# BIG DENI PADDLE 2027

PARTICIPANT WAIVER, WARNING OF RISK, TERMS & CONDITIONS AND REFUND POLICY

12–13 March 2027 | Edward River (Kolety), Deniliquin NSW

Event organiser: The Paddle Group Australia Pty Ltd (PGA)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE REGISTERING. These conditions apply to the 15km K15 Race and 3km Be Bright, Be Seen Community Float unless otherwise specified. By registering, participants acknowledge and agree to these conditions.

## 1. Warning of Risk

Paddling is an outdoor water-based activity involving inherent risks, including serious injury or death. Risks include capsizing, drowning, immersion, currents, submerged objects, fallen trees, collisions, weather changes, storms, heat, cold, sun exposure, fatigue, dehydration, exertion, medical emergencies and equipment failure. I acknowledge these risks, voluntarily participate and agree to take reasonable precautions. The presence of safety personnel does not eliminate these risks.

## 2. Participant Responsibilities

- I am physically capable and sufficiently competent for my chosen event.
- I will wear an approved, correctly fitted lifejacket at all times on the water.
- My craft and equipment are suitable, safe and serviceable, and I will carry required safety equipment.
- I will follow the designated course and all directions from event officials and safety personnel.
- I will not participate while impaired by alcohol, drugs or a condition affecting safe paddling.
- I will report any need for assistance and will not deliberately endanger myself or others.
- Officials may refuse, suspend or terminate my participation for safety reasons.

## 3. The 15km Big Deni Paddle Race (K15)

The K15 is a competitive endurance event requiring appropriate fitness and paddling competency.

- Single kayaks: participants must be 14 years or older and competent to complete 15km safely.
- Double kayaks and canoes: children aged 8 years or older may paddle in the same craft as an experienced adult aged 18 or older.
- All participants under 18 require parent or legal guardian consent.
- Paddlers must follow the course, checkpoints and published cut-off times and withdraw if directed.
- Organisers may refuse participation where fitness, experience, equipment or ability is unsuitable.

## 4. The 3km Be Bright, Be Seen Community Float

The Community Float is a relaxed, non-competitive river activity. Natural waterway risks still apply.

- Children under 8 cannot participate. Children aged 8–13 must be in the same suitable craft as a responsible adult aged 18 or older.
- Participants aged 14–17 may paddle independently if competent and with parent or guardian consent.
- All participants must follow the designated route and safety directions.
- Participants must consult the event's Community Float – Permitted Craft and Equipment webpage.
- ALL craft will be inspected before entering the water. Craft must be suitable for river paddling and have adequate flotation.
- Unsafe, unsuitable or inadequately buoyant craft will NOT be permitted. Safety personnel's decision is final.

If unsure whether your craft is suitable, contact the organisers well before the event. Participation depends on passing the pre-event craft inspection.

## 5. Mandatory Lifejackets – Both Events

EVERY PARTICIPANT MUST WEAR AN APPROVED, CORRECTLY FITTED AND FASTENED LIFEJACKET AT ALL TIMES ON THE WATER. Buoyancy aids that are not approved lifejackets are NOT permitted. Lifejackets must comply with applicable Australian Standards and NSW boating requirements.

For children under 14, we strongly recommend an approved Level 100 foam-filled lifejacket, appropriately sized, with additional buoyancy and head support intended to assist face-up flotation.

### Community Float

- ONLY approved foam-filled lifejackets are permitted. Inflatable lifejackets are NOT permitted.

### K15 Race

- Approved foam-filled or approved inflatable lifejackets are permitted, subject to applicable standards and inspection.
- Inflatable lifejackets must be properly maintained and operational; the $CO_2$ cylinder, inflation mechanism and associated components must show no corrosion, damage or defects.
- Participants may be asked to show evidence of servicing or inspection according to manufacturer requirements.

Event officials may inspect any lifejacket. NO APPROVED LIFEJACKET = NO PARTICIPATION.

## 6. Mandatory Safety Equipment and Craft Buoyancy

### 6.1 K15 – Mandatory equipment

- Drinking water: at least 1 litre per paddler at the start; more is recommended in warm conditions.
- Pealess whistle, readily accessible.
- Food and nutrition: adequate energy bars, snacks or equivalent.
- Hat, protective clothing and sunscreen.
- At least one working mobile phone per craft in a waterproof case.
- One emergency space blanket per paddler.
- Suitable first aid kit in each craft, meeting published requirements: https://www.mmp415.racing/first-aid
- Approved, correctly fitted lifejacket worn throughout.

All equipment must be securely stored and accessible when required.

### 6.2 Community Float – Safety equipment

- Approved foam-filled lifejacket, suitable craft with adequate flotation, drinking water, sun protection and suitable clothing.
- Observe junior supervision requirements and safety directions.
- A whistle and mobile phone in a waterproof case are encouraged where practical.

### 6.3 Craft buoyancy – Both events

All craft must have sufficient fixed buoyancy to remain afloat, upright and approximately horizontal when completely filled with water. Acceptable arrangements may include securely retained airbags, fixed bow and stern foam, core mat or watertight compartments with secure hatches. Some commercially manufactured craft may not meet this standard. Equivalent arrangements for alternative craft will be assessed by safety personnel.

Inadequate flotation must be rectified and re-inspected before launching. A craft that fails inspection cannot participate.

### 6.4 Special craft

Participants may be required to submit craft details at registration. Home-built, modified or unusual craft must be declared in advance and may require photos, specifications or flotation evidence. Prior approval does not remove the on-site inspection requirement.

## 7. Mandatory Pre-Event Safety Inspections

ALL PARTICIPANTS AND CRAFT WILL BE SAFETY CHECKED BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER. Inspections may cover mandatory equipment, lifejacket fit and compliance, craft flotation and condition, and event eligibility. Allow sufficient time before the start. Non-compliance may delay or prevent participation. The decision of authorised safety personnel is final.

## 8. Withdrawal, Cut-Off Times and Safety Boats

K15 participants must maintain sufficient progress to meet published time limits. Those unable to continue or directed to withdraw must follow safety instructions and may be directed to an approved collection point. Event management will record their withdrawal and confirm they are off the water; nominated support persons or ground crew may be asked to collect them.

Safety vessels are primarily for emergency response, not routine transport of paddlers or craft. Safety personnel determine the appropriate assistance. Do not start the K15 unless confident of safely completing it within the time limits.

For EITHER event, withdrawing participants must notify an official as soon as practicable and must not leave without ensuring event management knows they are safely off the water.

## 9. Event Safety, Course Changes and Cancellation

PGA may modify, shorten, postpone, relocate or cancel either event due to severe weather, thunderstorms, heat, flooding, unsafe river conditions, fallen trees, hazards, emergencies, unforeseen circumstances or authority directions. Participants must follow decisions of the Event Director and authorised safety personnel.

## 10. Medical Assistance and Personal Property

I consent to reasonable emergency medical assistance being arranged when necessary. I am responsible for associated medical, ambulance and transport expenses, subject to applicable law. I am responsible for my belongings, equipment and craft.

## 11. Liability and Acknowledgement

I voluntarily participate with an understanding of inherent risks. To the extent permitted by law, I release PGA and its directors, employees, contractors, volunteers and associated event personnel from liability for injury, loss or damage arising from participation. Nothing excludes, restricts or modifies rights or remedies that cannot lawfully be excluded.

## 12. Photography and Media

I acknowledge photographs and recordings may be made and consent to their use for event reporting, promotion and publicity, subject to applicable law.

## 13. Registration and Entry Transfers

Registration is specific to the nominated participant and event. A transfer requires organiser approval and completion of the replacement participant’s registration and waiver. Unauthorised transfers of entries, race numbers or identification are prohibited.

## 14. Refund, Withdrawal and Entry Transfer Policy

### Withdrawal on or before 1 February 2027

A full (100%) refund of the event registration fee will be provided upon written request.

### Withdrawal from 2 February to 1 March 2027

A 70% refund will be provided; a 30% event administration fee will be retained.

### Withdrawal from 2 March 2027

No refund for voluntary withdrawal, non-attendance or changed personal circumstances, except where required by law.

### Transfers and 2028 credits

A participant unable to attend may request transfer to another eligible paddler, or a credit equal to the 2027 registration fee towards the 2028 Big Deni Paddle. Requests must be made in writing and confirmed by organisers by 11:59pm on the day before the registered event (11 March for a 12 March event; 12 March for a 13 March event). No additional administration fee applies. No entry may be transferred after the relevant event commences.

### Event cancellation or changes

If an event is cancelled, postponed or materially changed because of weather, flooding, unsafe conditions, emergencies or authority directions, organisers will determine options including rescheduling, credits or refunds, subject to applicable consumer laws. Nothing in this policy limits rights under Australian Consumer Law.

## 15. Privacy and Personal Information

Registration information is collected to administer the event, communicate with participants, manage safety and meet legal obligations. It may be shared with authorised contractors, emergency services and relevant authorities when reasonably necessary. Separate consent will be sought for optional marketing where required.

## 16. Parental and Guardian Consent

Participants under 18 require parent or legal guardian consent. By registering a minor, the parent or guardian acknowledges paddling risks, confirms the child meets eligibility requirements, agrees to ensure compliance with equipment and supervision rules, and consents to participation.

## 17. Participant Agreement

- I have read and understood this Warning of Risk, Waiver, Terms & Conditions and Refund Policy.
- I accept the inherent risks of paddling on a natural river.
- I will wear an approved lifejacket and carry required safety equipment.
- I understand my craft and equipment will be inspected and I may be refused participation.
- I will follow event rules, officials' directions and withdrawal procedures.
- I accept the refund, cancellation and transfer conditions.
- If registering a minor, I confirm I am the parent or legal guardian and consent to participation.

These terms are governed by the laws of New South Wales, Australia.

THE BIG DENI PADDLE 2027 | Connecting People, River and Country.