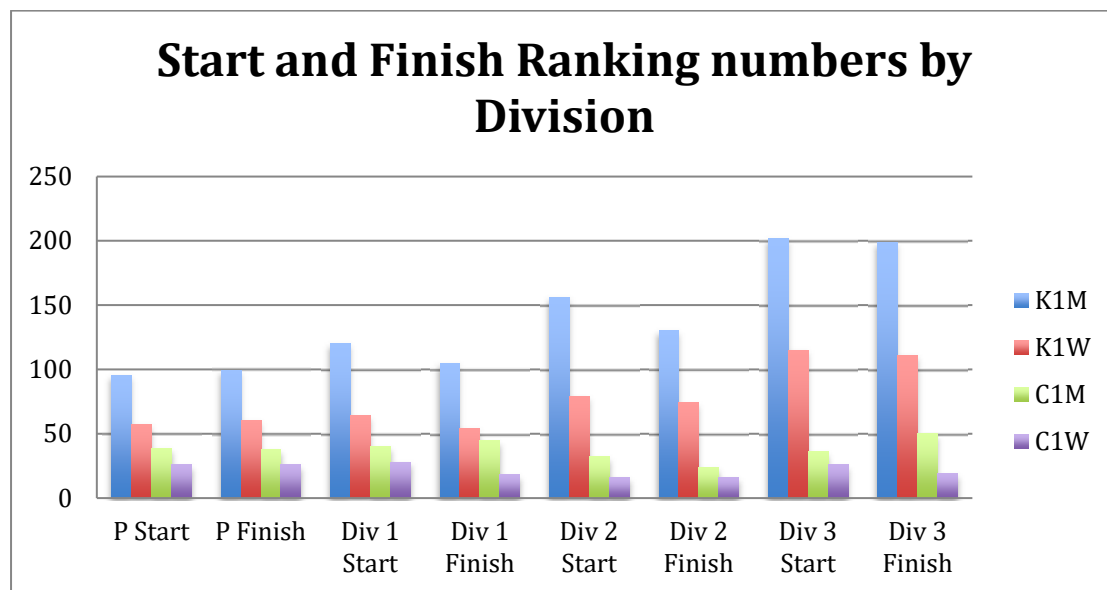


# Participation report 2019

It has been a challenging season, with several races being cancelled some at very short notice due to high water levels.

Numbers participating in the sport continue to decline. Taking the number of paddlers ranked in each division at the start of the season and comparing that with the number of paddlers ranked at the end of the season, it can be seen that Prem and Division 3 are fairly stagnant, whereas Division 1 and Division 2 are reducing in size.



The reduction in paddlers in Division 2 would suggest it could no longer be viable to run more than one Division 2 race on the same weekend. Division 2 is also the division where paddlers are more selective about where they race and harder water Division 2's are not as well attended as they could be.

Division 4 participation is still declining with some of the highest attended races not retaining their promotees in the sport. Having attended several Division 4 races this season I think we should encourage all Division 4 races to offer plenty of water time for paddlers prior to the racing (often racing does not start until around mid day) so paddlers starting out in our sport have adequate time to practice.

I believe slalom inspires is good for the sport and is catering for both our female paddlers (Adult & Junior) and juniors' parents. I would hope as Slalom inspires continues we should start to see an increase in retention of female junior paddlers.

Karen Crowhurst