



2024 Division 4 Races and Starting in Slalom



At the 2023 ACM a motion was passed that means there is no longer promotion at Div 4 races. Division 4 races remain an important part of our sport, introducing paddlers to the sport, allowing them to gain a lot of water time and race experience.

We want to ensure that Division 4 race organisers, clubs, coaches, paddlers, and parents understand this change for those starting in the sport, as well as the different routes available for entry into canoe slalom.

Why has this change been made? It was felt that requiring paddlers to move straight into the slalom ranking system is deterring some paddlers from continuing into the sport by requiring them to purchase home nation membership, apply for a bib and entering the ranking system.

This change is currently a trial for the 2024 season.

What has changed?

Individual paddlers who are new to slalom will **usually** start in Division 4 and compete in these events until:

- They (or their coach) think they are ready to be ranked in Division 3.
- They have won 3 Division 4 events (these should be quorate races with 3 or more paddlers starting).
- Individual paddlers who have some experience can also apply to be ranked straight into Divisions 3 (for example if they have completed at several mini slaloms)

To be ranked in Division 3 please complete the Ranking status form on the website

(<https://www.canoeslalom.co.uk/emails/reranking.htm>).

Clubs, coaches and organisers are asked to encourage paddlers to apply for Division 3 ranking when they are ready and when they achieve 3 wins in Division 4. **The onus is on the paddler to apply for ranking status. Bib/ranking officers will monitor results and follow up informing paddlers achieving 3 wins to apply for ranking via the paddler's club.**

What hasn't changed?

Paddlers racing in Division 3 and above should apply for ranking status, hold Home Nation membership and apply for their bib before racing. Entry routes are as follows:

- Paddlers ranked in previous years must apply for ranking status before racing (see rule 6.4.2).
- Ranked paddlers starting in a different event (e.g. ranked in K1 and starting C1) should apply for ranking before racing (see rule 6.4.3). However, a paddler ranked in Division 3 may feel they are ready to start the second event in Division 3 and apply for ranking rather than start in Division 4.
- Experienced but previously unranked paddlers can enter a Division 2 competition and claim ranking based on a successful result (rule 2.9.4).
- There is no change to the rules regarding new C2 pairings.

Attached is a flowchart showing the options for individual paddlers to start racing slalom. Please could you display this in your club and at events so paddlers can see the pathways into slalom.

All paddlers entering a Division 4 race will receive a certificate of their achievement. These are automatically generated by Simply Slalom for organisers to print before prize giving. These certificates will state where a paddler came within their age bracket. If a paddler does not complete the course, they will receive a certificate saying they participated at the event. **It is at the organisers discretion if they also want to give prizes for Division 4.**

If you have questions about these changes to Division 4 races contact Karen Crowhurst (kycrowhurst@gmail.com) Any feedback about how these changes has affected your event or paddlers in your club would be gratefully received. This will help review whether these changes continue beyond this season's trial. Please email feedback to Karen Crowhurst.

