



## Kairacross Vätsäri 2022 – BULLETIN 1

Dear Kairacross attendee,

this message contains important information about Kairacross Vätsäri. It is worth reading with a thought and asking if something was unclear. All the official instructions and rules of the competition can also be found on the competition's website.

### Arrival

The easiest way to get to Sevetijärvi is to take your own car. The bus from Ivalo only runs on weekdays at 3.15pm, so those arriving by air on a Friday or Saturday need someone else's ride. It's hard to get to the race venue on a Sunday flight in time, so we don't recommend flying on a Sunday.

Did you need a ride from Ivalo to Lake Sevetijärvi? Or could you give someone a ride? Answer [this questionnaire](#) immediately and we will see if it would be possible to arrange joint transport.

<https://forms.gle/nYw7KYyvkDQGyKbd9>

N.B! Please answer the questionnaire if you can pick up one of your fellow competitors from Ivalo. Your ride could make a decisive difference.

### Race venue and schedule

The competition centre, start and finish are located [at Sevetijärvi school](#), Sevetijärventie 9076 99930 Sevetijärvi.

**The competition centre opens on Saturday 30.7. at 18.00.** Maps and other race materials can be retrieved from the competition office from 18:00 to 21:00.

**On Sunday 31 July**, in the competition centre there is a very simple breakfast *for those who have ordered it in advance*. Order breakfast (price 5 €) here: <https://forms.gle/dXCzSqw1uLGit1B3A> The breakfast (oatmeal, juice soup, egg and coffee/tea) is paid on site in cash or via MobilePay.

The race material can be picked up from the competition office from 8:00 to 12:00. **Everyone must be present in full equipment and ready to go by 12:00 at the latest**, when a team meeting will begin. In the meeting we will go through the last-minute changes and refinements to the instructions, check the equipment, hand out GPS devices and take photographs of the teams.

The competition starts 14:00 from the schoolyard (beach). The deadline for finishing is Thursday 4 August at 18:00 and at the latest you must arrive at 18:15, if you want a result.

After the competition, you can take a shower at the school and sleep or rest in the school gym if you don't want to go to your accommodation or home immediately.

The prizes will be presented at the closing ceremony, which starts at 19:00. Barbecue and (nonalcoholic) drinks are available at affordable price. Welcome to spend a summer evening on the shores of Lake Sevetijärvi!

## Equipment

The list of mandatory and prohibited equipment can be found on <https://kairacross.fi/en/vatsari/2022/equipment>. If you are wondering if one of your equipment meets the requirements, please ask us.

The temperature in Vätsäri can be anything between +5 and +30, so prepare for both the heat and the cold rain and make the final equipment choices only at the race venue. In any case, you will spend a lot of time in the water, e.g. not only canoeing, but also wading. Note that water also splashes on the boat all the time, so when choosing trousers, jackets and shoes, you should think that "clothes may not be wet all the time, but often they are".

Think carefully and, above all, test how to fasten your equipment when paddling and walking. There are a lot of landings in the water and getting out of there, so it's very important to make these transitions as smooth as possible. Plan the fastenings and operation so that there is as little adjustment as possible, and all the equipment is always attached to something. It's also worth testing how long the transition takes to make it easier to decide whether to take a longer route with fewer transitions or a shorter route with more transitions.

When a packraft is torn for 4 days in terrain like Vätsäri, there will almost inevitably be holes or cuts in it. You should have tape like [Tuff Tape](#) or something similar and find out in advance how to use it. Especially it is advisable to patch the holes in the pontoon very carefully, otherwise the patch may have to be repaired again and again throughout the rest of the journey.

## Rules

Although Kairacross Vätsäri is first and foremost a relaxed experience event, time is taken, and the results are calculated. It is therefore fair that everyone should follow the same rules: <https://kairacross.fi/en/vatsari/2022/rules>

We strive to keep the rules as simple as possible, but sufficiently comprehensive. Read through the rules in advance so you can ask if something is unclear. It is possible that there will be minor changes to the rules before the race. Changes will be marked in such a way that they are easy to distinguish.

## Competition map

The race map is based on data from the National Land Survey's terrain database, which has been slightly supplemented and modified. The base material is the same as in the Kansalaisen Karttapaikka: <https://asiointi.maanmittauslaitos.fi/karttapaikka/>

The scale of the map is 1:50,000 and the size of the sheet is slightly larger than the A3, SRA3 (320 mm x 450 mm). There are at least 6 maps in one map set but less than 16 (the number is not revealed until the maps are distributed). Each team receives two map sets, one printed on water-repellent paper and the other on plain copy paper. All maps must be carried with you at all times.

Equip yourself to protect the map from getting wet. It's not necessarily a bad idea to coat a set printed on copy paper with contact plastic and carry it in a waterproof map case. Over time, moisture also gets inside the contact plastic when the map is used in wet conditions.

In addition to maps, teams receive control descriptions with highly relevant information about the more precise location of the checkpoints. Please prepare to cover control descriptions (approximately four A4 sheets) from moisture. You will need them!

## Course

There is only one course in the race, and the aim to make it as far as possible AND reach the finish line within the deadline (100 hours). The checkpoint should be visited in numerical order.

Prohibited areas such as yards ("piha-alue", marked on the map in olive green) and other separately prohibited areas ("muu kielletty alue", purple lattice) as well as watersheds must also be considered when planning and executing routes.



The length of the course is **237 km as the crow flies** and the **fastest** route estimated by the course setter is **about 293 km**. Approximately half of the optimal route is paddling, and half is trekking. Calculations have assumed that paddling is on average somewhat faster than walking.

The course setter estimates that on the optimum route, you will have to do about **250 transitions** to or from the water!

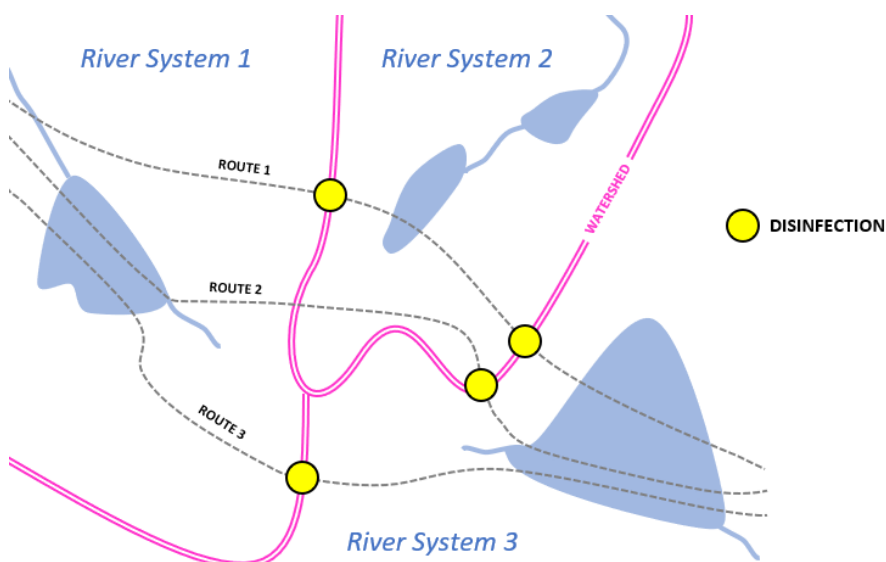
Teams can choose their routes freely, so the ratio between paddling and trekking can of course be entirely different than course setters estimate. It is not possible to increase the share of paddling as much it is to increase the share of trekking.

It is essential to consider whether to make a longer rotation with a few changes or to go straighter and transition to and from the waters more often. Especially in rocky areas, even long paddling detours or the extensive use of small ponds can pay off.

## Disinfection

Kairacross Vätsäri is organized in an area, where there are several different river systems (drainage basins). Packrafts shall be disinfected whenever it is transferred from one rivers system to another, so that salmon parasites living in one river system do not spread destructively to another.

The watersheds (divides) are marked on the map with a purple double line, and disinfection must be carried out whenever the line is crossed. Disinfection can also be done before crossing the watershed, as long as you do not then launch the packraft until on the side of the next watershed.



On route 2, it is not necessary to disinfect the packraft when moving from river system 1 to river system 2, as the raft is not used inside the river system 2.

Disinfection does not need to be carried out if the route passes through in the area of another watercourse AND during this pass-through the packraft is not used.

Depending on the route choices, 4 or 5 watershed crossings are required to pass through the entire course. For the slowest teams, there will be only two watershed crossings.

The organiser offers *Virkon S* tablets for disinfection. Participants must have a water container (min 0,5 liters) in which the tablet can be dissolved, at least two sponges to apply disinfectant and two rubber gloves.

The tablet is dissolved in a water container and the resulting disinfectant is then applied with a sponge with rubber gloves in hand carefully all over the packraft. Finally, the paddles and shoes are also wiped. Disinfectant should not be released into the skin, especially in the eyes. If this happens, rinse the area immediately with plenty of water.

The team videotapes each disinfection and prepares to show the videos at the finish line to the organizers. In addition to disinfection, the 30–60-second video must show a recognisable location of disinfection both on the map and in nature. If your camera has GPS recording, please to keep it on.

The above arrangements are a prerequisite for us to be able to organise Kairacross events in Vätsäri also in the future.

### **Supporters & family members**

If you come with supporters, or other companions who are not competing, they may, if they so wish, participate in various organisational tasks. Organizing tasks also offer an excellent opportunity to explore the area and the event, if you are interested, but you don't want to participate yourself yet.

Different tasks of different lengths are available. Let us know if you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering!

### **You can still join**

There's room for more participants, so if you know the right people, please advertise the race to them!

If you can attract a new team, we will provide you and the team you attract with free breakfast and after party. Ask the enrolling team to enter the enrolment form in the *Questions or Greetings to organizers* field, from whom they received a tip about the race.

There are also a few people looking for team-mates, so if you know someone who could join, please send us a email: [info@kairacross.fi](mailto:info@kairacross.fi).

## Following the race

Be sure to tell your friends that your team's progress can be watched live online. Shortly before the start of the race, a link to gps tracking will appear on the race website. The tracking will start as soon as the race starts.

On social media, we provide images and short stories about the race:

- A Facebook *event* is a great way to follow a race:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1311151722665174>  
Please add yourself as a participant of the event and encourage friends and other potential followers to click on the "Interested" button!

Through Facebook, we also provide live footage and interviews with teams at least before the start and after the finish.

- There are (and already are) some great pictures coming to **Instagram**:  
<https://www.instagram.com/kairacross/>
- **Twitter** is updated from time to time: <https://twitter.com/kairacross/>

On Facebook, Kairacross also has a *group* that is primarily intended for free conversation between participants and other interested parties, as well as a *page* that is our "Facebook home page" for more general information about the Kairacross organization.

- FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kairacross>
- FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/kairacross.fi/> Please like!

## More information

We will send the next and final advance instruction by Mon 25.7. Any changes that may then take place will be announced on the website and in the equipment check on the morning of the race at 12:00.

Have a nice summer and successful preparations for Kairacross!

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Kairacross Vätsäri 2022

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