










1) The current format of racing is essentially a duplication of the World Championship format for Senior, U23 and Junior paddlers. i.e. Relatively small, separate fields for each age group with held starts.

Do you support this format of racing for masters?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		229	89.11
2) No		28	10.89


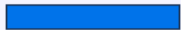








2) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	I have been to the last 4 Masters World Cup and the format has worked very well for the women. We have an age combined start for the most part to make the start list up to 10 or more boats which is fun. I think that each start should have at least 10 boats in it.	1	2.04
2	Small fields are boring	1	2.04
3	All together would be great	1	2.04
4	I support it as long as there is a minimum of ten or twelve boats per start. They should never be under that number. Copenhagen 2013 was perfect. This year, Europeans at Pontevedra were really poor about that and starts should have been compiled.	1	2.04
5	Group Start	1	2.04
6	The present format of races is not only practicable but enjoyable to watch	1	2.04
7	It is important for Masters to be formally recognised as they do make up a majority of National Federation memberships. Keeping the same course and format would save a logistical headache for organisers. It can be difficult to set 2 different courses and then ensure the correct information is presented at the appropriate team leaders meetings / briefing.	1	2.04
8	i dont think that its the case that the masters starts have small numbers of paddlers in each age group and in the masters female paddlers they amalgamate the age groups already.	1	2.04
9	Yes but group together with other age groups - but give seperate color codes and no out of age slipping	1	2.04
10	If there are batches it makes more sense to seperate them in terms of times than age. A batch with all the fast paddlers in, regardless of their age, will deliver much more exciting racing. And let me tell you, never underestimate how important it is to keep the sport exciting for spectators.	1	2.04

3) At the World Cup in Portugal this year, a mass start system was used with only two starts - one for male masters and one for female masters.

Do you support this different format of starts for masters?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		102	42.15
2) No		140	57.85












4) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	Makes it very difficult in narrow waters, especially for older and slower paddlers. Its fairer if starts are by age group.	1	1.52
2	This kind of start makes it really hard for older paddlers. It is not fair on paddlers over 55 years old. In the women, it is fine to have one mass start for U55 and one for over 55. One thing that masters sport does not want to address is that there are major physiological changes in women by the time they are over 55 years of age. These changes make it hard for them to compete on the same stage as younger women. The hormonal changes can affect strength, endurance but also flexibility, core strength and balance. In a mass start, this puts these women at a major disadvantage.	1	1.52
3	In a mass start, younger stronger paddlers effect the race of other people. You are no longer age racing you are racing everyone. Also older paddlers can get in the way of younger paddlers and adversely effect their performance.	1	1.52
4	If there space enough for a proper paddling, yes. But massive starts with over 50 boats may end in clashes and capsizes, which is never good for the competition.	1	1.52
5	In some categories you may only have a few entrants, a mass start allows for a fun race! If an older paddler is strong enough to stay with the younger class, then he/she is the better paddler!	1	1.52
6	Every age group should have a different colour on the boat numbers to tell a difference.	1	1.52
7	Given the slip stream component is makes for an unfair playing field as you couldbe helped or hindered by those who are not in your category.	1	1.52
8	By age as you know who you are competing against	1	1.52
9	there are too many wash riding advantages for out of class wash riding the faster paddlers.	1	1.52
10	Faster starters could get away from their age group and stay away on a geohp of different age group. On there own they could get pulled back	1	1.52

5) Currently the masters race distances are based on the system used for Senior, U23 and Junior paddlers, in which ladies race one lap less than males and C boats race one lap less than kayaks etc. In masters we also have different sets of distances depending on ages.

Do you support this way of establishing distances for masters?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		205	87.98
2) No		28	12.02











6) Please add your comments here:






#	Response	Count	Percent
1	Yes althou anything less than 17km is not really a marathon. Also portages for over 65 should be returned. The assistance rule covers those who may struggle with a portage.	1	2.86
2	BUT do not change them the day before racing as ICF did in 2015. That was very unprofessional!!!!	1	2.86
3	Males and females should do same distance. We are not playing tennis!	1	2.86
4	larger start fields and less division on distances is more important than the actual length pr year class.	1	2.86
5	Make it a set distance and stick to it	1	2.86
6	Races should always be around two hours each, so distance should also be adapted to that time for competitors.	1	2.86
7	I think there should be two mass starts, 35 - 55, and then the shorter distance in a separate mass start - 55 and over!	1	2.86
8	I believe the distances should reflect the strength of masters for their respective age. The problem with a quantity of different of race distances is ensure it is easily communicated to the athletes and not changed once communicated. Consideration should be given to no more than 3 different distances. For example (approximate distances) 25km, 20km and 16km.	1	2.86
9	I think up to a point masters are typically beter at distance and less good at speed. It doesn't make sense to me to shorten the races for masters. I would make it the same distance as seniors.	1	2.86
10	But it could use some refinement as some distances vs age group seem unusual.	1	2.86

7) An alternative to the current distances would be to establish a standard single distance for all master races. This could perhaps be approximately 20km or the standard half marathon running distance of 21km. Although the system used does have its merits, once the large number of classes we have are on the water at the same time, it becomes very confusing and difficult to follow.

Do you support establishing a standard distances for masters?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		135	59.73
2) No		91	40.27

8) If a standard distance was established what would be your preferred distance?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) 15 km		27	12.74
2) 20 km		73	34.43
3) 21 km		76	35.85
4) 25 km		25	11.79
5) 30 km		11	5.19

9) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	The difficulty is with the older age groups who may have difficulty with the longer distances. Maybe two distances.	1	2.04
2	20 km for up to 50 or 55 and 15 for over 55.	1	2.04
3	See my earlier comments about disadvantaging older paddlers! You cannot expect a 70 year old woman to paddle the same distance as a 35 year old woman. The current system is fine but I would drop the distance to 14 km or so for paddlers over 70.	1	2.04
4	We should all do the full distance. Marathon runners all the same distance.	1	2.04
5	Masters unlike open racing are already disadvantaged by multiple age groups being on the water. At the back and of races packs from different ages all fighting for medal reach the portage area together and often competitors are disadvantaged by people they are not racing being in their way. Masters events should be spaced over a few days to reduce congestion and clashing between ages.	1	2.04
6	Between 21 and 25 km is fine for a marathon. For me, shorter races than 2 hours are not "marathonian" enough. Same distance for all could make, anyway, some slower paddlers thinking twice about racing, which could end in a less massive participation. I understand that's not the aim for the future (or shouldn't be).	1	2.04
7	We have a large number of masters paddlers and in Australia they are the dominant group, so having distances that would suit ageing groups that wish to compete is simply a no brainer.	1	2.04
8	As a master paddler age standard distances would become too difficult and would lead to older paddlers not competing. More thought needs to go into portaging for older paddlers noting that paddlers who come to the sport at a later stage can do so because of lower extremity injuries from previous sports eg: runners and footballers with knee problems. These injuries make portaging difficult and make the paddler non competitive.	1	2.04
9	There is a need to attract more females to the sport. The 'older' masters are not likely to compete or attend should the distance be too far. See previous comments.	1	2.04
10	Without portages!	1	2.04

10) Portages in masters marathon racing has always been a hotly debated point. We currently use the same system for Senior, U23 and Junior paddlers except for the paddlers that are 65 and over who are not required to portage.



Question	Yes	No	#
10.1 Do you support portaging for masters under 65?	82.38% (187)	17.62% (40)	227
10.2 Do you support portaging for masters over 65?	30.73% (67)	69.27% (151)	218








11) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	I think portaging should be removed from 50 years due to the increasing incidence of legs injury stopping paddlers from competing.	1	1.61
2	Yes as portages are fun, if you have physical difficulties you can use the assistance rule, maybe portage for 65+ on all laps except first and last??	1	1.61
3	In my opinion it is a kayak race and portages should only be for an obstruction in the river (weir or [portage into another water body) and then everyone has to portage it but if it is just running along the bank then no portages for masters.	1	1.61
4	The age for no portage could be reduced to say 50. Getting in and out of the boat is very difficult for most paddlers. However, the younger Masters still need a portage to sort the bunches out.	1	1.61
5	Portages are a good chance to hydrate and take in nutrition	1	1.61
6	I would not like to see 65+ men mixed in with other ages at portages. It would not be a safe thing to do as the speed difference is to great between them and younger ages.	1	1.61
7	Getting up and in from portages should be done from platforms.	1	1.61
8	At 65 and over - most knees are done - haha	1	1.61
9	Portaging is esential, from my point of view. I don't know if one portage every 4 km. is maybe too much, but no portages would be boring both for us and for spectators. I'm not making an opinion for those over 65, as I understand they should be the only ones discussing about their willing or not to portage.	1	1.61
10	See my previous comments about portaging and paddlers with past sports injuries. I dont think that portaging should be required for paddlers over 55 years	1	1.61

12) Wave riding is not permitted on a boat from another class at the World Championships. This rule is very difficult to apply to the masters races in their current format as the whole course is sometimes taken up with boats from all the different age groups racing at the same time but starting separately. Because of this, the wave riding rule is not always enforced for masters races.

Do you believe it is important for this rule to be enforced / applied for masters?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		104	45.41
2) No		125	54.59


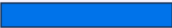















13) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	Not if there all starting together, then how do you tell who to washride. More of a problem because of the silly short laps you guys insist on	1	1.43
2	I know its difficult but its fairer. Policing obvious wash riding out of class is the key.	1	1.43
3	If it is a rule, it must be enforced. Use different coloured numbers to identify seperate start groups.	1	1.43
4	Just let masters wave ride. I have not had many situations where this has been a problem in my racing.	1	1.43
5	Run 3-4 seperate races per day and have less people on the water at the one time. Have a cut off time and remove people from the course if another race is about to start.	1	1.43
6	Part of racing, how would the Tour de France look with no peloton....boring as bat shit!	1	1.43
7	All race together against each other	1	1.43
8	The event should be made longer by at least a day to facilitate less age classes being on the water at once.	1	1.43
9	If you can stay on a younger class wave - then that means you are a better paddler and it should be allowed!	1	1.43
10	I consider it very important when starts are different, as I've seen many times change the result of a race dramatically because of that. But if starts are at the same time, then there's one problem less for both officials and paddlers, this rule can be dismissed.	1	1.43

16) The current age groups create a large number of separate races if we continue with separate starts for each age group. An alternative option would be to start at age 40 and have 10 year groups. i.e. 40 to 49, 50 to 59 etc.

Do you support changing to 10 year age groups starting at 40?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		95	42.60
2) No		128	57.40


















17) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	a 40 year old is always going to be stronger than a 49 year old	1	1.49
2	Would depend on how large the start ends up.	1	1.49
3	50 year old women are very different biologically to 59 year old women. This is unfair given the natural aging process. Why don't you have an amalgamation process where there has to be 2 boats in a class to award a gold medal, three to award gold and silver, four or more to award gold, silver and bronze. Any class with only 1 boat needs to drop to the next class down. This is a pain when one gets older, but we have always got around it by organising a group of us to enter into the class to make it legit.	1	1.49
4	Keep 5 year age groups. Combine age groups in start batches if the number of boats is manageable. Keep the 5 year age categories for medal purposes.	1	1.49
5	All masters together	1	1.49
6	I am between 35 and 40 and would like to race, and unlikely to race in the senior age group. By moving the age to 40 you would be compromising the sub vets.	1	1.49
7	Ten years is too broad a band. Big changes in ability occur in 5 year divisions after 40.	1	1.49
8	That's a good choice in my opinion	1	1.49
9	Big difference in ability between 40 and say 49	1	1.49
10	If an age group starting at 30 was introduced. Alternatively if this is not the case then use 10 year age groups starting at 35. That is 35 - 44, 45 - 54 etc. These could be used for starts depending on the distance/s.	1	1.49

14) Currently the age categories are set in the ICF rules in 5 year groups starting at the 35 to 39 age group and progressing to the older age groups. i.e. 40 to 44, 45 to 49 etc.

Do you support the current age groups?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) Yes		208	90.83
2) No		21	9.17

15) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	Too small in my opinion. Maybe 35 to 39 could be a different one, as they are usually way stronger than the rest, actually some competing in seniors yet. But from there I would encourage 10 years age groups (40-49, 50-59, etc...). Maybe this could also end in fewer participants, so it should be considered carefully. But what I clearly don't like is a lot of people claiming they have been world or european champions after a race with 3 or 4 boats...	1	3.03
2	Perhaps consideration could be given to having an age group 30 - 34.	1	3.03
3	If you have 10 year at groups 49 years old as an example simply won't take part	1	3.03
4	If you're older than 40 you can make the age groups 10 year categories, otherwise there are too many categories and then sometimes too few entries in an age category.	1	3.03
5	Yes but dont think the 35+ age group is needed now	1	3.03
6	If there is insufficient entries in an age group the ladies given the alternative to join the men of the same age group. Only 2 age groups to be combined at any stage.	1	3.03
7	Not for team boats!	1	3.03
8	Makes getting older actually fun, get to race in another age group - might be better placed	1	3.03
9	It is the same age categories in ALL SPORTS	1	3.03
10	It would be appropriate to have broader categories if it is difficult to have enough competitors to make up smaller classes. Perhaps 10 year groups?	1	3.03

18) In K2 races, the age of the youngest competitor is currently used to fix which age group the K2 combination must race in. There have been proposals made to change this so that the average age of the two competitors is used to fix the age group.

Question	Yes	No	#
18.1 Do you support the current method for K2 age groups?	72.41% (147)	27.59% (56)	203
18.2 Do you support using the average age for K2 age groups?	55.12% (113)	44.88% (92)	205

19) Please add your comments here:

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	I would support averaging as a trial at World Cup. We tried it in NSW Australia and it encourages more entries.	1	2.94
2	The last race I went in with my nephew 12 and me being 55 either way we were in the opens . I think you could end up with some stacked crews with the average method.	1	2.94
3	I thing taking the average age can make weird differences in a race. Maybe if the difference between the two paddlers is shorter than 5 years or so, could be, but having a 35 year old guy racing with the 45s because his mate is 55... I feel is somewhat against the spirit of the masters races.	1	2.94
4	Easier to form up crews	1	2.94
5	Wouldn't make much of a difference I think...	1	2.94
6	In some countries it is difficult to find a partner in the same or an adjacent age group. This sometimes mean that an older competitor must compete in an event where the competitors are both substantially younger.	1	2.94
7	Using the average age to make age groups both paddlers should not be allowed to be to far apart. 10 - 15 year age difference ???	1	2.94
8	It,s better for all	1	2.94
9	Fantastic. I referred to this problem in an earlier question	1	2.94
10	Please ignore my answers for this one, I've no idea what's best!	1	2.94

20) Please add any other comments here:








#	Response	Count	Percent
1	I support mass start, single distance.	1	1.56
2	I enjoyed the Masters format in Spain, Rome and Hungary. I think the seniors and juniors should pay more respect to the masters by staying out of the competition area during the races until ALL have finished. Starts in flowing water without boat holders can be very difficult with 20 plus boats on the start line (ie Rome). I think the masters participation greatly enhances the Worlds with many benefits for the host city as we all go home and tell everybody how good it was. Really enjoyed Hungary. Access to boats was the only issue of concern. Also keep the information flowing via website and newsletters, course maps, photos of portages, nearby accommodation, tourist highlights and must sees.	1	1.56
3	Elevate the importance of the Masters Competition to a World CHAMPIONSHIP (not World Cup). Masters competition is the "bread and butter" of an event. Improve organisation and status. At present, Masters events are an afterthought, and in most instances, the full venue infrastructure is not complete. Make Masters racing inclusive and fun. Create fun events - mixed K2, Mix countries, etc.	1	1.56
4	Please don't get rid of the 35 to 40 age group!	1	1.56
5	Master are always the test case for the open and junior events. At most events in the last 10 years the course is not finished or is changed before the open event. It should be ready to go for the Masters. Masters train just as hard and often harder than open competitors. They pay their own way and yet are treated like second class citizens at these events. I have often heard officials say, it doesn't really matter your only competing in a masters event. Let me assure you it all matters to us! Why is masters competition compressed into one day? Another example of officials believing masters don't really matter. There is no way they would entertain putting U23 paddlers on the water with open paddlers yet masters have to race with multiple ages all congested on the course and effecting the racing of other ages. How about making an even playing field for all and treating master paddlers with the respect that they deserve.	1	1.56
6	Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this survey!	1	1.56
7	Ages groups going up to 10 years, I totally agree. About the starts, group them up is fine as long we don't have massive starts with 80 people and no way for a proper paddle. But anyway, that would be even better than having starts with 3 boats. Pontevedra was quite lame in that way. Longer races would then help, as I can make a good comeback after a capsize at the start in a 25 km. race. But with a capsize in a 15 km. race... man, I'm done.	1	1.56
8	where will I find hte results of the survey ?	1	1.56
9	Masters paddling make the event worthwhile for the host town as masters generally spend money in the town. Masters paddling should be encouraged and grown. It helps keep the sport alive	1	1.56
10	Im a slalom paddler, never finished a marathon	1	1.56

21) While this is an anonymous survey, it would be useful to gather some information about you.

What country do you live in?

#	Response	Count	Percent
1	South Africa	70	31.67
2	Australia	65	29.41
11	RSA	4	1.81
13	Norway	7	3.17
20	DK	1	0.45
25	Denmark	5	2.26
27	Spain	6	2.71
41	Finland	1	0.45
55	Canada	2	0.90
58	aust	2	0.90

22) Which age group do you fall into?

Response	% Bar	Count	Percent
1) 35-39		15	6.70
2) 40-44		28	12.50
3) 45-49		43	19.20
4) 50-54		37	16.52
5) 55-59		42	18.75
6) 60-64		27	12.05
7) older than 65		32	14.29