTATION**

The Medal Presentations will take place inside the Race Marquee at 5:00 pm. All Class Winners will be called up together, ie: 1st 2nd and 3rd place.

## **RESULTS**

Results will be displayed in the Marquee, as they become available. Results will remain provisional until 5:00 pm. Any objections should be brought to the attention of an official at Finish Information before 5:00 pm. The Medal Presentations will proceed based on the results as of 5:00 pm. No changes to results will be accepted after October 8th. Results will be posted on [www.canoe.ie](http://www.canoe.ie) at the earliest convenience of the organisers.

## **NOTE**

Time keeping will close at 5.00 pm. Participants arriving after 5:00 pm will not be included in the final results and will not be considered official finishers.

When you pass the FINISH LINE, do not paddle back upriver across the FINISH LINE as this causes considerable difficulty for the Finish Line Judges. You must EXIT the river at Dublin City Rowing Club, just past the Garda Boat Club

## **CAR PARKING-** At the Start

All vehicles must park in the Start Car Park, which will be clearly signposted. Causing a traffic obstruction of any kind will be dealt with by the Gardai. The Start Car Park will be supervised until 7.00pm. The gates of this car park will be locked at 7.00 pm sharp and all cars must be removed by this time. Arrive early and abide by instructions from parking stewards.

## **CAR PARKING-** At the Finish Garda Boat Club

Only park in the areas indicated by the parking stewards.

Vehicles causing obstruction will be towed away by the Gardai. Security will cease at 6:30 pm at the Finish Car Park. The Organisers accept no responsibility for the safety or security of vehicles

## **BUS SERVICE**

Saturday morning

A bus will leave from the Garda Boat Club for Straffan at 9:00 am SHARP.

Saturday Evening

A bus will also leave from the Garda Boat Club for Straffan at 5.00pm SHARP.

This service is intended for car drivers who do not have support crews - so please do not book unless you

really need to.

Further bus tickets may be booked at bib collection on Friday, October 3rd. There will be a charge of €5.00 for the tickets. You will only be allowed on this bus if you have pre booked. Limited tickets are available and will operate on a 'first come, first serve' basis.

## **CAMPING**

Free camping is provided at the Garda Boat Club on the Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th to participants. If you wish to avail of this service please e-mail [info@canoe.ie](mailto:info@canoe.ie) with your name, your Race category, and a contact number.

## **MEAL**

Meals will be served in the Marquee up to 5:00 pm. All competitors have a meal card included in their Race Pack which can be exchanged for a meal. Meals will only be available to competitors who produce a card. Meals can be purchased by the public in the Marquee throughout the day.

Please make every effort to keep the venue litter free. Services such as showers, information, car park, security will cease at 6:30 pm sharp.

## **RACE BIBS- IMPORTANT**

Race Bibs will be collected as competitors get off the water at the Finish. Please co-operate in surrendering your Race Bib when requested. It is a competitor's responsibility to ensure their race bib is returned. Competitors failing to surrender / return race bibs will be charged a €25 penalty.

Race Bibs are one of the most expensive items incurred by the Descent. Please help keep costs down by ensuring your Race Bib is returned.

## **RACE AFTER PARTY**

The Race After Party will be held in the Garda Boat Club, from 8 pm to 2 am.