

**Organised by Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Wong Shek Kayak Race 2024**

Race Instructions

1) Rules:

All the events of the Wong Shek Kayak Race 2024 (“the Race”) will be governed by:

- 1.1 these Race Instructions (RIs);
- 1.2 the general instructions of the Hong Kong Canoe Union; and
- 1.3 the Notice of Race.

2) There are no preliminary or semi-final rounds in the Race. Competitors in the distance races will be ranked according to their finishing time.

3) No on-the-spot change of competitor will be entertained.

4) All notices in relation to the Race will be posted on the race notice board at the Jockey Club Wong Shek Water Sports Centre (“the Centre”) on the day of race. Competitors should pay attention to all the notices posted on the board.

5) Any change of rules will be announced in the form of notice posted on the race notice board at least half an hour before the start of the affected event(s) on the day of race.

6) Race Equipment:

6.1 Competitors shall use the kayaks and paddles provided by the Organiser (to be allocated by ballot when reporting on the day of race). Any change or addition of equipment without the approval of the Organiser will render the competitors concerned disqualified.

6.2 The Organiser may, during the race, inspect the kayaks and equipment used by the competitors and has the right to disqualify any competitor who is found to have changed or added equipment without approval.

6.3 Competitors shall use all items provided by the Organiser with care. The Organiser reserves the right to claim for compensation from the competitors for any damages to or loss of its items.

6.4 Competitors shall bring and wear their own closed toe and closed heel shoes.

6.5 Competitors shall bring their own whistle.

6.6 Competitors may bring their own goggles, nose clip and spray cover.

7) Kayak Number:

Kayaks will be allocated by ballot when reporting on the day of race. No change of kayaks will be allowed after the allocation. Those who are found to have changed the kayaks will be disqualified.

8) Divisions:

- 8.1 Long Distance Race (The course is about 12 km long for the men's open and master division , and around 10 km long for the youth and women's divisions.)
- 8.2 Short Distance Race (The course is about 200 m long.)
- 8.3 Short Distance Relay (Mixed) (The course is about 200 m long.)
- 8.4 Rolling Challenge

(The actual arrangements depend on the weather condition on the day of race. The course or the length of the races may be revised.)

9) Registration:

- 9.1 Competitors shall report to the registration counter within the specified time period on the day of race. When registration, competitors shall produce for inspection the original of their identity document and certificate(s) (competitors in the Short Distance (Racing Kayak) divisions shall produce the original of the certificate(s) or the completed assessment record with certificate number in the Canoe Activities Log-book of the Hong Kong Canoe Association to show that they have passed the Racing Kayak Elementary Level). Kayaks and paddles will be allocated by ballot when reporting.
- 9.2 **Competitors in the long distance events shall report between 8:30 am. and 9:15 am.**
- 9.3 **Competitors in the short distance events, the relay, and the Rolling Challenge shall report between 12:00 nn and 12:45 pm.**
- 9.4 If a competitor fails to report within the specified time period, his/her place will be released for on-the-spot enrolment by ballot.
- 9.5 Each competitor may take part in two events at most (for long distance events, competitors may only take part in either the Open Division or the Master Division; for short distance events, either the Racing Kayak Salt 51 divisions or the Europa Division). Those who do not comply with this requirement will be disqualified.
- 9.6 Competitors who have secured by payment a place in the Long Distance Race (Open) Division may not quit the event by not reporting and enrol on the spot for the Long Distance Race (Master) Division instead, and vice versa. Those who have secured by payment a place in the Short Distance Race (Racing Kayak Salt 51) Division shall not quit the race by not reporting and enrol on the spot for the Short Distance Race (Europa) Division instead, and vice versa.

10) Check-in and Sign-out:

- 10.1 Competitors are required to report at the **check-in counter** before race, and return all the equipment at the check-in counter right after the race, then sign out at the **registration counter** within the specified time after race to confirm that they have finished the races according to the racing rules.
- 10.2 Those who fail to comply with the above requirement shall be disqualified and their results will be voided.

11) Schedule of Races:

- 11.1 Pre-race briefing for the long distance races (Begins at around 9:30 am tentatively)
- 11.2 Long distance races will start at around 10:00 am tentatively (All divisions will start at the same time. Competitors who fail to finish the race within the time limit of **2 hours 15 minutes** shall be disqualified.)
- 11.3 Presentation ceremony of the long distance races
- 11.4 Pre-race briefing for the short distance races, the relay and the Rolling Challenge (Begins at 1:25 pm tentatively)
- 11.5 Short distance races will start at 1:45 pm tentatively
- 11.6 Relay
- 11.7 Rolling Challenge
- 11.8 Presentation ceremony of the short distance races, the relay and the Rolling Challenge

12) Start and Finish Line:

The start and finish line will be a straight line between two designated floating marks.

13) Pasting Buoys:

Competitors in the long distance events shall sail past the buoys on the starboard side (i.e. to pass between the official boat and the buoys). Competitors are required to call out their kayak number and leave only when the umpire acknowledges the call-out.

14) Format of the Rolling Challenge:

Competitors shall complete full roll(s) (Men: within 1 minute and 30 seconds; Women: within 1 minute) at the designated area. The competitor finishing in the shortest time shall be the winner.

15) Baton Exchange:

- 15.1 The baton exchange area of the relay shall be designated by the Organiser according to the actual situation on the race day.
- 15.2 The whole kayak must be inside the baton exchange area when the first leg of the team (i.e. the member who is aged 18 or above) passes the baton to the other member, or the team will be disqualified.
- 15.3 The second leg of the team (i.e. the member who is aged 8-13) must stay inside the baton exchange area when receiving the baton, or the team will be disqualified.
- 15.4 If the baton is dropped during the exchange, the competitor who passes the baton must pick it up and pass it again to the recipient, or the team will be disqualified.

16) Shortening / Abandoning the Race:

In the event of unexpected circumstances that impede the progress of the races or endanger the safety of the competitors, the Organiser has the right to shorten or abandon races that have started according to the racing rules.

16.1 Shortening the race:

The course umpire may shorten the race at any mark of the course by displaying a yellow flag. The shortened race will be signalled by intermittent sounds when the first kayak of the division(s) approaches. Kayaks must paddle in the direction of the mark and cross the finish line to complete the race.

16.2 Abandoning the race:

If the channel referee decides to terminate the race, he will display a red flag and make several consecutive beeps to signal the termination of the race, so the contestants should return to the center as soon as possible.

17) Protest:

A competitor is required to deliver his/her protest to the Protest Committee in writing within 30 minutes after the conclusion of his/her event. The decision of the Organiser shall be final.

18) Safety of Competitors:

18.1 Competitors must wear the buoyancy aid provided by the Organiser throughout the Race to facilitate identification.

18.2 Any competitor retiring from a race before finishing due to illness or other circumstances must inform the safety boat(s) or the course umpire boat as soon as possible.

18.3 The umpire may stop a competitor from racing if he/she deems any competitor to be physically unfit to finish a race, or that the competitor's continued participation may interfere with the safety or progress of the race. The umpire may ask the competitor in question to board the escort boat.

18.4 Competitors shall look out for other navigating vessels at all times and comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea while racing.

19) Disqualification of Competitors:

Competitors will be disqualified under any of the following circumstances:

19.1 Failure to abide by or breach of the RIs, rules and safety codes of the Race.

19.2 Failure to produce the original of their valid identity document and certificate(s)/proof of qualification(s) at the registration counter.

19.3 Failure to finish a race according to the designated race course.

(The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify any competitors.)

20) Return of Equipment:

After completing the race, the competitors must clean and return the equipment (including kayaks and paddles) provided by the Organiser as soon as possible, and may leave only after the equipment has been duly checked by staff and placed in the designated area.

21) Inclement Weather Arrangements:

- 21.1 If the Thunderstorm Warning, the Strong Monsoon Signal, the Red Rainstorm Warning Signal or Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 1 is issued on the race day, competitors are required to report to the Centre. The Organiser will decide whether the races should proceed as scheduled in the light of the prevailing weather condition.
- 21.2 If Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 or above or the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is in force at 6:30 am on the race day, the long distance races will be cancelled and shall not be rescheduled.
- 21.3 If Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 or above or the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is in force at 10:00 am on the race day, all short distance events, the relay and the Skills and Rolling Challenge will be cancelled and shall not be rescheduled.

22) Food and Drink:

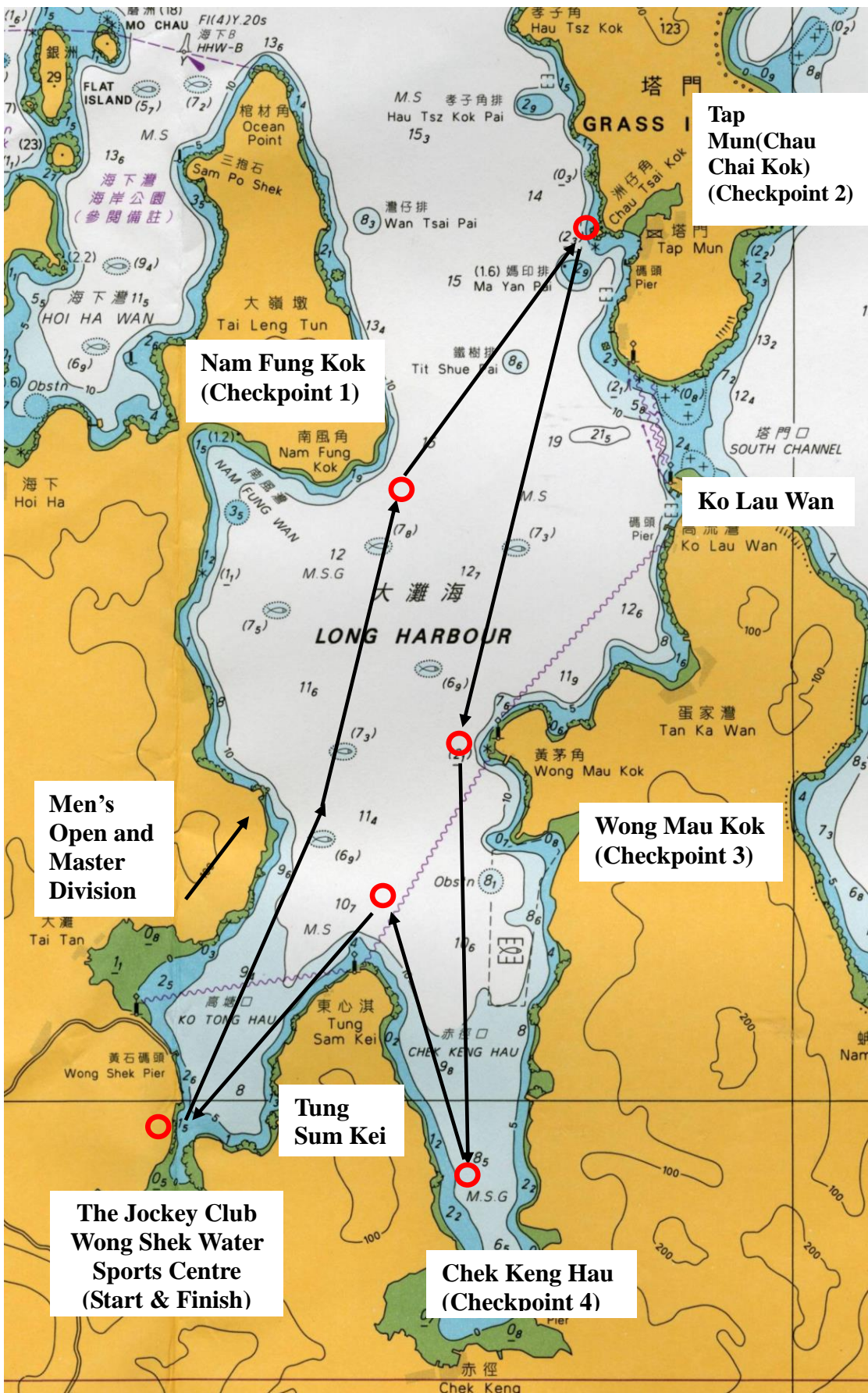
Competitors should bring their own food and drink as none will be provided by the Organiser.

23) Tidal Forecast for Ko Lau Wan, 5 May 2024:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Height(m)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Height(m)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Height(m)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Height(m)</u>
0300	1.07	1000	1.43	1600	1.6	2200	1.41

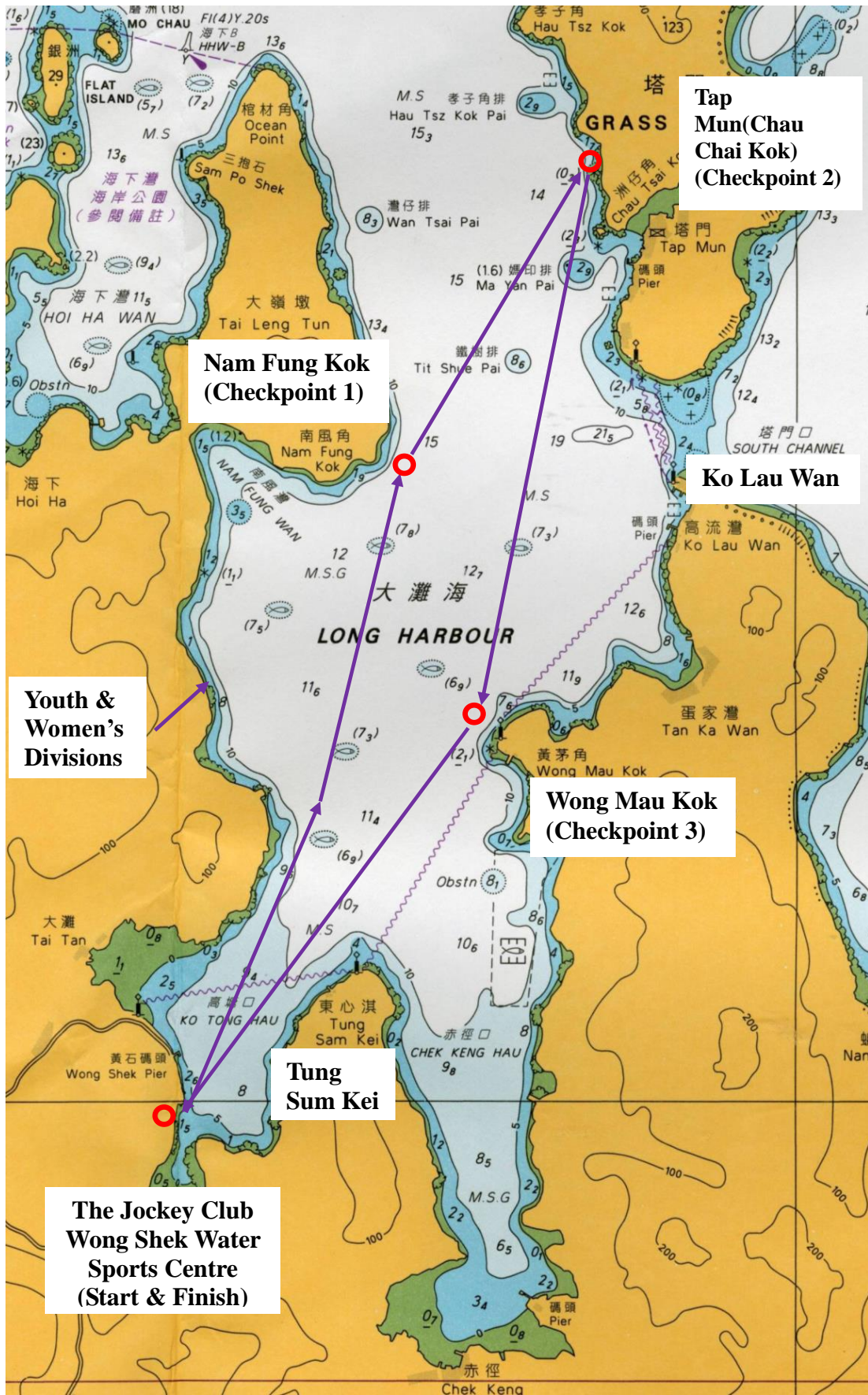
24) Race Courses (applicable to long distance races):

(The following courses are not to scale and are for reference only. The Organiser may modify the courses subject to the weather condition and other circumstances on the race day. No objection shall be raised.)



Men's Open and Master Divisions: The Jockey Club Wong Shek Water Sports Centre → Nam Fung Kok (Checkpoint 1) → Tap Mun (Chau Chai Kok) (Checkpoint 2) → Wong Mau Kok (Checkpoint 3) → Chek Keng Hau (Checkpoint 4) → Tung Sum Kei → The Jockey Club Wong Shek Water Sports

Centre



Youth & Women's Divisions: The Jockey Club Wong Shek Water Sports Centre → Nam Fung Kok (Checkpoint 1) → Tap Mun (Checkpoint 2) → Wong Mau Kok (Checkpoint 3) → The Jockey Club

Wong Shek Water Sports Centre

25) Responsibility:

- 25.1 It is the sole responsibility of competitors to decide whether to start or to continue racing.
- 25.2 The Organiser does not accept any direct or indirect responsibility for any personal injury or loss of or damage to property caused wilfully or negligently by a third party during the Race.