



Malabar River Festival Open World Wildwater Kayak & Slalom Competition
Thusharagiri, Kozhikode, Kerala | 26-28 July 2019
Rulebook 2019

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Competition Categories

Here are the competition categories at the Malabar River Festival.

- Professional (Men)
- Professional (Women)
- Amateur (Men)
- Amateur (Women)

Pro Category (Men and Women)

The races in this category are:

Giant Slalom (WW class IIIV)

Open to: all paddlers

Boater Cross (WW class IIIIV)

Open to: the best 32 paddlers based on the slalom results (qualification run)

Rajah Trophy (WW Class IVV)

Open to: restricted access. See below

Rani Trophy (WW Class IVV)

Open to: restricted access. See below

Under 21 Pro Category (Special Prize Category)

This category is for young skillful athletes that are less than 21 years old. These paddlers will face themselves in the same slalom racecourse of the PRO Category, and in a boater cross and in a downriver time trial.

This is a prize category and NOT a race category.





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Amateur Category (Men and Women)

This category is aimed at paddlers with some (days to weeks) whitewater experience.

As a rough guide, the “Game of Thorns” rapid on the Chalipuzha should be pushing the edge of your ability in a kayak. Any paddler who has successfully paddled the “Malabar Express” rapid on the Iruvanjipuzha should race in the PRO Category. Any paddler whose occupation is safety kayaker or raft guide or similar should also race in the PRO Category.

Any paddler found to misrepresent his/her skill level would be disqualified and would forfeit his/her ranking.

Level of paddling – Class 3 or below.

The races in this category are:

Giant Slalom (WW class II-III)

Open to: all paddlers

Boater Cross (WW class II-III)

Open to: the best 32 paddlers based on the slalom results (qualification run)





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Giant Slalom

Venue:

“Games of Thorns” rapid, Chalipuzha river (Low water backup: “Malabar Express” rapid, Iruvanjipuzha)

Format:

2 qualification runs (all entrants)

Competitors will be ranked according to their fastest run (best of two).

The top 15 paddlers will then enter the final. The final will consist of one run down the course ranked by the fastest times. The paddler scoring the best time on the final run will be the winner of the Slalom race.

The race consists in a time trial downriver descent through mandatory slalom gates, downstream gates being marked with green/white poles, upstream gates being marked with red/white. Athletes will have to cross a finishing line or touch with one hand the banner at the end of the race in order to finish or cross a sensor placed in the finishing line.

Penalties and gate negotiations will be judged according to the current ICF Slalom Rules.

Penalties:

Touching one gate: 2 seconds penalty.

Missing a gate: 50 seconds penalty.

Any gate passed in the wrong direction will be considered as a missed gate.





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Boater Cross

Venue

“Games of Thorns” rapid, Chalipuzha river (Low water backup: “Malabar Express” rapid, Iruvanjipuzha)

The first 32 athletes from the Slalom Classification will have access to the Boater Cross race. Heats will be formed with the following structure:

Heat 1: 1,16,24,32

Heat 2: 8,9,17,25

Heat 3: 6,11,19,27

Heat 4: 4,13,21,29

Heat 5: 3,14,22,30

Heat 6: 5,12,20,28

Heat 7: 7,10,18,26

Heat 8: 2,15,23,31

Starting position

The racer with the best ranking position can choose his/her place in the start and so on until all positions have been decided.

Contact rules

For safety reasons all athletes will have to follow some contact rules:

- Keep your hands always on the paddle. You're not allowed to push people or kayaks with the hands.
- Keep your paddle away from another paddler's body.

Kayak – kayak contacts are allowed, and it is possible to push someone offline by touching his/her kayak.

If the judges notice any athlete breaking these rules, the same athlete can be disqualified from the boater cross race.





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Downriver Extreme Race (Rajah / Rani Trophy) - Pro only

The top athletes from the pro slalom (qualifications) ranking, together with the winner of the Pro Boater Cross will be selected for the Rajah/Rani Trophy extreme downriver race (the number will be from a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 and will be decided on Saturday 27th July according to the characteristics of the final venue selected for this competition and the water levels).

The venue of this race will be officially announced on Saturday 27th July, at 18.00pm.

Presently the possible venues are:

- the Malabar Express rapid
- the Fire Alarm Rapid, above Malabar express, on Middle Iruvanjipuzha
- the Volleyball rapid on the Chalipuzha river (in case of high flows)
- the Jungle Pinball rapid on the Chalipuzha river (in case of high flows)

The race consists in a time trial downriver descent. Athletes will have to cross a finishing line or touch with one hand the banner at the end of the race in order to finish or cross a sensor put in the finishing line.

Athletes might be required to wear a GoPro camera in order to have additional time measurement.

The race will consist of one qualification run (Head to head) and one final run.

The best athletes of the qualification run will qualify for the second and final run. The two losers with the best timing from qualification will be admitted to finals as lucky losers. This is subject to change when the venue will be selected, and the number of participants will be finalized.

The winner of this race will be crowned as the Rapid Rajah (male category) and Rapid Rani (female category).





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General Rules

Every athlete can use only one boat for the slalom, boater cross and Rajah/Rani Trophy races. **Boat exchange will not be allowed.** In case an athlete does not have a boat, he/she has to inform the organizers at least 12 hours before the beginning of the first race, and the organizers will decide if the boat exchange is possible. For the Downriver Extreme Race only suitable boats will be accepted (see below). In case an athlete shows himself/herself with a boat that is not suitable for the Extreme Down River Race, he/she can anyway compete with the same boat on the other races, provided that is approved by the organizers.

At the moment of registration, the athletes need to specify which boat they are intending to use for the races. One hour before the Slalom race, all the boats will be inspected by the Race Safety inspector below the starting ramp of the race.

A category will be existing when at least 3 paddlers of the same are registered and are taking part to the race.

If less than 3 paddlers are competing, the category will not be considered in the race unless the organizers will decide otherwise. Paddlers registered for a category that has not enough competitors can compete in other categories or do the race without expecting a trophy. Female paddlers can compete in the pro races for Rapid Rajah trophy even if the female pro category will not be formed.

Only the first 3 competitors of a category will receive a prize. In the case of a category with only 3 competitors, the third-place prize will not be distributed unless the organizers will decide otherwise.

RAPID RAJAH TROPHY

The Rapid Rajah will be the kayaker who will obtain the best time in the Rapid Rajah Trophy extreme downriver race

RAPID RANI TROPHY

The Rapid Rani will be the kayaker who will obtain the best time in the Rapid Rani Trophy extreme downriver race





Kayak Specifications

For any race boats must be:

- made of PE plastic
- with at least two flotation bags installed
- with a maximum length of 275 cm (9 feet)
- with a minimum weight of 18kg (complete)
- with a large cockpit that the paddler can escape from easily
- with no constructional changes, apart from those offered and sold by the manufacturer and provided that these changes do not impact the safety standards. Handles, full plate footrests and pillars must not be removed!
- with no constructional damage, in particularly cracks in the shell of the boat
- fitted with a full plate footrest or similar (Yakima type touring footrests are not permitted. Solid foam foot plates are allowed)

Additionally, for the Down River Extreme race the boat must be:

- with high volume ends that encourage the boat to resurface quickly
- with similar volume in both the front and rear of the boat
- with a minimum of two attachment points in the front (in front of the paddler) and a minimum of two attachment points at the rear (behind the paddler), or alternatively one attachment point in the front and three attachment points in the back, that are strong enough to rescue a pinned kayak (at least 500 kg)

