

# Canoe Sprint Competition Rules – Basic Guides to Officiating

## 1. Introduction

Some years ago (around 1971), when Sergio Orsi was Chairman of the PRC (Paddling Racing Committee but now called the Canoe Sprint Committee), he asked me to write a Guide for Umpires. It was his response to my enquiry for a copy of any information the ICF may hold on the subject. Well, some thirty years later, I got round to it. With a lot of help from friends, I produced a set of Guides (Version 1.) to cover the main areas an International Official may be appointed to do. My thanks go to them, and also to my sister, Hilary Elfick, for her helpful suggestions with the text. This 6<sup>th</sup> Version brings everything up-to-date with the 2011 Competition Rules.

Our athletes are entitled to the very best service we can provide. As officials we must be equally professional and strive for perfection. In this sport we are not paid for our services and in most cases are not in receipt of out-of-pocket expenses. Our only reward in the sport relates to personal development and satisfaction. Good officials are fully aware of the total requirements of their responsibilities and continuously strive to improve their expertise and proficiency.

The set of Guides has been targeted for potential International Canoe Sprint Officials or those newly qualified. They are basic, and by no means comprehensive nor intended to be. What I hope is that they will help guide the reader's mind, and encourage him/her to give themselves specific targets for constant development.

Each paper is a “stand alone” document; each may be read or studied in isolation. They have all been subtitled A Basic Guide and not The Basic Guide. I do not claim to be infallible, and the Guides are exactly what they say – basic. If they promote discussion and fierce arguments, that would be simply wonderful! Nothing will better stimulate further study, formulate thinking and promote better understanding.

Much of my thinking through the years has been formed with the help of the two publications listed below. They are quite old now and have been well thumbed. The Guides contain much from them. I hope the reader will be stimulated to go out and, Buy! Buy! Buy! not only these, but also any other publications they can lay their hands on which relate to officiating in sport.

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Alan S Goldberger, J.D. “Sports Officiating: A Legal Guide” (1984). Published by Leisure Press.

Richard Clegg and William A Thompson “Modern Sports Officiating: A Practical Guide” Third Edition (1985).  
Published by Wm. C. Brown.