



# COMPETITION RULES

*Rules of conduct for the Nkashi Classic Heats & Main Event in Botswana 2025*

*Revision 1*

The following rules and regulations are applicable for the Nkashi Classic 2025 competition. These apply to both the heats and the final event.

## DEFINITIONS

*BWBT*

Botswana Wild Bird Trust - organisers of the Nkashi Classic Event.

*Community Trust* - Registered community trust in Ngamiland that is currently functional and operational.

*Competitor*

Person who will be poling a mokoro with a race number to compete along a set route in a time trial race.

*Finalists*

The top competitors who qualify through the heats for the finals in Maun.

*Mokoro*

Local canoe used to move around the Delta. For the competition all mekoro must be fiberglass.

*Nkashi*

Long stick/pole used to propel a mokoro through the water.

*VDC*

Village Development Committee

## COMPETITOR QUALIFICATIONS

All competitors who intend to race in the heats and by extension the finals need to comply with the following rules:

- Must be 18 years of age or older as of 25 April 2025
- Must have and present a valid Omang or other form of identification at registration
- Must be able to swim
- Must be able to pole a mokoro efficiently- no beginners.
- Must be medically fit to compete
- No competitor may be pregnant

## GENERAL RULES

- The language of the competition is English, however if any competitor requires further clarification in Setswana, there will be dual language race marshals at all events.
- The aim of the event is to finish the race course in the fastest possible time. Only a mokoro and an nkashi may be used in the race.
- The competitor will be disqualified from racing should any of the following take place:
  - If the mokoro capsizes,
  - If the competitor deviates from the set race route.
- Any competitor who attempts to win a competition by irregular means, wilfully breaks the rules, or who contests their validity, as deemed by the officials, may be disqualified for the competition.
- No competitor is allowed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during their race.
- The decisions of the judges are final.

## RACING & HEAT PROTOCOLS

- Heats will be held around Ngamiland to allow competitors an opportunity to come and race. These will be advertised ahead of time.
- Entry to the heats and finals is free.
- Competitors will be responsible for getting themselves to and from the heats.
- During the heats, all competitors will be required to register and receive a race number.
- During registration, the Omang or other identity document will be used to capture the competitors details.
- A race number will be pinned to each competitor's shirt - this is not to be removed.
- No competitor will race unless they have signed an indemnity form at the registration table.
- Competitors are allowed to wear any clothing of their choice, but no indecency will be tolerated.

- A selection of mokoro and nkashi will be made available but polers are allowed to bring their own mokoro or nkashi to use. They will be responsible for getting their equipment to the start line.
- Mokoros will be poled empty with no other matter/items/people inside the boat, besides safety equipment.
- The Race Marshall will show each competitor the route before racing, which will be a round trip route.
- Each competitor is given **one** chance to race their mokoro along the route and set a time, unless there are extenuating circumstances in which case the race marshall will decide if another opportunity to race is given.
- Time will be captured electronically and manually by a qualified time keeper. The time will be captured on the sound of a whistle when the competitor passes the start and finish line.
- Once at the start line, the competitor must listen to and comply with the race marshall.
- Each competitor will be started approximately 3-5 minutes apart so as to give the time keeper an opportunity to enter the race number and to give each poler space to complete the route.
- Overtaking other competitors is allowed, should the opportunity arise. Refrain from colliding with another competitor.
- The finalists for the main event will be determined once the heats are complete and will be determined based on the results of the time trials from all the heats. The race organisers will contact those individuals who have qualified for the finals.
- Any protests or complaints during the heats must be reported immediately following the proposed violation to the race administrator.
- The Nkashi Classic event organiser's word is final.
- The fastest heat racers who qualify to participate in the finals will need to make themselves available from Friday 4th July to Sunday 6th July 2025 in Seronga.

## RACE CATEGORIES

The Nkashi Classic will include seven formal categories. Each competitor may only race in **one** of these categories.

1. Youth Male ( 18 - 30 years of age)
2. Youth Female (18 -30 years of age)
3. Male (31 - 54 years of age)
4. Female (31- 54 years of age)
5. Veteran Male (55 and over, males)
6. Veteran Female (55 and over, females)
7. Mixed Doubles (2 polers, one male, one female both aged 18 and older)

In addition to the formal races above, the 2025 Nkashi Classic main event may also involve some fun races like sprints and relays. These races will be voluntary and will have spot prizes on the day.

The age of the competitor is their age on the 25 April 2025. For example if a veteran wanted to compete, they should be 55 years old on the 25 April.

## FINAL COMPETITION RULES - SERONGA 2025

- The main event will be held in the village of Seronga.
- A competitor cannot substitute themselves for anyone else at the finals.
- If a competitor who has qualified for the finals is not able to race, they must alert the race organisers at least two weeks prior to the event and their spot will be replaced with the next qualifying time in that category, or a wild card.
- The format of the finals will be the same as the Heats - a time trial along a set route on the water.
- The BWBT has the right to enter Wild Card competitors into the race at their discretion.
- In the case of a tie, and the tie is for first place, the tied competitors will each re-race and set a new time. Should the new time also be tied, the prize money will be shared. The next place awarded will be as though all tied competitors occupy the same place.
- In the case of a tie, and the tie is for any other place except first, the prize money will be split amongst those sharing the same time.

## RACE LOGISTICS

Polers who have to travel to Seronga will be compensated for transport to and from the event - competitors must retain their receipts. Only the competitors will be transported to the race, no travel companions will be accommodated. Food and Accommodation will be provided from Friday evening.

A race brief will take place prior to the event - the details of which will be communicated to each competitor.

Registration for the main race will take place Friday afternoon or Saturday morning - here all finalists will be registered, and provided with their numbers, t-shirts and arm bands.

## PRIZE MONEY

In addition to all finalists receiving a goodie bag with a variety of goodies, the following prize money will be awarded to the finalists for the Nkashi Classic 2025:

### Prize Money Across ALL Categories:

- 1st Prize: P10 000
- 2nd Prize: P5 000
- 3rd Prize: P2 500

In the case of the doubles, the money is shared between the two polers.

## GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

- The competitors will be housed in an athletes camp for the weekend. Tents will be shared with meals provided by the organisers.
- Security will be provided during the weekend.
- Any unruly, aggressive or unacceptable behaviour which is reported to the event organisers will not be tolerated. The poler responsible will undergo a 1 year ban from the event should they be found guilty of misconduct by the remaining competitors.
- Competitors are encouraged to report back to the organisers on ways the event can be improved and any suggestions.