



# The Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race

## DW 2021 Race Description

**This document outlines the blueprint of modifications required to run a COVID-secure edition of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race in 2021. We recognise this health emergency continues to change across the UK and internationally, and relevant UK Government policy and guidance is subject to change at any time, including changes to the Tier system and associated restrictions.**

There are many details to confirm and is a work in progress. One of the fundamental design principles is to reduce and limit the number of people who are on the course, to support social distancing and reduce risks associated with people moving and gathering along the course.

Any infringement of the rules will result in **DISQUALIFICATION**.

**Any paddler or supporter living in a Tier 3 or Tier 4 area MUST NOT travel to race. Addresses will be checked.**

**All paddlers and supporters must be in good health and have no symptoms of COVID.**

## 1. General

### 1.1 Entries

All standard DW rules regarding crew competence and safety will apply.

Entry numbers will be limited and allocated as follows:

- Senior Doubles – 100
- Junior Doubles – 50
- Senior Singles – 40
- Junior Veteran – 5
- Endeavour – 5

### 1.2. Entry deadline

The entry deadline will be earlier than previously – this is related to the limited numbers and to ensure crews have opportunity to be fully prepared. Details of how entry places will be allocated for each class is to be confirmed.

### 1.3 Waiting List

A waiting list will be operated such that if a crew withdraws a new crew can race. The position of the waiting list will be notified to the crews on the list. It is therefore imperative that any crew with injury or uncertainty must advise the Race Secretary at the earliest opportunity.

### 1.4 Rules

There will be modifications to the rules to suit a COVID secure race. This will include variations on portages routes, allocated start time, allocated support places and additional requirements on support crews.

### 1.5 Support crews.

The number of people in each crew's support will be limited to a maximum of:

- Senior Doubles – 4 supporters
- Junior Doubles – 4
- Senior Singles – 2
- Junior Veteran – 4
- Endeavour – 4

Wristbands will be issued at check-in. Only support wearing the wristband for the crew will be allowed to provide support at any location along the course.

The support crew number limit is so that the race remains within the "rule of 6" for each crew.

### 1.6 Additional Supporting Rules.

**All support crew MUST wear a face covering at all times on the river bank. There are no exceptions to this rule.** For DW purposes "face covering" is a broad definition, including visors, disposable masks, fabric masks and other fabric-based items e.g. buffs, snoods etc.

Only 2 supporters (doubles) or 1 supporter (singles) can feed the crew.

Supporting by bike along the towpath is prohibited.

Supporting by running along the towpath (except at locks) is prohibited.

### 1.7 Course.

The course will be from Devizes to Teddington. Exact finish line and location TBC.

### 1.8 Devizes

All crews must minimise their time at Devizes. Boat preparation will ideally be done away from the wharf apart from packing of emergency kit. Crews must be at Devizes for less than 1 hour.

There will be revised procedures at Devizes. Only the paddlers will be able to enter the fenced zone. **Face coverings must be worn inside the fenced zone at all times.** Paddlers may pass their face coverings to their support crew or place in a bin immediately before they are ready to depart, after tracker fitment.

Boat inspection, registration checks, issuing of Compulsory Kit (race number, wristbands, issued kit) will be socially distanced. Following these processes, the crew must leave Devizes within 30 minutes (unless checking in the night before).

There will be no catering or merchandise.

There will be no access for any supporters to the tracker issuing area.

There will be no supporter access to the start at the wharf.

### 1.9 Starting

Crews will be allocated a start time. This is to spread crews apart along the course.

It is the crew's responsibility to start at the allocated time. Barring exceptional circumstance, the crew's time will start from their allocated time. If a crew misses their slot, they will be started at the next available opportunity.

### 1.10 Support Locations

Each crew will be allocated a set of support places. This is to reduce the numbers visiting each location. Only the allocated locations may be used.

The only exceptions are crew safety or crew recovery following retirement.

### 1.11 Finish

There will be no facilities at the finish.

Crews must finish and leave the site as soon as possible

## 2. Stages Races

### 2.1 Junior Doubles

Junior doubles crews will NOT camp. They will leave the course each day as per the current rules for Senior Singles, Junior Veteran and Endeavour.

There will be a compound for boats if crews wish to leave their craft.

### 2.2 All Stages Crews

There will be NO facilities for crews at the stage stops. Crews must finish and leave the sites within 30 mins of their finish time.

Only 1 supporter per crew will be allowed on site.

Crews must arrive at the site each morning fully changed and ready to start, no more than 30 mins before their allotted start time.

#### Dreadnought Reach.

There is NO compulsory portage at Dreadnought Reach for Stages crews. They must paddle inside the buoy near the landing stage such their number can be recorded. Stages Race support crews must avoid this location.

*Support can be provided from the bank greater than 300m downstream of the centre at Dreadnought.*

## 3. Senior Doubles

Noting the changes set out above, the race will be run as normal, crews being timed continuously from Devizes to the finish.

Time cut-offs along the course will remain.

#### Dreadnought Reach.

Senior Doubles crews WILL portage at Dreadnought Reach.

Socially distanced Changing zones will be set out. Only 2 supporters per crew will be allowed in the changing zone. Supporters will only be allowed to enter/set up in a vacant zone once their crew has reached Blakes Lock (as identified by the GPS trackers).

#### Finish

Only 2 supporters per crew will be allowed access to the finish site.

## Entry Allocation

### Junior Doubles

Each school team that has participated in the last 3 years will be offered up to 4 places.

Returned entries from schools that do not wish to take up their full allocation will be reallocated via the general pool.

Clubs will be able to submit entries for the balance of places available.

Remaining places will be allocated on a first come basis.

### Junior Veteran

The 5 places will be allocated on a first come basis.

### Endeavour

The 5 places will be allocated on a first come basis.

### Senior Singles

Entries will be allocated on a first come basis.

Up to 5 entries will be retained by the DW Organisation for allocation.

### Senior Doubles

The 15 Deferred entries from 2020 will be allocated places. These crews must submit entries through the normal entry process and meet the acceptance criteria.

Up to 5 entries will be retained by DW for allocation.

Up to 15 entries will be allocated to ACU/RAFCA/RNCA/RM.

The remainder (65) will be allocated on a first come basis.