

# Official 2019 Rules and Terms

- All questions and protests shall be referred to the race committee. All decisions of race officials will be final.
- Waivers ~ All racers must sign an insurance waiver with the submission of their registration or on the day of the race. Parents/guardians of minors (under 18) entering the race must sign a waiver either in advance or on race day. Any relay substitutions must sign a waiver at their leg start or their boat will be pulled from the race. A copy of the waiver is included on p. 16. Each paddler should complete a waiver and return it with their registration to save time on Race Day.
- Pre-Race Meeting ~ A representative from each team must attend a pre-race meeting immediately before the relevant start to review the course, potential hazards, medical emergency procedures, communications and safety procedures. This information must be distributed by the representative to all team members. **See p. 8 for pre-race meeting times.**
- Canoe Classes and Specifications

Racing C-1	Any single-paddler canoe maximum length is 18 feet 6 inches (18'6"). Minimum width shall be 14 3/8% of the length (.14375 times the length) at the 4" waterline, measured within 12" fore and aft of the center of the canoe. Decks allowed on all Racing and Pro canoes.
Recreational C-1	Canoes that are built for back country touring but are suitable for racing against similar craft. There are minimal concave lines in the hull and no concave lines in the gunwales. There is no concavity in the longitudinal axis of the hull (bow to stern) and no concavity in the cross section (side to side) below the 7" waterline. One of a kind canoes are not permitted. Minimum at the 4" waterline and 18" fore and aft of the widest point of the boat is 14% of length.
Racing C-2	Tandem racing canoes for two paddlers, 18'6" maximum length, at least 27" at 3" waterline* or 14.375% length at 4" waterline*. Decks allowed on all Racing and Pro canoes.
Recreational C-2	All non-racing canoes for two paddlers. Maximum length of 18'6", at least 15% length at 4" waterline. Maximum depths from the manufacturer: Bow = 17", Center = 12 1/2", Stern = 16". No hard line transitions in the hull of the boat. Curve of chine must be equal to at least the radius of a softball. Maximum of 1" of tumblehome per side.
C-4	The boat must be specifically built by the manufacturer to accommodate 4 paddlers. Maximum length of 25'11". Minimum weight 50 pounds.
Recreational C-5	Overall length must be between 20' and 21' with a minimum beam of 40".
Outrigger	Any outrigger canoe for 1-10 paddlers.

- Kayak Classes and Specifications  
Flip-up rudders are not included in length. No hull modifications. Must have sufficient floatation to support a 25-pound weight in a boat full of water.

Racing Kayaks	
Olympic K-1	ICF Olympic racing or training kayak for 1 paddler - 520 cm. (17') maximum length, no minimum width.
Unlimited K-1	Any single kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski except ICF.
Touring K-1	Any single kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 20' and a 4" waterline beam** of at least 18".
Touring K-2	Any double kayak for two paddlers with a beam less than 20".

Recreational Kayaks (no ICF, Downriver or Olympic trainer kayaks)	
Sea Kayak K-1	Any single kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 18' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 8.5% of length, and an overall beam of at least 10% of the length; 30 pound minimum weight.
Recreational K-1	Any single kayak, sit-on top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 16' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 22".
Recreational K-2	Any double kayak for two paddlers with a beam of 20" or greater.

\* **4" Waterline** ~ The widest point of the boat measured 4" from the bottom of the boat. The 3" waterline is the widest point of the boat measured 3" from the bottom of the boat.

\*\* **Beam** ~ The width of the canoe or kayak measured at the widest point.

6. Stand Up Paddleboard Classes and Specifications

Stand Up Paddleboards	
Stand Up Paddleboard	Any paddleboard. Designed to be used standing with a paddle.

7. Questions about boat specifications should be made prior to submitting the race registration. Measurements should be made prior to race day. **Questions regarding boat classes should be directed to Mark at Charles River Canoe & Kayak, 617-965-5110. PLEASE NOTE:** Compliance with Official Race Rules, including the use of official boats and paddles, qualifies the paddler for official times. Those who wish to participate using any non-official boats, paddles, portage wheels, etc., are welcome to register, with the understanding that they will not qualify for prizes and/or official times, and that they may not in any way interfere with the progress of official participants.
8. Protests ~ On race day, boats will be measured at the finish line only if there is an official protest made against that boat. An official boat protest form must be filled out within 30 mins of their race finish and the protested boat must be presented within 15 mins.
9. Canoe Paddles ~ All canoe paddles, including bent shaft paddles, are allowed in ALL canoe classes.
10. Kayak Paddles ~ All kayak paddles, including wing paddles, are allowed in ALL kayak classes.
11. Categories (categories apply to 3-, 6-, 12-mile races), see page 14 for 14-mile race categories  
Open - Age 16+ (usually fastest category)      Mixed - One male and one female per boat (in each relay leg)  
Junior - Age 11-15      Women - Females Age 16+  
Masters - Age 40-59\*      Adult/Junior - Adult age 30+ and a junior age 11-15  
Senior - Age 60-69\*      Veteran - Age 70+\* \*if paddling in a pair, youngest paddler's age dictates category
12. Prize Eligibility ~ Results certificates will be mailed, upon request, only to paddlers who post appropriate finish-times, have passed every check-point, and have complied with all rules. All decisions of race officials will be final.
13. Life Jackets ~ Massachusetts law requires life jackets to be worn by all paddlers on water before May 15. Every paddler must wear a Coast Guard Approved life jacket at all times while on the water during the race. A seat cushion is not an approved device. **Paddlers are to supply their own life jackets.**
14. Whistles - Safety rules require each boat to have at least one whistle while on the water. Whistles are provided at race start. For relays, the whistle must stay with the boat and be passed to the next relay team.
15. If you drop out, you must notify a race official at one of the checkpoints. **Checkpoints - Paddlers must clear check points by the following times. Course support and timing will not be available for paddlers after these cut-off times: Moody Street - 12:30 PM, Watertown Dam - 1:30 PM, DCR's Artesani Park - 2:30 PM, DCR's Magazine Beach - 3:30 PM.**
16. Boats must remain on water at all times except at designated portages.
17. Each boat will have its assigned number affixed to both sides of the bow.
18. 10 person relay teams with only 8 paddlers may have 2 of their members paddle 2 legs of the race (consecutive or not), but no more. 5 person relay teams may have 2 of their members paddle 2 legs of the race (consecutive or not), but no more.
19. Relay teams hand off whistle to next group/person. This year Relay racers may consist of 5 or 10 members. For Paddleboard or Kayak Relay racers, you may use your own boat, you do not have to use one boat for entire race. If racers plan to switch boats, the boat sticker/number should be affixed to a vest that will be handed off so that the NUMBER finishes with the last paddler.
20. 10 person teams may designate up to four team members to carry the canoe at each portage. 5 person teams can use 2 people. In order to portage a canoe, a team member must have paddled at least one leg of the race. Non-motorized portage wheels are allowed in all classes and must stay with boat at all times.
21. Competitors are responsible for their own transportation.
22. All races finish at the Finish Line Festival, DCR's Artesani Park, Soldiers Field Road, Brighton, MA.
- 23. The lane on Soldiers Field Road will NOT be available for parking. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. Alternate parking is available in three DCR lots east of the Finish Line (see p. 21 but PLEASE carpool if possible.**
24. **No refunds will be given. Event is held rain or shine.**

**Failure to comply with these or any race rules as given on the day of the race may result in disqualification.**

**Awards ceremony will take place at DCR's Artesani Park.**