

Race Instructions – The Impossible 2021

Gday all,

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Impossible.

Please note a change to previous years operations. **The registration table** (number and race hat collection, safety gear check QR code-in etc..) **will take place at Barwon Heads in the vicinity of the carpark near the bridge.** This will be opened from 7.00am and close at 8.45am.

Further to the rules of the race listed on the event website: <http://www.swracemanagement.com/the-impossible.html>

1. Winds are predicted by the BOM to be SW at 15 knots. We will be running the race in the direction as advertised; Torquay to Barwon Heads. There will be a building swell which should not affect paddlers whilst at sea.



2. Whilst not likely, if the BOM has a late prediction of a change in winds on Saturday morning, the course may be altered.
3. **Start will be at Fishermans Beach near the sailing club end of Darian Road**



4. **Registration will involve**
 - a. acknowledging your presence

- b. QR code in
- c. Inspection of safety gear – flare, PFD, hi viz as outermost layer, mobile phone in waterproof bag. Note: There has been a shortage of flares in marine shops this year. While everyone must carry a flare, there will be some flexibility with the use by date.
- d. Log into Whats App location or SAFETRX.

2. Tracking paddlers

- a. Currently we are set to go with Whats App tracking. This may be superseded by SAFETRX if we get permission.
- b. Log onto Whats App location tracking. . If you haven't already done so, please download Whats App to your phone prior to the race. Click on the icon for the link, or go to your app store: Most paddlers have been added already to the group.



Full Instructions for Whats App “The Impossible” location will be given on the morning

- c. Please also download SAFETRX. We are hoping to get permission to use this. This has been improved since last year when it drained paddlers’ phones at the Port Fairy event. It now can be set to ping every 5 minutes and is more accurate than WhatsApp location. It is available from your app store or click here: <https://coastguard.com.au/safetrx/> Everyone will be notified if approval is given.

- 5. **Bus transport:** As per the website, the Wave Rider bus is picking up paddlers from Barwon Heads and departing at **8.50am**. Load your own skis before 8.45am and bring your own straps. **Please have \$15 cash to pay the driver.** We can take bags back to the finish at Barwon Heads from Torquay.

6. Safety Boats:

Assisting us will be 5 jetskis and the 6.5m CoastWatch boat from Ocean Grove. All are experienced drivers and rescue crew.

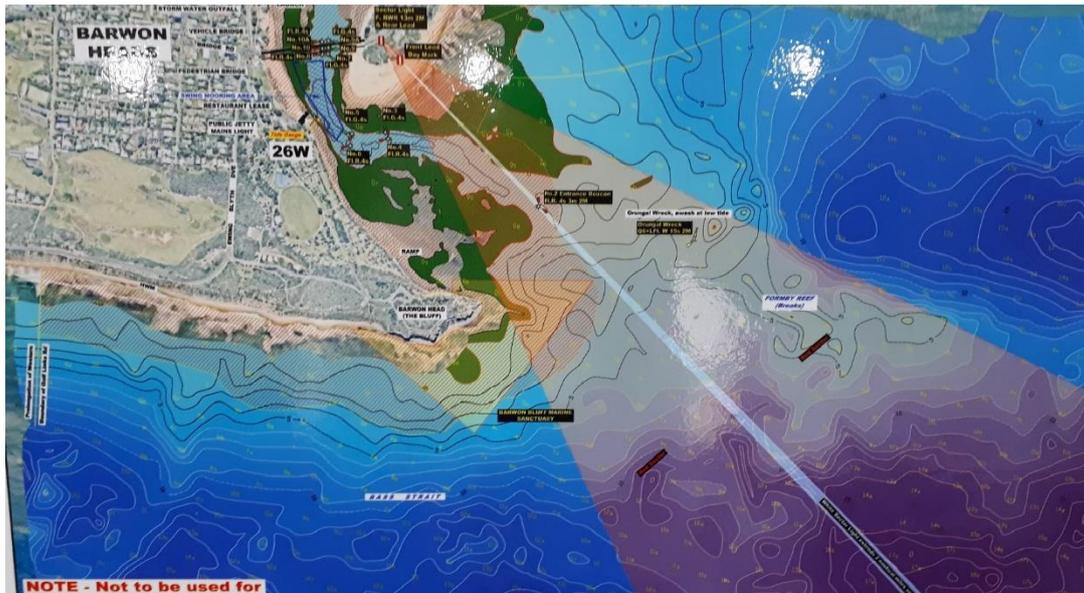
Should anyone get into trouble, the safety boats priority will be the safety of the paddler. Craft which have a bow fitting may be towed at the discretion of the safety boat drivers. Emergency exit point mid-race will be Pt Impossible where a race official will be posted. If directed to do so, you must make your way into Pt Impossible to the right of the river mouth.

7. Course:

As per website. Start line will be from an imaginary line between the pink buoy off Fishos seaward of the sailing club and a jetski. Deliberate jumping of the start will incur a one minute penalty.

Paddlers will then travel to Pt Impossible and round a large buoy located eight hundred metres off shore and 1km south of Pt Impossible. It has been set to maximise down wind conditions. This buoy is important to keep the field within 2nM of shore. Failure to round it this year will mean disqualification.

The course then heads past the Barwon Heads Bluff and to an orange mark off Barwon Heads which must be kept to your left. This mark is to ensure that paddlers avoid any bommies off 13th Beach and to put you into the small boat channel. Once in the channel you will see a white light on shore that will guide in. Paddlers will then aim for the red channel marker at the entrance to the river. You must pass to the right of this mark.



After this marker, you can make your own course to the finish line which will be clearly marked with flags about 100 metres seaward of the footbridge.

8. Safety Gear

Please read the section on compulsory equipment on the website. **This means PFD, fluoro outershell, flare, mobile phone in a waterproof bag, a leg leash. A paddle leash is also highly recommended.** Prone paddlers are the only ones who are allowed to wear a bum bag type PFD.

9. All paddlers will be timed and this will be posted on the website and local media.

10. Presentations at the finish as soon as practicable. Trophies and medals for category placegetters and many random draw prizes. The Barwon Heads Hotel is recommended for lunch after the race or Limeburners Bar/Restaurant for those passing through Geelong.

11. Assembly Times (on the beach near the start for briefing)

- a. Start 1: Prone Boards 9.35am
- b. Start 2: SUPs 9.50am
- c. Start 3 Single outrigger canoes and female skis 10.10am
- d. start 4 All Skis - 10.20am
- e. Start 4A OC3 and OC6 10.20am

12. Craft Safety Check

Please check your craft for seaworthiness prior to the day. This means leaks and particularly rudder cables. Craft found not seaworthy will not be allowed to start.

13. Merch

“We Paddle” will have some merchandise in the form of fluoro shirts, PFDs, leg leashes etc for those who require anything. Unfortunately we will not have flares for sale.

Safe and happy paddling

Pete