Banbury Marathon 2026 Race Briefing.

Welcome to our annual Hasler race and please note the points below.

- Please do not park in front of the gates of Sovereign Wharf which is next to the car park. To do so will cause an issue for us running the race in future.
- As organisers of this race we draw your attention to taking necessary precautions should you have any medical conditions or concerns.
- If a paddler is in difficulties please stop and offer assistance. It is your duty to stop and help and failure to do so could result in a disqualification.
- Please be aware of narrowboats on the water especially at locks and bridges and give them a wide berth. Remember that it is far easier for you to stop than them.
- The Canal & River Trust have requested that we make all paddlers aware of the danger of Weil's disease and the need to wash your hands after the race. Hand sanitisers will be available
- We advise suitable footwear when portaging especially at Slat Mill Lock which is the 3rd portage from the start.
- Please do not abuse any fisherman or narrow-boaters regardless of what might be said to you. All local fishing clubs have been informed.
- Divisions 7 / 8 and 9 portage. Adults please be aware of the younger children in the race that will be portaging at the same time as you. Do not intimidate them or push them out of the way.
- Please note that that the first lock is a pinch point and any returning boats will be given priority to pass through. Any boats that are made to wait will have this recorded and their results will be adjusted to reflect their true time.
- Assistance can be offered at the first portage for any U13 paddler. Note that the paddler must hold the front of the boat and the paddle unless it is in the boat. The assister must not obstruct others or put the boat in to the water or offer any assistance that will be deemed to be unfair.
- Note that the water under the motorway bridge 200 yards north of the 1st portage can get a little choppy. Please ensure the rules of the road are followed here. Lower division paddlers please note this.
- All competitors ranked in divisions 7, 8, 9 and GS Series must wear buoyancy aids.
- Any retirements must be reported immediately to the finish line.
- All competitors must wear their club colours when racing.
- Race number must be clearly displayed at all times for a finish time to be given.
- The start will be ½ mile north of the car park starting just past the Hennef Way Bridge and finish at the bridge here at race HQ.
- Please note that it is important that divisions 1-3 followed by 4-6 get on the water first. Divisions 7, 8 and 9 must wait until all the higher divisions are on the water to avoid congestion at the pre-starts.
- There will be pre-start marshals that bring each race up to the start. Please pay attention to their instructions.
- Higher divisions please ensure that you are around the start area in good time as it can get congested.
- Starts will be at one minute intervals and please do not push the pre-start or start. There will be two warnings and after that a penalty time or disqualification will be given.
- Divisions 1-3. Turn 40 yards north of Bridge 147. This has a nice wide turning area. 14 portages in total.
- Divisions 4-6. Turn just south of Cropedy village. There will be a Canadian canoe or similar marshalling here. Please turn as instructed passing the boat. There will 6 portages in total.
- Divisions 7-9. Turn just south of Bourton Lock. There will be a marshal on the bank and it is important that the nose of your boat goes past the marshal. Note that this is a very tight turn and our apologies for this.
- Start list to be given on the day with some divisions split between odds and evens.
- Make sure that you understand the difference between odds and evens.

Thank you and have a good race.