

MARATHON CANOE RACING COUNCIL – COMPETITION RULES

Revised March, 2003, March, 2005, March 2006

Article 1 - Definition of Marathon Racing

In marathon racing, the competitor races over a designated long distance course on water not subject to prescribed standards. He/she must take the water as he finds it and be prepared, if it is necessary, to carry his/her boat around an impassable obstacle or between two waterways. The course may be a river, lake, sea or any combination of these.

Article 2 - Competitors

All competitors must comply with the amateur regulations in accordance with Article 39 of the rules of the International Canoe Federation (ICF) as interpreted by the Marathon Canoe Racing Council (MCRC) of the Canadian Canoe Association (CCA).

Article 3 - Canoes

(A) Classes

- 1) C-1 Bantam - Juvenile - Junior - Senior Men
Masters Men I, II, III
Bantam - Juvenile - Junior - Senior Women
Master Women I, II
- 2) C-2 As above, plus:
Bantam - Juvenile - Junior - Senior Mixed
Masters I, II, III, Mixed
- 3) Stock Open and Open mixed

4) North Canoe If a North or any similar craft is used, it is the responsibility of the organizers to see that the competition uses equal boats.

(B) Age Categories

Bantam - under 14 years January 1, the year of competition
Juvenile - under 17 years January 1, the year of competition
Junior - under 20 years January 1 the year of competition
Senior - over 19 years January 1, the year of competition
Master Men I - 40 years or older January 1, the year of competition
Master Men II - 50 years or older January 1, the year of competition
Master Men III - 60 years or older January 1, the year of competition
Master Women I - 40 years or older January 1, the year of competition
Master Women II - 50 years or older January 1, the year of competition

Bantam, Juvenile, and Junior class participants must be of the age of the class for which they qualify - there will be no age averaging. All youth participants may move up in age categories and will register under the older category. No youth participants may move down in age categories. Youth may be allowed to compete in the adult category and will be recognized as Senior.

Age averaging will be allowed for all Masters Categories. Seniors may not age average. If a team is mixed with a Senior athlete that team is then recognized as Senior. An adult cannot go down to youth category.

(C) Specifications

- C-1 The canoe shall be a maximum of 5639 mm in length, waterline width no less than 14.375% at a midships at a 101.6 mm (4") waterline of the overall length to a max of 18'6". A midships is specified as 304.8 mm (12") either way of the centre.
- C-2 The canoe shall be a maximum of 5639 mm in length and no less than 686 mm in width at the 78.2 mm waterline (equivalent to 18'6" in length and 27" wide at the 3" waterline).

Stock (open) The exact specification for the Stock canoe will be up to discretion of the organizing committee.

(D) Construction

For C1 and C-2, any kinds of building materials are permitted. Spray covers and automatic bailer; will be allowed.

(E) Measuring

1. The length of the canoe shall be measured between the extremes of the stem and stern. Stem-bands or other protection of stem and stern, if any, are to be included.

2. All boats, prior to racing, are to be measured at a defined location and times as set forth by the organization committee. The first three boats in each class are to be measured immediately after they complete the race. Any other boat may be randomly selected for measurement and in any event where there is discrepancy or protest.

Article 4 - Kayaks

(A) Classes as for C-1 and C-2

(B) Specifications - Any kayak that meets ICF specifications for downriver single seaters and Delta hulls is to be included

(C) Construction - All kinds of building materials are permitted.

(D) Measuring - See Article 3(E)

Article 5 - Hosting

(A) The host province shall provide within 6 months of the date of the race the official information package to the Marathon Canoe Racing Council provincial representatives, and national executive. A standard protocol agreement between the Marathon Canoe Racing Council and the host province shall be screened at the time of approval of the official information package by the MCRC. The host province should announce at the race the date and location for the next year's Nationals as provided by MCRC.

(B) The items to be included in the official race package are;

1. Names and phone numbers of race officials
2. Time of race and dates
3. Map of racecourse
4. Race distance
5. Classes to be contested
6. Entry fees
7. Lodging information and medical facilities
8. Registration time and place
9. Jigging information
10. Agenda - for introduction ceremonies, banquet, etc.

(C) Pre-Race Publicity
The organizers from the host province shall use every means necessary to get the word out to the marathon canoeing community.

(D) Marathon Canoe Racing Council Approval of 'national's' Details
The host province must send a representative to the MCRC AGM (normally held during the first weekend in May) for approval of final National Championship details.

Article 6 - Entries

(A) All entries for national competition are made to the registrar of the National's Organizing Committee.

(B) Paddlers intending to compete in national competition must be in good standing with the applicable provincial or territorial paddling association.

- (C) Entry forms shall always contain the following;
 - 1. Name and address of each paddler
 - 2. Date and year of birth (have birth certificate or driver's license available in cases of dispute).
 - 3. Name and address of next of kin
 - 4. Competition rules
 - 5. Province to which the competitor belongs
 - 6. Order of events
- (D) The entry form shall be written in both official languages.
- (E) Entry fees cannot be refunded (except at the discretion of the National's Organizing Committee).
- (F) The host province is to remit to the treasurer of Marathon Council a fee of \$20.00 per registered Nationals' participant. All participants under the age of 14 are exempt from this fee. This fee must be remitted within 30 days of the competition.
- (G) Competitors for Masters, Junior, Juvenile, or Bantam events must have documentary proof of age.
- (H) The National Championships are an open event (no limit on provincial competitors) unless otherwise specified by the Marathon Canoe Racing Council Article 7- Provincial Responsibilities

Article 7 - Provincial Responsibilities

- (A) If possible, all paddlers competing should be dressed in provincial team colours.

Article 8 - Race Headquarters

- (A) The race headquarters shall be set up and operated at least two days prior to the beginning of the competition
- (B) The race headquarters shall provide:
 - 1. Information on all activities
 - 2. A race schedule outlining all canoeing events
 - 3. The information shall be available in both official languages
 - 4. Course maps and descriptions for all race classes

Article 9 - Introductory Ceremonies

- (A) The ceremonies shall include the playing of "O Canada".
- (B) The ceremonies shall include the introduction of officials, dignitaries, etc.
- (C) Opening remarks
- (D) The ceremonies shall be conducted in both official languages.

Article 10 - The Start

- (A) The starting line shall be clearly marked and wide enough to accommodate all paddlers.
- (B) Classes can be started separately or as mass starts within boat types at the discretion of the organizers.
- (C) Competitors shall be at the start at the time specified in the racing programme. The start shall be given without reference to any absentees.
- (D) The starter shall communicate the countdown as follows:
 - "Five minutes to start."
 - "Three minutes to start."
 - "One minute to start."
 - "30 second warning."

The Start shall be commenced with a gun, or air horn at any time following the 30-second warning deemed suitable by the starter.

- (E) A competitor who attempts an unfair start will thereby be rendered liable to disqualification after offending twice following a warning, or the immediate imposition of a time penalty of two minutes. Any penalty imposed under this rule must be notified immediately to the provincial team leader and the competitors as soon as possible by the race organizers.
- (F) Where strong currents render a stationary line-up impossible, a "rolling start" may be used, the boats being allowed to drift towards the line with a view to crossing on the signal.
- (G) The Official(s) may interrupt the starting procedure or recall a race after it has started, in the event that the alignment and/or spacing of a competitor's boat jeopardizes a fair start.
- (H) There shall be a back-up system to recall the competitors in the case of a false start.
- (I) A false start shall be called within 30 seconds of the starts by two quick blasts of the starting gun or horn. A failure to return to the starting line after a false start is a disqualification.
- (J) A competitor attempting gain an unfair advantage at the Start may be penalized or disqualified by the Officials.

Article 11 - The Course

- (A) Courses
 1. River courses without obstacles or interruptions
 2. River courses with obstacles such as weirs, rocks or shallows involving obligatory or optional portages
 3. Open watercourses on lakes, rivers, or the open sea
 4. Any combination of the above
- (B) The course shall be marked with similar flags
- (C) Portages shall be marked with similar flags - where to put in and out and along the path.
- (D) There shall be a checkpoint at the portage
- (E) Race officials shall be placed at various points along the course.
- (F) Obstructions shall be marked
- (G) Turning points shall be negotiated as directed

Article 12 - Portages

- (A) Portages shall be marked with similar flags - where to put in an out and along the path.
- (B) There shall be a checkpoint at the portages.
- (C) Organizers must aim to provide enough bank space to allow at least four craft to be portaged simultaneously.
- (D) Where shallow water is encountered it is always permitted to disembark in the river and drag the boat into deep water.
- (E) Under no circumstances may a portage be used with an effect of shortening the course of the race.

Article 13 - Numbers

All canoes and kayaks shall carry a number at least 8" high which shall be attached to the canoe and kayak as instructed by the race organizers.

Article 14 -The Finish Line

- (A) The finish line shall be clearly marked.
- (B) There shall be no obstructions in front of the finish line.
- (C) The finish line has been reached when the bow of the canoe or kayak has passed the line.
- (D) There shall be a clear area behind the finish line to enable paddlers to go through
- (E) There shall be two judges and a video camera or three judges. A video camera is recommended.
- (F) There shall be two timekeepers at the finish recording the finishing times.

Article 15 - Instructions for Competitors

Each provincial leader shall receive printed or written instructions at least 24 hours before the beginning of the competition, containing the following information:

1. Detailed information on the courses and their markings
2. Starting time(s) and procedures
3. Starting line
4. Finish line
5. Competitor's racing number
6. Obligatory safety equipment requirements
7. Transport arrangements for boats and competitors - if being provided

Article 16 - Race Results

Place results shall be placed in a conspicuous place as soon as possible, listing paddlers by number, class, name, province, placing and elapsed time. The official or volunteer in charge of results will note the time of posting of any result on the page.

Article 17 - Course length

Senior and Masters Classes - minimum 20 km and no upper limit

Junior and juvenile Classes - minimum 15 km and no upper limit

Bantam Classes - minimum 5.0 km

Races may run in one or several stages, over one or several days; the final result being based on total racing time.

Article 18 - Racing Regulations

Disqualifications

- (A) Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honourable means, or who breaks the racing regulations, or who disregards the honourable nature of the racing regulations will be disqualified for the race concerned.
- (B) Should a competitor have completed a race in a kayak or canoe which is shown upon inspection not to conform to the specifications set out by the Marathon Canoe Racing Council he shall be disqualified from the race in question.
- (C) It shall be considered a foul when, after the race has commenced, any competitor by his/her paddle, canoe or person deliberately comes in contact with the paddle, canoe or person of another competitor, or who deliberately steers into another crew, unless, in the opinion of the officials, such contact is so slight as not to influence the race.

Assistance

- (D) It is forbidden during a race to be accompanied by other boats along the course. Such acts shall entail the disqualification of the competitor(s) concerned. Furthermore, taking pace or receiving assistance from boats not in the race is not permitted. A competitor or may receive assistance from bank support crews, but such assistance is limited to first aid services, provisions of food, drink, clothing and replacement of faulty equipment.
- Support crew may provide replacement of damaged or lost paddles, help with repairs but not replacement of the craft itself.
- (E) In the event of a capsize, a competitor may receive assistance with emptying his craft and regaining his paddling position, but may not be progressed in any way.
- (F) Overtaking - Where a canoe or kayak is overtaking another canoe or kayak in a race, it is the duty of the overtaking craft to keep clear at all times of the craft being overtaken.
- (G) Portage - No competitor shall be assisted in any way in carrying his/her equipment over a portage.

Article 19 - Safety Measures

All competitors must ensure that they and their boats follow the safety guidelines as prepared by the CCA and approved at the MCRC AGM in May 1995.

Article 20 - Organization of the Competition

The Canadian Marathon Canoe Racing Championships shall be held under the supervision of the following officials:

Competition Organizer
Competition Secretary
Starter(s)
Timekeeper(s)
Safety Officer
Press Official
Course Umpire
Finishing Line Judge(s)
Boat Scrutineer
Aligner
Announcer

- (A) If circumstances permit one person may function in two of the above offices. The top management of the competition shall be in the hands of a Competition Committee that shall consist of:
- Chief Official
Competition Organizer
A member of the Executive of the Marathon Canoe Racing Council
- (B) The Competition Committee shall
1. Organize the competition and supervise its arrangements
 2. In the case of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances that make it impossible to carry out the competition, postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held.
 3. Settle any dispute that may arise outside the competition
 4. Disqualify any competitor who behaves improperly or who by his conduct or speech shows contempt towards the officials, other competitors, or on-lookers.
 5. Set up a GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE to decide matters concerning disqualifications, penalties, and final standings. Any issue where the Rules of Competition, or the Regulations that govern the event, are deemed to have been broken, during the competition, may lead to the submission of a "Grievance".

The **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE** (to be known as the committee for the rest of Article 20) is set up to:

1. Hear and resolve any protest (grievance) that may be made by a competitor, a coach, or a Provincial team representative.
2. Decide matters concerning disqualifications, or penalties, where the competition rules or regulations have been broken.
3. The committee and committee chair are to be selected prior to the start of the competition. The committee is to be made up of five senior racers, or officials. One alternate committee member is to be identified prior to the start of the competition. One committee member must be from the host province; the other four members should be selected from different provinces. The Provincial Organizing Committee is to approve the selection of the members of this committee. The Chair of the Organizing Committee, and the Chair of MCRC, may be selected for this committee.
4. The committee is to adjudicate disputes in the manner outlined in the MCRC Grievance Policy and Procedure, as approved by the MCRC at the AGM in May of 2002.

** It is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee to inform all competitors, coaches and team officials, that there is a "Grievance Policy and Procedure". This must be announced and posted prior to the start of races on each day of the competition (at the Race Briefing).

Article 21 - Duties of Officials

The **Chief Official**, who is also the chairman of the Competition Committee, shall decide all matters arising during the actual contest, which are not those dealt with in these rules.

The **Competition Organizer** is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition.

The **Competition Secretary** is responsible for recording the results and preparing lists of prizewinners. He/she must keep the minutes of the proceedings of any protest meetings. He/she must provide the Press Officials with all necessary information regarding the running of the event or the results.

The **Starter** decides all questions concerning the start of the races and alone is responsible for decisions as to false starts. He/she must see to it that the starting gun or pistol is in working order. He/she must order the competitors to their places and carry out the start in accordance with the rules. The language used shall be English. His/her decision is final.

The **Aligner** is responsible for bringing the boats to the starting line with the least possible delay. The language used shall be English.

The **Course Umpire** shall ensure that during a race the rules are complied with. If the rules are broken, the umpire shall report the infraction to the chief official, who in turn shall refer it to the Competition committee. The Competition Committee shall decide whether to disqualify or penalize the competitors involved. The course umpire shall appoint officers to supervise the control points along the course.

The **Finishing Line Judges** shall decide the order in which the competitors have crossed the finishing line. They shall be placed at the finishing line. If the judges differ regarding the placing of two or more of the competitors, the disagreement shall first be decided by a review of the support equipment. If this fails to reveal the finish of the competitors, then the finishing line judges must review all of the evidence at their disposal and make a decision. A simple majority shall decide the disagreement.

The **Time Keepers** are responsible for recording the times. Before each race the Chief Timekeeper shall satisfy themselves that the watches or other time keeping equipment is working satisfactorily.

The **Boat Scrutineers** shall ensure that the dimensions of the boats and their equipment conform to Marathon Canoe Racing Council rules, and shall mark accordingly. Should any not fulfill the Marathon Canoe Racing Council requirements, they shall be excluded from the competition.

The **Safety Officer** is responsible for advising the Competition Committee on the safety measures necessary, and for seeing that they are taken.

The **Announcer** shall on the instructions of the Competition Organizer announce the start of each race, the order of sorting and the placing of the competitors during the race. After the race is finished they would announce the results.

The **Press Officials** must supply all necessary information to the representatives of the press, radio and television, on the race and its progress. They are authorized therefore to seek information from the various officials, who must also procure for him/her, as quickly as possible, copies of the official results.

Article 22 - Doping

Doping is strictly prohibited, as defined by Sport Canada and CCA policy

Article 23 - Results Information

The race organizers shall forward to the National Executive of the MCRC and the provincial representatives the final results within 15 days of the completion of the event.

Article 24 - Provincial Championship

Provincial points shall be based on the top six finishers in each official class and allocated as follows -

- 1st Place - 6 points
- 2nd Place - 5 points
- 3rd Place - 4 points
- 4th Place - 3 points
- 5th Place - 2 points
- 6th Place - 1 point

Where a tandem team is made up of paddlers from different provinces, one half of the applicable points shall apply to each province. The provincial championship will go to the province with the highest accumulation of points. In the event of a tie, the championship will go to the province that has the most 1st place finishes.

Article 25 - International Competitors

Competitors who are not Canadian Citizens will not be eligible for National Championship medals, but will be awarded invitational medals as appropriate.

(Revisions to the above rules were made and passed at the 2006 MCRC AGM.)