

# **2026 PENRITH OPEN**

**and**

# **2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

## **Bulletin No1**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Paddle Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Dharug Country and recognises their continuing connection to the lands, waters and community.

We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

We recognise the Dharug people's close connection to the waterways, in many ways like our own community.

## INTRODUCTION

This document is the first bulletin with information for the:

2026 Penrith Open – 13 – 15 January and

2026 Australian Open – 20 to 22 February

to be held at Penrith Whitewater Stadium (PWS), Sydney, Australia. Paddle Australia (PA) is pleased to deliver these competitions.

Both these competitions earn ICF world ranking points in Canoe & Kayak and the Kayak Cross events.

For more information, please head to the official website <https://paddlepenrith.com.au/>

Note, these competitions also incorporate selection trials for the Australian Senior, Under 23 and Junior National Teams Canoe Slalom.

## PENRITH INFORMATION

We invite you to get to know Penrith, get ready for unique and memorable experiences.

From the banks of the Nepean River to rural hinterlands, through the city centres and many unique neighbourhoods, you'll discover well known favourites and hidden gems.

Penrith has an enviable lifestyle, excellent sporting and recreation facilities, green open spaces, and vibrant local events.

For more information on what's on in Penrith, including eating and accommodation suggestions, see; <https://www.visitpenrith.com.au/>

## VISA APPLICATION

If your team requires an invitation letter to process your visa application, please contact Paul Branson [paul.branson@paddle.org.au](mailto:paul.branson@paddle.org.au) in the Paddle Australia office. Please provide the following details for each applicant:

Given Name:

Family Name:

Date of Birth DD/MM/YYYY:

Passport number:

Nationality:

Role at competition; (i.e. Athlete, Coach etc)

## PHOTOGRAPH PERMISSION

Competitors are advised that during the course of this event they may be photographed or filmed by official Paddle Australia photographers or by officially accredited media.

It is a condition of entry to the 2025 Oceania Championships and 2025 Australian Open that competitors give consent to the use of any photos or film containing their image, by media outlets, and/or by Paddle Australia and/or by related parties in pursuit of Paddle Australia's objectives.

Competitors, who do not consent to this use, must inform Sue Natoli ([suenatoli@gmail.com](mailto:suenatoli@gmail.com)) before the competition commences.

## 2026 PROVISIONAL SCHEDULES

The provisional Competition Schedules are available from the competition website <https://paddlepenrith.com.au/>

The competition organisers reserve the right to modify the schedules.

## DOPING CONTROL

In line with the World Anti-Doping Code and the ICF Doping Control Rules, Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) may conduct random drug testing at this competition.

All competing Athletes and Team Staff are also required to complete the ADEL doping education program, or national equivalent. If your Athlete has not yet completed this they should go to <https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education> and complete either the Athlete or coaches' education program.

Information regarding doping control can be found on the Sport Integrity Australia website at <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/>

## ENTRIES

The entry fees are:



2026 Penrith Open AUD \$115 per Athlete with no limit on the Canoe & Kayak or Kayak Cross events entered.

2026 Australian Open AUD \$115 per Athlete with no limit on the Canoe & Kayak or Kayak Cross events entered.

Entry to both Penrith and the Australian Open is AUD \$190 per Athlete with no limit on the Canoe & Kayak or Kayak Cross events entered.

2026 Penrith and Australian Open entries are open from Monday 15 December 2025 with payments to be made via “JustGo”

### **2026 Paddle Penrith**

Australian Athletes - Paddle Australia “JustGo” entry portal closes **30 January**

International Athletes - ICF SDP entries close on **3 February**

### **2026 Australian Open entries**

- Paddle Australia “JustGo” entry portal closes **6 February**
- ICF SDP entries close on **10 February**

All entries must be made by your Federation using the ICF online entry system - SDP.

Australian athletes must complete their initial entry via the PA entry portal on “JustGo” before PA can submit your entry to the ICF via SDP.

Please contact PA directly if you are having problems using the JustGo entry system.

Acceptance of a late entry is at the discretion of the Organiser, and a late entry fee will be charged. Late entries must comply with ICF Canoe Slalom competition rule 1.6.1.f and Chapter 6.2 (2025 rules) regarding late entries.

## **COMPETITION RULES**

The competitions will be run in accordance with ICF Rules and appendices in place at the time of the competition, and any special PA rules or bylaws as they pertain to the competition.

The 2025 rules and appendices are available from the ICF website at <https://www.canoeicf.com/rules-slalom>. 2026 Rules and appendices will be posted to the same address in January.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT**

The following events and age groups will be contested at both the Penrith and the Australian Open:

Canoe & Kayak: Open, U23 and Junior (U18) in Men K1, Women K1, Men C1 and Women C1

Kayak Cross: Open and U18 in MX1 and WX1.



For both competitions Canoe / Kayak and Kayak Cross events will be staged over 3 days according to the following schedule:

Thursday	Demonstration Runs
Friday	Canoe Day: Heats: WC1, MC1 (one run) and finals
Saturday	Kayak Day: Heats: WK1, MK1 (one run) and finals
Sunday	Kayak Cross Qualification and Elimination rounds

All Competitors will have one heats qualification run and will be ranked. Based on the ranking of the first qualification run, the 12 best ranked competitors will progress directly to the Final.

If there are less entries in the Heats phase than qualify for the Final phase the Heats phase will still run to meet Australian Team selection criteria.

For Kayak Cross:

Athletes will compete in the Qualification round (time trial individual) and from this the first 32 ranked Athletes in MX1 and WX1 will proceed to the Elimination round

## INVITATIONAL EVENTS

An B Final Invitation event will be held for Athletes who do not qualify for the Final.

## ICF WORLD RANKING

All Athletes will progress through each phase of competition for all events according to the 2026 ICF progressions, available on the ICF website (see COMPETITION RULES in this document).

All competing Athletes will receive ICF world ranking points based on their final result. Note the B Final events do not count for World Ranking points

## COURSE CONFIGURATION

The course configuration will not be changed between the Penrith and Australian Open, but the Canoe Slalom competitions may be run on different parts of the channel.

The parts of the channel to be used for each competition will be confirmed by the 20 January 2025 but will likely be:

Penrith Open: "Sweet Lips" to the end of the channel (Olympic finish)

Australian Open: Start Pool to the bottom bridge

Kayak Cross: Start Ramp to "Jacks"

## COURSE DESIGN

The Course Design Committee will be selected from those in the pool nominated by PA. Any International team wishing to submit a nomination to the pool must do so before 31 January to be considered.

The name should be submitted to Sue NATOLI [suenatoli@gmail.com](mailto:suenatoli@gmail.com)

## TECHNICAL VIDEO SERVICE

A technical video service will be provided by Paddle Australia. Teams need to register their interest prior to the competitions Team Leaders meeting to:

Nick Perry [nick.perry@paddle.org.au](mailto:nick.perry@paddle.org.au), and

Katrina Sutherland [katrina.sutherland@paddle.org.au](mailto:katrina.sutherland@paddle.org.au)

Information about accessing the feed will be provided in the lead up to the event period, teams will not be required to bring any cables or adapters to access the feed.

Teams are encouraged to bring a USB stick compatible with Mac Computers in the event of technical difficulties and USB transfer is necessary.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND PADDLE AUSTRALIA CONTACTS

For further information about these competitions, please head to the official website <https://paddlepenrith.com.au/>

The contact details for PA are:

Phone:

(+ 61) 481 135 539

Email:

Paul Branson <mailto:paul.branson@paddle.org.au>  
or [slalom@paddle.org.au](mailto:slalom@paddle.org.au)