



2026 Paddle Europe Junior and U23 Wildwater Championship

12 – 15 August 2026

Team Manager Brief



Briefing for Team Managers

Dear Friends and Participants

It is our great pleasure that we welcome you all to compete in the 2026 European Junior and Under 23 Wild Water Racing Championships taking place on the River Tay, between Aberfeldy and Grandtully.

Paddle Scotland and the Scottish paddling community is delighted to host this event and to welcome Europe's most promising young wildwater athletes to one of Scotland's most famous rivers.

While Grandtully may be small, it has a reputation as an exciting course and welcoming community, with paddlers joining us from all over the UK every year. Grandtully also sits at the heart of the Scottish outdoor and tourist industry, uniquely situated at the foot of the highlands and as such has become an epicentre of adventure sport for Scotland.

We have an excellent close relationship with both the local community and landowners in the valley, and they have been instrumental in supporting this event. We ask that this is respected in particular with the fishing community who have been accommodating and supportive.

For Paddle Scotland and the UK racing community this event is the first in a generation and the load has been lightened by the drive and enthusiasm of our volunteers (so be nice to them 😊).

We truly hope you have a wonderful event and fulfil your athletic aims, in addition to enjoying the outstanding culture, history and people of our highland community.

1. Race Officials and Delegations in Attendance

A. Jury Composition

Role	Name
Jury Chair	Jean Zoungrana (PEU)
Jury Member	Moira Aston (PEU)
Jury Member	Mark Ritchie (Paddle Scotland)

B. Other Main Officials

Role	Name
Chief Official	Manuela Gawehn (PEU)
Chief Judge	Thomas Gawehn (GER)
Race Organiser	David Campbell (SCO)
Start Judge	Peter SCHOEFIELD (GBR)
Pre-Start Control Judge	Pedro LÓPEZ AYUSO (ESP)
Finish Judge	Mathias GERARD (FRA)
Boat Control Judge	Victoria Isabell SANCHEZ RODRIGUEZ (ESP)

Roll Call of Delegations

Calculation of simple majority should a vote be required. The Chief Official also has a vote and in case of a tied vote the Chief Official has the casting vote.

	NOC	Name	Team leader
1	AUT	Austria	Ursula Profanter
2	BEL	Belgium	Maxime Richard
3	CRO	Croatia	Tomislav Hohnjec
4	CZE	Czechia	Robert Knebel
5	ESP	Spain	Guillermo Fidalgo
6	FRA	France	Laetitia Parage

7	GBR	Great Britain	Jamie Christie
8	GER	Germany	Martin Vogler
9	HUN	Hungary	Sara Seprenyi
10	IRL	Ireland	David Pringle
11	ITA	Italy	Vladi Panato
12	MKD	Republic of North Makedonia	Ljubomir Spasikj
13	NED	Netherland	Pascal Lucker
14	ROU	Romania	Monica Bujoreanu
15	SLO	Slovenia	Anže Berčič
16	SRB	Serbia	Sreten Biljic
17	SUI	Switzerland	Luis Clavadetscher
18	SVK	Slovakia	Slucik Jaroslav
19	UKR	Ukraine	Prokopenko Dmitrij

2. Programme

The schedule will be posted on the “2026 Jun/U23 Europeans Grandtully” WhatsApp Group, and will be updated throughout the event when required.

Saturday 8th - Tuesday 11th of August

Open Training

Please note there will be no safety team on the water for training days. They will only be present during racing.

During training days, we **do not** have exclusive use of the river so please respect other river users (e.g. Fishermen, rafters and other paddlers) and follow the Paddlers Code. This will help us to maintain the good relationship we have with landowners and other river users for future events.

Sunday 9th August

Open training. Aberfeldy (Beyond Adventure) – Grandtully.

Monday 10th August

17:00 Hrs, Official Team Leader Meeting Village Hall.

Tuesday 11th of August

Open training. Aberfeldy (Beyond Adventure) – Grandtully.

Teams will assemble at the rear of the Village Hall at 17:00 Hrs, before being piped over to the Grandtully Station Park.

Wednesday 12th of August

Classis Race as per schedule

Thursday 13th August

Classic Team Race as per schedule

Medal ceremony at Grandtully Station, 18:00 to 20:00 Hrs

Friday 14th August

Sprint Heats as per schedule

Saturday 15th August

Sprint Finals as per schedule

Sprint Team Race as per schedule

Medal and Closing Ceremony at Grandtully Station, 18:00 to 20:00 Hrs

Closing Ceilidh at the rear of Village Hall, 20:00 to 21:00 Hrs

In the event of an incident on the course that necessitates the race being stopped, either the water or land-based safety team will communicate with the Race Office to

stop the race. This will be communicated to paddlers on the course by a combination of: air horns; red flags and a shout of “Stop, Stop, Stop”

4. Information During the Competition

All announcements and important information will be shared in the “2026 Jun/U23 Europeans Grandtully” WhatsApp Group. Please join this group using <https://chat.whatsapp.com/J1UHC77Q9xdC4h2UIXoEaE>

The latest version of the competition schedule will be posted into this WhatsApp group on Tuesday 11/08/2026 following the team leaders briefing.

5. Confirmation of Start List

Please check carefully for spelling, events and withdrawals

Reminder:

Rule 1.6.1.f - In extraordinary circumstances, an application can be made to the Technical Chair for the acceptance of late nominal entries from National Federations. It is the Technical Chair's discretion to accept or decline a late entry. Late entries to the competition will incur a fee of 50 euros per athlete in addition to the participation fee.

6. Start List Distribution

Start list will be distributed via the whatsapp group.

7. Bib Distribution

Athletes will be issued a bib for both the classic and sprint individual races which is also a personal event memento they may keep.

Team's bibs will issued ahead of team racing; information issued via the WhatsApp group – non returned team bibs will be charged at 50 Euros each.

Bibs are distributed from the **Race Office which is located in the Campsite Office Building.**

Bib distribution is scheduled to take place Tuesday 14th August 2026 from 15:00-16:30

Events Validity (minimum 5 NF per event)

A. Individual events Juniors

EVENT	MK1	WK1	MC1	WC1	MC2	WC2
BOATS	39	32	20	16	13	7
NATIONS	15	12	8	7	7	5

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Individual events U23

EVENT	MK1	WK1	MC1	WC1	MC2	WC2
BOATS	38	24	17	12	12	6
NATIONS	14	9	7	4	7	4

B. Team events Juniors

EVENT	MK1x3	WK1x3	MC1 x3	WC1x3	MC2 x3	WC2 x3
NATIONS	6	7	4	2	2	0

Team events U23

EVENT	MK1x3	WK1x3	MC1 x3	WC1x3	MC2 x3	WC2 x3
NATIONS	11	6	5	2	4	3

8. Race Progression

The sprint competition includes 2 heats and one final. The progression is according to the table below.

Event	HR1 to Final	HR2 to Final	Total in Final
MK1	5	10	15
WK1	5	10	15
MC1	5	7	12

WC1	5	7	12
MC2	5	5	10
WC2	5	5	10

9. Venue & Course Information

Location	Description
River	River Tay
Classic Race Ingress	Beyond Adventure
Classic Race Start	Edradynate
Sprint Race Ingress	Top Tully Rapid
Sprint Race Start	River Left
Classic & Sprint Finish	Below Forth Falls

10. Course Closure

The course will be closed 15 minutes before the first official start each day. The course will reopen at various points during the day as denoted on the schedule.

11. Pre-Start Control

The pre-start control for the classic race will be located at Beyond Adventure near the boat entrance. All athletes are required to pass the pre-start control before entering the water. For sprint, the pre-start control will be on the path between the slalom hut and the get in. If athletes choose a longer warm up, they must exit the river to pass through.

12. Start and Finish Location and Procedure

a) Start Procedure (Individual Events)

The boat will be held on the start (raft before start gate) and released from 0 after the countdown has finished.

Athletes are responsible to get themselves to the starting positions.

Athletes must stay in the designated waiting areas (upstream) until the athlete at the start leaves the starting position.

There will be a clock facing upstream showing the time.

There will be an acoustic signal at the start.

Athletes must start **within 3 seconds** of their start time.

At all times, the athletes must follow the Starter's instruction, or they may be disqualified.

b) Start Procedure (Team Events)

All boats will be held.

Moving backwards after the start signal is not allowed.

All boats must pass the beam line **within 10 seconds** from the start time ("0").

Classic start

The classic start position has been communicated via WhatsApp.

Sprint start

The sprint start position has been communicated via WhatsApp.

c) Finish Procedure

Athletes must exit on river **right** below the finish line and pass through the equipment control.

13. Course Approval

The course must be approved by the majority of the nations present at the team leader meeting.

14. Results

Results will be available via on line feed and official results will be posted on the Event WhatsApp group.

15. Location of Enquiry / Protest Desk & Protest Fee

The Chief Judge will be located at finish Boat Control enquiry desk is located in the Race Office.

The protest fee is **75 euros**.

The chief judge will review all the available information for the processing of the enquiry. Following the investigation of the enquiry, the decision becomes a matter of fact and therefore can't be protested further. An enquiry is considered only when submitted within 20 minutes for classic and 5 minutes for sprint race after the competitor's result is posted.

16. Equipment Measuring & Post Competition Control

Boat measuring will be available for self-control from Tuesday as per the schedule.

The scrutineering area will be located in the car parking field in the designated team parking area.

Athletes must not leave the finish zone on the right river bank until dismissed by the equipment control judge once they are no longer needed for the equipment- or antidoping-control.

17. Anti-Doping Control & Education Programme (WADA) Validation

Every person holding an official accreditation needs to complete the WADA antidoping program prior to the competition phase. Access to the program: <https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Link to access ADEL program <adel.wada-ama.org>

The doping control station is located in the Grandtully Station Park Campsite Office building.

Athletes will be notified of doping control testing at the finish line following egress from the river.

An ID card or Passport will be required and requested by the testing team.

18. Awards Ceremony, Time, Location & Dress Requirements

Event	Time	Location
Opening Ceremony	Tuesday - 11/08/2026 17:00	Grandtully Station Park
Classic Medal Ceremony	Thursday - 13/08/2026 18:00	Grandtully Station Park
Sprint Medal Ceremony	Saturday - 15/08/2026 18:00	Grandtully Station Park

Closing Ceremony	Saturday - 15/08/2026 19:50	Grandtully Station Park
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Podium Athletes (plus Team Leader of the winning nation) **MUST** be in the assembly area (close to the stage) no later than ten (10) minutes before the ceremony. Only athletes who have won medals in that particular event are allowed on the podium. For all the medal ceremonies, athletes must wear their official team uniforms, and appropriate footwear is required (barefoot is not allowed).

Athletes may not wear hats or headgear and no sunglasses are allowed throughout the Ceremony.

Important note: National flag, other flag, propaganda or message is **NOT** allowed on the podium.

19. Water & Land Based Safety & Rescue & First Aid

The water rescue service (Beyond Adventure) will be located along the course as required.

Please follow their instructions at all times.

The medical team will be located primarily at Grandtully village hall; however, they will have the ability to move around. First Aiders will be located throughout the courses and near the finish lines.

Should any team members, athletes, spectators etc require urgent/emergency medical treatment then call 999.

Paddle Europe and Paddle Worldwide have requested that athletes complete their nutrition questionnaire.

Please note: Ticks are prevalent in Scotland throughout the warmer summer months. The NHS has published guidance regarding tick bites and the diseases that ticks carry, including Lyme Disease. Please ensure that any athletes or team members who have walked through long grass.

21. Spectating Locations

The best spectating areas are identified on the accreditation pass and are along the river bank.

Please don't spectate from the bridge as this will block traffic for the local community, also given that the weight limit (3 Tonnes) will be quickly exceeded by one car and 30 spectators.

DO NOT spectate below the hydro power plant, as there is the potential for an uncontrolled release of water.

DO NOT spectate or use the path directly below the Old Mill, overlooking Fourth Falls, as this is private property with building work ongoing.

22. Venue and Course Maps

Classic Course



Sprint Course



23. Parking

All parking **MUST** be in the car parking field to the east of the village (as signed) and will be open 08:00 and closed at 20:00.

On race days, the field will be open from 07:00