



## Vail Whitewater Rules

In an effort to standardize the competition, kayak length may not exceed 9'6". Whitewater-specific plastic and heavy-duty composite boats only. Sit-on-tops are allowed, but only if they are robust whitewater models worthy of the conditions. SUP under 11'. Rafts under 10'. If in doubt about your vessel, ask Race Directors at least 24 hours in advance of competition.

Hand Paddlers are allowed; No sea kayaks or foot rudders allowed.

PFD, helmet, and protective footwear are required.

Equipment will be reviewed at start. The organizer has the right to refuse any non-conforming equipment (i.e. bicycle helmets, nylon spray-skirts, etc.).

Athletes must wear competitor bibs outside their PFDs at all times.

Athletes must be checked in and registered by 5:15.

Athletes are required to attend the Safety/Rules/Course review meeting at 5:20 sharp

Top nine racers move to Championship bracket. All other racers move to 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 another "faster" paddler from behind, they must yield to the faster/overtaking paddler in a safe and respectful manner. This will not affect a penalty or DQ unless the paddler being overtaken used blocking or any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct.

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 while ringing bell, crossing obstacle, or finishing. SUP participants must be on their feet when completing an obstacle.

Participants in R2 Category:

- If there is a coed group then the participants will race in the men's division.
- R2 is a team sport so series points will be based on consistent partners(The same two people rafting together)

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 slower paddler does not yield to the faster paddler
- Any action by a competitor during or in between races is deemed "Unsportsmanlike"
- Participant races without race bib or bib is unreadable.
- Raft participants don't bring raft back to start in a timely manner after completing course.

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

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

### **Race Format:**

1st time down creek: Time Trial: everyone gets a time and is seeded. The top 9 finishers move on to the championship bracket. Places 10 and up, get a consolation round in groups of 3.

Top 9 go in brackets as follows:

Heat #1 - seeds 1, 6, 9

Heat #2 – Seeds 2, 5, 8

Heat #3 – Seeds 3, 4, 7

The winners of the three Heats will take a finale run to determine the champion.

Seeds 10 and up go in consolation heats in groups of 2,3 or 4

### **For Complete Results:**

Places 4-9 for series points will be determined by their time trial time

Places 1-3 will be determined by their head to head final race.

Place 10 and higher will be determined by their head to head consolation round 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 complete head to head against each other, then the paddler who finished the latest race in the calendar will be the winner.