

# Mourne Race 2023 [Draft]

## Event Information Pack

The Mourne Race is a 6 mile race on Grade 1 – 2 river flow with a section of grade 3, known as the Fisheries. This race is only suitable for competent independent paddlers of 3 Star or equivalent whitewater ability, or those paddling as a group with a competent leader as it is impracticable to provide safety cover along the entire course.

All paddlers must have appropriate gear and equipment for a whitewater environment. Helmets must be worn at all times. Buoyancy bags are strongly recommended.

### Timings

- Registration starts from 11.00am at Newtownstewart car park. Everyone should park in the car park.
- Shuttle bus will bring drivers back to Newtownstewart for those leaving their vehicles at Sion Mills.
- Race starts at 12.00pm. If competitor numbers are large, kayakers will enter river and stay above bridge until called down. Open boaters / WW Racers will enter at canoe steps which is also the start line.

### Paddler Safety

- Racers will be set off in group size defined by the safety ratio at the Fisheries. The fisheries “spotter” will liaise with the race starter to ensure they are ready.
- All racers are asked to assist if possible any other paddler they notice in need of help, or where the safety team is nearby to draw their attention to the individual.
- Additional leaders / coaches and competent club paddlers will form part of the race collective providing on the move support.
- The Fisheries: A dedicated safety team is based at the Fisheries providing white water safety and rescue.
- Additional spotters will be located along the river at “emergency get out points”, primarily at the Fisheries and Derg bridge.
- All organized evacuations from the river will be on River Left as the A5 main road runs alongside the river.
- Paddlers must make the safety team aware if they are seeking to leave the river.
- To ensure that everyone is safely off the river all paddlers MUST leave the water promptly at the end of the race and hand over their race bib to a race official.

### First Aid

All river safety team members carry first aid.

First aiders will be located at: Newtownstewart, The Fisheries, The Derg bridge (emergency get out) and Sion Mills. Minibus will assist with any organized evacuation along the length of the course.