



Portages are a feature of some marathon races, originating from situations where paddlers had to bypass weirs or obstacles on the course. Portages are now a key tactical stage in certain races, requiring paddlers to exit the boat and carry/run their boat around the portage, before re-entering to continue the race.

ICF Portage Rules Summary

- Marathon races may contain portages for certain age groups.
- All athletes and approved helpers must disembark in the defined area, carry their boat around the portage and embark in the defined area.
- Portage limits should be marked with diagonally divided in red and yellow flags.
- Any water after the end of the disembarkation area and before the start of the embarkation area is out of bounds.
- The portage area should allow at least four (4) K2s to be portaged simultaneously.
- A portage may not be used to shorten the course of the race.
- An athlete suffering from a lower-body disability may, by prior agreement from the Competition Committee, receive assistance at a portage. No advantage is to be gained from the assistance and the athlete must leave or be lifted from their boat prior to helpers carrying the boat.
- Masters in their 65th year and older (V65+) are not required to portage.
- ICF Marathon Rules: <https://www.canoeicf.com/rules#marathon>

Paddle Victoria Marathon Portage Policy

- Portages are a feature at certain events for ICF class boats (K1, K2, C1, C2 etc, including “Masters” K boats) in Divisions 1 to 5 or for U16, U18, U23, Open, and for Masters/Veterans international classes up to and including V60.
- Touring boats, sea kayaks, skis, SUPs, outriggers and para-class paddlers do not need to portage at PV Marathon events.
- In age-based racing U12, U14 and V65+ crews do not need to portage. In divisional racing Divisions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 do not need to portage.
- U18, U23 and Open selection event athletes must portage as required. Other athletes who are unable to portage due to age or injury must discuss this with the Competition Committee prior to the race briefing. A time penalty may be applied.
- Any pre-approved time penalty will be advised prior to the race. This adjustment will apply for each portage not undertaken. The same time adjustment per portage will apply to all paddlers granted exemption, regardless of age, gender or racing class.
- The time penalty for a portage of ~100m distance with good exit and re-entry points and clear track in between will typically be 50 seconds per portage. For a portage such as at Geelong Canoe Club, of ~200 m length, the time adjustment will typically be 70 seconds per portage.

Division	Portage	Age	Portage
Div 1	Yes	U10, U12	No
Div 2	Yes	U14	No
Div 3	Yes	U16	Yes
Div 4	Yes	U18	Yes
Div 5	Yes	U23	Yes
Div 6	No	Open	Yes
Div 7a	No	V35-44	Yes
Div 7b	No	V45-54	Yes
Div 8	No	V55-64	Yes
Div 9	No	V65-74	No
Div 10	No	V75+	No

