

Judging with confidence

Slalom judging

- Paddling a course and negotiating each gate in ascending number order in the correct direction trying not to incur a penalty.
- Division 2,3,4 gate judges mark each paddler through a section and relay results to control
- Division 1 & Prem, gate judges signal their marks for each paddler to a section judge who compares the scoring & relays results to control. Gate and Section judges different angles to get the best view.

What Penalties?

- 2 second for any touch on the gate the paddler is negotiating by body boat or paddle UNLESS they have already negotiated the next gate.
- Penalties are either 2 or 50 (even for C2)

Any other score on your card is judges clerk error so needs to be amended

50 Second penalties

Paddler Can Undo

Upside down in gate line

Missed gate

½ head

No Boat or No Head

Deliberate Displacement

**Provided they have not
started to negotiate the next
gate**

Paddler cannot undo

Entered or exit wrong
direction

50 as a result of starting to
negotiate the next gate
(Pre touch)

Split Gate in C2

½ Head

- All of head AND part of boat through the gate line at the SAME time
- Applies coming into, through and out of the gate
- Full head – line under rear of helmet, under ear, down jaw line, under chin, under other ear.
- If pole bounces off the top of helmet likely to be half head

Deliberate Displacement

- If paddler's head is not going to go through gate line and they move one of the poles so they do go through then DD
- Hand coming off paddle and moving pole often seen in Div 3 & 4
- Could be paddle or arm sweeping pole around paddler

Quirky bits

- No penalty for paddler repeating the same gate provided they go in the correct direction and don't touch it on one of the circuits
- Double entry no longer applies provided enter and leave in the correct direction (can bounce backwards and forwards in gate line)
- Penalties still valid if wind blows poles into or beyond paddler, or gate swinging from previous competitor.
- Paddler can go through gate backwards/sideways or forwards provided in correct direction

What is the gate line and when it is negotiated?

- Line between bottom of poles and river bed (wherever that is!)
- Negotiating of the gate begins when touch a pole or head BREAKS the gate line
- A paddler who is upside down going through a gate is still classed as negotiating the gate line.

Judging sheets

- Fill out the top every time
- Paddler number (and bib colour if different)
- L or R pole contact (as the paddler presents to the gate)
Abbreviations consistent
- Write what you actually see
- Quick ref then detail, always give a reason
- Line across sheet between classes (use both sides if printed)

Competitor number	1 up	2	3	4	comments
4	2 LP bow Entry	/	/	2 RP Arm	G4 back paddler right arm outside pole as turned downstream
2	/	50 miss R	50 split F in	/	G2 boat not across enough so missed gate G3 Front pad through gate, back pad missed left

Protest Forms and Jury

- Have the right to protest your penalties but fee so get a transmission check first
- Video evidence NOT admissible unless international when all paddlers are videoed and judges review automatically
- Unlikely to be successful UNLESS judges haven't written reason for penalty or on occasion if GJ & SJ disagree then best sight lines, vital as much as detail as possible

Final Tips

- Watch paddler throughout the move especially UP gates
- Try to note each gate then details after relay scores back to control or to section judges
- Write only what you see (if gate move but no touch or blinked at the moment – say so)
- Angle you see a gate makes a difference
- You are only human – mistakes are made
- So reduce event boredom and give it a go