



## Sprint Racing Rules

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### *Change Log:*

1. May 30, 2023: Applied edits voted on by Sprint Competition Committee to Rules from 2021, version 1.04
2. June 1, 2023: Formatting and draft updates.
3. Reformat the bulleted lists and headings; minor grammar fixes.
4. Inserted the updated race card for 2023.
5. Fixed formatting issue; uniform font sizes, removed blank spaces and line breaks, deleted resolved comments.
6. Removed legacy progressions, fixed minor formatting issues.
7. Corrections to progressions information.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

American Canoe Association, in accordance with its bylaws, hereby promulgates the following Racing Rules to govern competitions in the discipline of sprint canoe and kayak.

## 2. SANCTIONS

- 2.1. All sprint canoe and kayak competitions held within the limits of the United States shall be held under sanction from the American Canoe Association (“ACA”) if they wish to be recognized as official.
- 2.2. The ACA may require the payment of a sanctioning fee. The ACA Board of Directors (“the Board”), or a person or persons designated by the Board, shall determine, and publish the amount of the sanctioning fee by January 1 in each year.
- 2.3. Sanctioning fees may be refunded when the competition organizers, with the agreement of ACA, cancel the proposed competition.

## 3. AUTHORITIES

- 3.1. The annual Sprint Canoe Kayak National Championships (“National Championships”), the annual Sprint Canoe Kayak National Team Selection Trials (“Trials”), and all International Sprint Canoe Kayak Regattas (“International Regatta”) held in the United States shall be held only under direct assignment and sanction from ACA.
- 3.2. Special rule sections for National Championships, and National Team Trials and govern those events and override the general rules.
- 3.3. Any person wishing to compete in an International Regatta must have his or her entry sanctioned by the ACA and must be a member of the ACA.
- 3.4. Regional Sprint Canoe Kayak Championships (“Regional Championships”) and State Sprint Canoe Kayak Championships (“State Championships”) shall be held only under direct sanction from ACA.
- 3.5. Local sprint canoe kayak competitions, in which more than two clubs affiliated to ACA participate, shall be held only under sanction from ACA.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. Competitions sanctioned by ACA shall be open to ACA members and to international competitors (“International Competitors”).
- 4.2. ACA may declare a sanctioned competition to be a closed competition. Entry to a closed competition may be limited to ACA members who are United States citizens or United States permanent residents. Entry eligibility to a closed competition will be defined in the eligibility criteria for that competition.
- 4.3. Competitors in both open and closed competitions must be in good standing with their national federation.
- 4.4. Each club and / or athlete must ensure that they are in a good state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with that of the event they attend.
- 4.5. Each club and / or athlete and / or official must ensure that they carry appropriate health, accident, and personal belongings insurance.
- 4.6. Each club must ensure that all members required to take SafeSport training have done so prior to entering any regatta.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CLASSES

- 5.1. U12 is one who has not reached his / her 12th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- 5.2. U14 (Bantam) is one who has not reached his / her 14th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.

- 5.3. U16 (Juvenile) is one who has not reached his / her 16th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- 5.4. U18 (Junior) is one who has not reached his /her 18th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- 5.5. A Senior is anyone who does not meet the requirements of any other class. Seniors may paddle only in senior events.
- 5.6. U23 is one who has not reached his/her 23rd birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- 5.7. A Master may compete in a Master's event in the year that he / she reaches the lower limit of each age group (e.g. in the 30+ age group, in the year of his / her 30th birthday). In crew events the average age of the competitors will control the age category in which the crew can compete. Master's age categories will commence at 30 and increase upward in 10-year increments.
- 5.8. Masters consists of a total of five (5) categories:
- Category A is age 30+,
  - Category B is age 40+,
  - Category C is 50+,
  - Category D at age 60+,
  - and Category E is 70+.
- 5.9. Master's may choose to race "up" within the Master's category with younger athletes and are not limited from racing in any category for which they qualify. For example, a Master's B athlete may choose to race in the Masters A race and may also race in the Master's B race for the same class and distance.
- 5.10. Any change in classification will be effective after the end of the current year.
- 5.11. In addition to their own classes:
- U12 may paddle in the U14 and U16 classes.
  - U14 may paddle in the U16 and U18 classes.
  - U16 may paddle in the U18 and Senior classes.
  - U18 may paddle in the Senior class.
  - U23 may paddle in the Senior class.
  - Para may paddle in the Senior class or Master class (if they qualify by age).
  - Master may paddle in the Senior class.
- 5.12. The classification of Paracanoe competitors, and the rules and protocols for specific equipment, shall be in accordance with ICF Paracanoe rules and regulations. If the athlete has not been officially classified, and Classifiers are not available prior to the race event, the Certificate of Diagnosis and the contact information for the athlete and coach will be forwarded to the trained Classifiers for advice for provisional classification.

## 6. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS

- 6.1. International Competitors must be sanctioned by their national federations.
- 6.2. The following rules apply for International Competitors:
- They shall meet registration deadlines and pay entry fees to participate in the competition,
  - They are not eligible for membership of an ACA team,
  - They are not eligible to race for a club affiliated to the ACA, and
  - They are not eligible to receive points, medals, or prizes awarded by the ACA.

## 7. CLASSES AND BUILDING RULES

- 7.1. Boats, accessories, and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols and words.
- 7.2. Any advertising material carried on the clothing and equipment of a competitor shall be placed in such a way that it does not interfere with a competitor's identification and does not affect the outcome of the race.
- 7.3. The advertising of tobacco products and strong alcoholic spirit drinks is not permitted.

- 7.4. Images, symbols, slogans, and words unrelated to sport funding or any political messages are not permitted.
- 7.5. Any boat, accessory or article of clothing that does not comply with these conditions shall not be used during a competition. Competitors and clubs are responsible for their own equipment.
- 7.6. The maximum length and minimum weight for sprint canoes and kayaks are as follows (Para is listed separately):

	Max Length (cm)	Min Weight (K)
K1	520	12
K2	650	18
K4	1100	30
C1	520	14
C2	650	20
C4	900	30

## 8. BOAT CONSTRUCTION

- 8.1. The Hull: Section and longitudinal lines of the hull of the kayak and canoe shall not be concave (only horizontal and vertical).
- 8.2. The Deck: The deck construction may not be higher on any horizontal point than the highest point of the front edge of the first cockpit.
- 8.3. All boats must be built symmetrically upon the axis of its length.
- 8.4. No foreign substance may be added to boats that gives competitors an unfair advantage. The use of hull lubricants is not permitted.
- 8.5. It is forbidden for the boat or the competitor to be equipped with any device which would give the competitor any advantage in any way during competition.
- 8.6. A boat or a competitor may be equipped with a device which provides real-time feedback on performance for use by television or sport presentation. The same device may be used by the competitor for analysis following a race but in no circumstances may the device be used to provide real time feedback to a competitor during a race.
- 8.7. The competitors are responsible for ensuring that their equipment conforms to the technical requirements for the competition.

### 8.8. KAYAKS

- Boats may have one rudder. The rudder has to be placed under the hull of the boat.
- Boats are to be designed as a sit-in (kayak type) not a sit-on (surf ski type).
- Kayaks will be allowed weed deflectors in front of the rudder. The weed deflector can be a maximum of 20cm long and cannot be deeper than the rudder.

### 8.9. CANOES

- The canoe must be built symmetrically upon the axis of its length.
- Steering rudders or any guiding apparatus directing the course of the canoe are not allowed.
- C1 and C2 canoes may be entirely open. The minimum length of the opening shall be 280 cm and the edge of the side of the boat (gunwale) can extend a maximum of five (5) cm into the boat along the whole defined opening. The boat can have a maximum of three strengthening bars with a maximum width of seven (7) cm each.
- C4 canoes may be entirely open, the minimum length of the opening shall be 390 cm and the edge of the side of the boat (gunwale) can extend a maximum six (6) cm into the boat along the defined opening. The boat can

have a maximum of four (4) strengthening bars with a maximum width of seven (7) cm each.

### 8.10. PARA BOAT SPECIFICATIONS

- The hull section and longitudinal lines of the hull of the kayak must not be concave (horizontally and vertically respectively). Section and longitudinal lines of the hull of the Va'a may be concave or convex.
- The deck construction may not be higher than the highest point of the front edge of the first cockpit.
- No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the boats which can give the athlete an unfair advantage. The use of hull lubricants is not permitted.
- No part of the boat (including the seat and the footrest) may have moving parts which can be used to help propel the boat in a way which would give athletes an unfair advantage (existing moving seat systems already in use are accepted).
- The maximum length and minimum weight for para kayaks and Va'a are as follows:

	Kayak	Va'a
Max length (cm)	520	730
Min width (cm)	50*	
Min weight (kilo)	12	13**

*\*Measured 10-cm from the bottom of the hull*

*\*\*Including hull, ama, and iato*

## 9. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 9.1. The boats must be constructed so that they remain buoyant when filled with water.
- 9.2. No part of the athlete's body should be attached to the boat in any way (with exceptions for Para). Such attachments must be removed.

## 10. BOAT CONTROL

- 10.1. The length of a kayak or a canoe must be measured between the extremes of the stem and the stern except for Para Va'a boats. Stem-bands or other projection of the stem or stern, if any, are to be included.
- 10.2. Any alteration in canoes and kayaks after the measuring and weighing and before the competition has taken place, must still conform to technical requirements.
- 10.3. All loose fittings must be removed.
- 10.4. Any attachments consisting of water absorbing material must be absolutely dry or they will be removed for weighing.
- 10.5. Permanent knee rests attached in a definitive way to the floorboard are allowed.
- 10.6. Two or more boats according to the decision of the Competition Committee and on a random system may be re-controlled immediately after the race.
- 10.7. Pre-competition boat control is the responsibility of the competitors and clubs.
- 10.8. Before the first day of competition each competitor and club can control their boats, which will be used during the competition to satisfy themselves that their boats conform to the rules.
- 10.9. Additional weight, if any, must be fixed to the hull of the boat.

## 11. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

11.1. Competitions are to be supervised by:

- Chief Official\*
- Chief Judge\*
- Deputy Chief Judge\*
- Competition Manager\*
- Boat Controllers\*
- Starter\*
- Aligner\*
- Course Umpires\* / Turning Point Umpires\*
- Finish Line Judges\* / Timekeepers\*
- Technical Organizer
- Announcer
- Press Officer

11.2. At Trials and National Championships, an ACA certified Sprint Official Association with current certification must fill the above positions with asterisks. All other ACA sanctioned events must be controlled by at least one ACA SOA certified official with current certification.

11.3. The number of officials (judges) can be reduced or changed depending on the technological systems available at the time of competition. The duties and procedures listed under the section Duties of Officials may be adjusted accordingly. The organizer of the competition must inform the Team Leaders/coaches/competitors of any changes to the composition of officials (judges).

11.4. If circumstances permit, one person may function in two of the above positions.

11.5. No unauthorized person may enter any official area unless the Competition Committee has requested his or her presence.

## 12. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

12.1. Competitions are to be managed by a Competition Committee consisting of:

- Chief Official,
- Chief Judge, and
- Deputy Chief Judge.

12.2. The Competition Committee:

- Direct, organize, and supervise the competition,
- Postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held in the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out the competition,
- Decide on matters concerning disqualifications in cases where the rules have been broken during the competition,
- Hear and decide the outcome of any protests and settle any disputes that arise.
- Provide the ACA Sprint Competition Committee and the Chief Executive Officer (or their designate) within one week after the conclusion of the competition a report including a list of the officials participating at the competition, the results of the events contested, and a record of any protest lodged, and the decision made thereon.

12.3. Before any decision is made regarding a protest, the Competition Committee:

- Will obtain a complete report from the official reporting the infraction,
- May seek the opinion of the officials who controlled the race in which the infraction is said to have occurred,
- May seek the opinions of other ACA SOA certified Sprint Officials who are officiating at the competition,

- Review any video or photographic evidence that may be available to establish the veracity of the claim, and
- Will base their decision on these rules.

12.4. A member of the Competition Committee who is affiliated by relationship or club with a competitor whom the Competition Committee may be called upon to disqualify, shall recuse themselves from the decision-making process in that case. The Chief Official shall appoint a temporary substitute for the recused member of the Competition Committee from among the other ACA SOA certified officials at the competition.

## 13. DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS

- 13.1. Every official will have the obligation to perform their tasks in conformity with the ACA Sprint Racing Rules.
- 13.2. Every official is obligated to check if the equipment necessary to perform their tasks is in working order.
- 13.3. In the event of any shortcoming is found, it is reported to the Chief Official or Competition Manager.
- 13.4. Unauthorized people must not enter any official area unless they are called for by the Competition Committee.

### THE CHIEF OFFICIAL

- 13.5. The Chief Official is also the Chair of the Competition Committee and:
- 13.6. Will decide all matters during the actual contest which are not dealt with in these rules.
- 13.7. Will decide matters concerning disqualification in cases where the regulations are broken during a competition,
- 13.8. Will notify the person disqualified immediately and before the result of the race is announced, and
- 13.9. Will ensure that all officials take their positions at least 15 minutes before the start of the first race of the day and before the resumption of racing after any break in the program.

### THE CHIEF JUDGE

- 13.10. The Chief Judge shall assist the Chief Official and substitute for him/her as necessary,
- 13.11. Collect the forms necessary for the administration of the competition,
- 13.12. Formulate the decisions of the Competition Committee passed in the subject-matter of the protest and arrange to record it into the minutes of the competition. He/she is responsible for the accuracy of the minutes.

### DEPUTY CHIEF JUDGE

- 13.13. Cooperates closely with the Chief Official and the Competition Manager and handle the administrative tasks of the competitions including:
- 13.14. Receiving entries, entry fees, and
- 13.15. Notifying ACA of any doubt concerning the eligibility of an entry. ACA shall immediately investigate the same and, if the circumstances justify, empower the Competition Committee to refuse the entry,
- 13.16. Preparing and reviewing the heat, semifinal, and final sheets,
- 13.17. Recording and posting results,
- 13.18. Preparing the list of winners,
- 13.19. Provide printed information for competitors at least 1 hour before the competition, and
- 13.20. Provide the Announcer and Press Official with all necessary information regarding the races, the results, and other information regarding the events.

### COMPETITION MANAGER

- 13.21. Keep in constant contact with the LOC to solve any problems arising,
- 13.22. Supervise the races and is responsible for ensuring that the program is followed without unnecessary delay.
- 13.23. Supervise the efficient functioning of the finishing line and shall inform the officials concerned before each new race starts.

- 13.24. Ensure that the Announcer gives all necessary information about the races such as start order, lane assignments, the name of any competitor failing to start, and the results.

## BOAT CONTROLLER

- 13.25. May measure, weigh, and certify all boats prior to the start of the competition.
- 13.26. Will check all boats reporting to Boat Control after a race, and
- 13.27. Make an oral report and submit a written report to the Chief Official of any limitation or construction infraction that arises from post-race boat control.
- 13.28. Should any of the boats not fulfill the requirements concerning Classes and Building Rules, they shall be excluded from the competition.

## STARTER

- 13.29. Decide all matters concerning the start of the races,
- 13.30. Alone be responsible for decisions as to false starts,
- 13.31. Ensure the starting equipment is in good working order,
- 13.32. Communicate via a signal to the Competition Committee and officials at the finish line and after having received a response that all is ready to start, shall order the competitors to take their places and carry out the start according to the racing rules, and
- 13.33. Ensure that the circumstances of the start are free from hinderance.
- 13.34. All decisions of the Starter are final.

## ALIGNER

- 13.35. The Aligner receives the competitors as they check-in before the race and checks the:
- Competitor's clothing,
  - Electronic devices, and
  - Boat number.
- 13.36. The Aligner will bring the boats to the starting line with the least amount of delay and when all boats are even, notify the Starter.

## COURSE UMPIRE

- 13.37. For 1000m races the Course Umpire will follow the race in a motorboat. Races with five (5) or less boats may be followed by one (1) Course Umpire. Races with six (6) or more boats shall be followed by two (2) Course Umpires.
- 13.38. For 200m races the Course Umpires will not follow the race. Two (2) Course Umpires shall be positioned behind the start line and two (2) Course Umpires shall be positioned beyond the finish line, to observe all lanes between them.
- 13.39. For 500m races either the 1000m system or the 200m system may be used at the discretion of the Chief Official and depending upon his/her opinion of the course features.
- 13.40. The Course Umpire:
- 13.41. Will ensure that during a race the rules are complied with,
- 13.42. Will give directions to the competitors during U14 (Bantam) or U12 races only,
- 13.43. Will show a white flag after the race is completed if there is no infraction to report,
- 13.44. Will show a red flag after the race is completed if there is an infraction to report.
- 13.45. Will report immediately any infraction to the Competition Committee if there are any rules broken.
- 13.46. Will present a written report to the Competition Committee within 10 minutes, in the case of an infraction. (For races that the Course Umpire follows he/she shall make a written report to the Chief Official within 10 minutes after the race. For races in which the Course Umpire is static, he/she will make an oral report to the Chief Official immediately after the race, write the report within 10 minutes, and provide a written report to the Chief Official at the next convenient break in the program.)

- 13.47. Will in case of hindrances, stop the competition by passing all boats in the race and waving the red flag or using a sound signal until all boats have stopped paddling. After this all boats shall return to the start. The Course Umpire will immediately report the infraction to the Chief Official.
- 13.48. Will be completely unhampered during the race, with nobody except the Course Umpire and the driver admitted to the motorboat.

### TURNING POINT UMPIRE

- 13.49. The Turning Point Umpire will see that the competitors turn according to the rules and report any infraction immediately after the race, and
- 13.50. The scribe will make a list of all who pass the turning point.
- 13.51. The Turning Point Umpire will report immediately to the Competition Committee, after the race has been completed, which boat has turned and if any infractions of the rules have taken place.

### CHIEF FINISH LINE JUDGE & FINISH LINE JUDGES

- 13.52. All Finish Line Judges will be placed at the finishing post as near to the finish line as possible and in a position that allows all lanes at the finish line to be clearly seen.
- 13.53. Finish Line Judges will decide the order in which the boats pass the finish line.
- 13.54. Where the Finish Line Judges differ regarding determining the places of two or more boats, use a simple majority to decide the order of finish.
- 13.55. When a photo finish system is used, the result determined by the finish line judges is compared to it. The photo finish system is decisive. A video is NOT a substitute for a photo finish system.
- 13.56. The Competition Manager shall be the Chief Finish Line Judge.

### THE CHIEF FINISH LINE JUDGE

- 13.57. Will ensure all timing equipment is working correctly,
- 13.58. Will assign duties to other Finish Line Judges,
- 13.59. Will call all necessary boats to Boat Control,
- 13.60. Will acknowledge the Course Umpire with a flag of the same color,
- 13.61. Will consult and compile the manual results of the finish line judges and timers,
- 13.62. Will consult the video finish system to decide on whether an athlete was in his/her boat at the time of finishing the race and report it to the Competition Committee,
- 13.63. Will decide the final order of finish in each race in the absence of a photo\video finish system,
- 13.64. Will make the final decision in cases where the finish order is in dispute between the finish line judges, and
- 13.65. Will provide the Deputy Chief Judge with the combined manual results of each race immediately.

### CHIEF TIMER & TIMERS

- 13.66. Timers are responsible for recording the times.
- 13.67. The Competition Manager shall be the Chief Timer.
- 13.68. The Chief Timer will be the primary Timer and may appoint at least one other Timer.
- 13.69. The Chief Timer:
- 13.70. May also be the Chief Finish Line Judge.
- 13.71. Will see that at least two (2) digital printing stopwatches are in working order.
- 13.72. Will compare the official times with the other Timekeepers. When the stop watches have not recorded the same time the longest (worst) time shall be taken as correct, and
- 13.73. Immediately inform the Deputy Chief Judge of official finish times.

## THE TECHNICAL ORGANIZER

- 13.74. Will make available, supervise, and maintain all the technical, electronic, and physical equipment of the regatta venue, and
- 13.75. Assist Boat Control before the first day of racing to ensure that the weight and measurement regulations are compliant.

## THE ANNOUNCER

- 13.76. The Announcer must have all announcements approved by the Deputy Chief Judge and will announce:
- 13.77. The start time of each race,
- 13.78. Lane assignments,
- 13.79. Position of the competitors during the race,
- 13.80. The official results, and
- 13.81. Other announcements pertaining to the event

## THE PRESS OFFICER

- 13.82. The Press Officer is authorized to ask for information from the Deputy Chief Judge, and
- 13.83. Must supply all necessary information to the representatives of the media about the event and its progress.
- 13.84. If the Press Officer is not ACA staff, the Press Officer should work with the ACA to provide adequate pre-race publicity.

## 14. CERTIFICATION of OFFICIALS

- 14.1. A candidate for the ACA Sprint Officials Association (“SOA”) examination must have reached his/her 18th birthday.
- 14.2. An official candidate or SOA certified official must be a member in good standing of the ACA prior to the event in which h/she is serving as an official.
- 14.3. Certification as an ACA SOA official is based upon examination and assessment.
- 14.4. The examination is based on these rules and practical regatta experience.
- 14.5. The examination shall only be given by a certified ACA sprint official authorized to do so by the SOA.
- 14.6. An examination fee may be charged to cover the cost of materials and course presentation. This fee is to be set by SOA in consultation with the Sprint Competition Committee (SCC) and the ACA executive director (or an ACA staff member designated by the executive director)

## 15. ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### INVITATIONS

- 15.1. An invitation to a competition shall contain the following information:
- 15.2. ACA as the sanctioning body,
- 15.3. Name of sponsor(s),
- 15.4. Time and place of the competition and directions thereto,
- 15.5. Declaration of an "Open" or "Closed" event,
- 15.6. A list of local accommodations and contact numbers,
- 15.7. Schedule of events which includes classes and distances of races,
- 15.8. Type of body of water and minimum depth of water,
- 15.9. Direction of the current, if any, in relation to the direction of the course,
- 15.10. Amount of entrance fee and other fees that may be charged,
- 15.11. Address to which entries should be sent,

- 15.12. Last date for receiving entries, which shall not be earlier than 21 days prior to the first day of the competition , and
- 15.13. Late entries will not be accepted.

## ENTRY FORMS

- 15.14. An entry shall contain the following:
- 15.15. The name of the club or federation to which the competitor(s) belongs or designation as unattached.
- 15.16. The classes and distances in which the competitor(s) proposes to compete , and
- 15.17. The first and last name of each competitor, together with the date and year of his or her birth, eligibility classification, and ACA membership number.
- 15.18. For an entry to be accepted, it must be emailed, faxed, or mailed, with a date & time stamp of before mid night on the last day for receiving entries in the time zone of the venue hosting the event.
- 15.19. In the eventuality of conflicting information, the information from the participant’s club will take precedence.

## ENTRY FEES

- 15.20. When entry fees are a condition for participation in a regatta, no competitor may start in any race unless his or her entry fee has been paid.
- 15.21. Entry fees will not be refunded due to any alteration or withdrawal from an event.

## TEAM LEADERS / SCRATCH MEETINGS

- 15.22. Neither more than 24 nor less than 12 hours before the start of the first race of the competition, a Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting shall be held.
- 15.23. The Chief Official shall describe the regatta course and all other arrangements to which competitors must adhere for the duration of the competition, and
- 15.24. The Chief Official shall describe the regatta program and ask for any changes to the entries.

## ALTERATIONS / WITHDRAWALS

- 15.25. At the Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting prior to the start of the event, only eligible competitors entered in the competition can be substituted for the named competitor(s).
- 15.26. At the Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting, and only if a lane is available, eligible competitors entered in the competition may form a boat, but only after all changes for that event have been made.
- 15.27. If changes at the Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting result in the actual number of competitors being too small for the plan used, there shall be a new drawing for heats.
- 15.28. The composition of a team cannot change after the first race in an event.
- 15.29. The withdrawal of an entry at the scratch meeting or 1 hour before the first race of the day is considered final, and no renewed entry of the same competitor or crew is allowed.

## ALTERATION OF EVENTS SEQUENCE

- 15.30. The sequence of races given in the invitation is binding on the Competition Committee.
- 15.31. Alterations cannot be made unless all of the team leaders at the competition give their consent.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS

- 15.32. At least five (5) hours before the beginning of the regatta, the Deputy Chief Judge shall make available to all team leaders the following information:
- 15.33. Revisions made at the Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting,
- 15.34. Starting times,
- 15.35. Location of the start and finish line for all scheduled distances,
- 15.36. Location of the warmup area,

- 15.37. Traffic patterns on the water and launching areas,
- 15.38. Place where competition information may be obtained and posted,
- 15.39. Location of boat control, and
- 15.40. Location of awards podium.

## 16. COURSE CONSTRUCTION

### LAYOUT

- 16.1. The standard AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION Sprint course shall provide fair and equal racing conditions for nine boats racing in separate parallel lanes over the official 1000m, 500m, and 200m racing distances.
- 16.2. A professional surveyor shall certify the length and intermediate distances of the course.
- 16.3. The water over the entire course shall be uniform and at least two (2) meters deep.
- 16.4. At least five (5) hours before the start of the event, the course shall be marked by means of clearly visible buoys.
- 16.5. The course at the start and finish line shall permit a minimum of nine (9) lanes. Lane number one (1) shall be the far-left lane then number two (2) and so on
- 16.6. The width of each lane shall be at least nine (9) meters wide, straight and without any obstacles.
- 16.7. The lanes shall be marked with buoys along the length of the course. The distance between the buoys shall not be more than 25 meters. The last line of buoys must be numbered from left to right from zero (0) to nine (9) with the numbering placed on the buoy in such a way to be big enough for the numbers to be clearly visible by the Finish Line Judges. These buoys should be fixed not less than one (1) meter and not more than two (2) meters behind the finish line.
- 16.8. The numbered buoys must be clearly visible to the athletes and to be on the corresponding athlete's right-hand side as they pass it.
- 16.9. The start and finish lines shall lie at right angles to the course.
- 16.10. The start and finish line must be marked on the side furthest away from the start and finish line with an easily visible site line.
- 16.11. The start line shall be marked by two (2) red buoys on the outer limits of each side of the course.
- 16.12. The finish line shall be marked by two (2) red buoys on the outer limits of each side of the course. No other buoys shall be installed on the finish line.

### TURNING POINTS

- 16.13. For races of more than 1000m turning points are permitted. The radius of each turn shall be at least 31.5 meters (turn with the width of seven (7) lanes).
- 16.14. The turning points shall be marked by at least six (6) identifiable turn buoys.
- 16.15. Both the start and finish line shall be clearly identifiable to the competitor and take place in front of the finish tower.
- 16.16. The red flags on the finish line should be placed as much to the outside as possible to get the widest feasible finish line.

### STARTING FACILITIES

- 16.17. The start platform shall:
- 16.18. Be located as close to the starting line as possible and securely fixed,
- 16.19. Provide protection from the elements, and 35.1.c. be elevated above the surface of the water.
- 16.20. The start platform shall contain:
- 16.21. A starting device and back-up device,
- 16.22. A megaphone,

- 16.23. A stopwatch,
- 16.24. A clock, and
- 16.25. Technical means of communicating with the finish line.

## FINISH LINE FACILITIES

- 16.26. Shall provide an elevated, unobstructed view of the finish line for the Finish Line Judges,
- 16.27. Provide adequate protection from the elements, and
- 16.28. Have a fixed steady sight line coinciding with the site line on the opposite side of the course.
- 16.29. The photo/video finish system area within the finish line area shall contain:
- 16.30. A photo finish system and / or video camera to record all boats finishing in every race,
- 16.31. A sight line coinciding with the sight line on the opposite side of the course that shows in the picture recorded by the photo/video finish system,
- 16.32. Only the Chief Finish Line Judge and the Competition Committee may review the photo finish/video system to aid in any decision-making process, and
- 16.33. No person shall have access to the results image, unless authorized by the Chief Official.
- 16.34. If the photo finish system fails, the judges at the finish will supply the results by printed stopwatch with a video camera to back up the order of finish.
- 16.35. Access to the finish line area shall be limited exclusively to people authorized by the Chief Official.

## COURSE SAFETY

- 16.36. The course shall be patrolled by at least two safety boats with responsibility for keeping the course clear of boats and other obstructions. The safety boats shall also act as rescue boats in the event of a boat capsizing during a race.
- 16.37. In the event of a rescue, the nearest on-water official that can safely reach the competitor will respond until safety /rescue boat arrives.

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- 16.38. The following table includes all eligible events that can be contested at a sanctioned ACA Sprint competition:

<b>MEN &amp; WOMEN – K1 / K2 / K4 / C1 / C2 / C4 / V1</b>				
U12	200M			
U14 (BANTAM)	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
U16 (JUVENILE)	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
U18 (JUNIOR)	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
U23	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
SENIOR	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
MASTERS	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +
PARACANOE	200M	500M	1000M	1000M +

## 17. RACING REGULATIONS

### HEATS, SEMI FINALS, AND FINALS

- 17.1. Heats, Semi-Finals (“Semis”), and Finals shall be run on the same stretch of water.
- 17.2. One boat entry constitutes a race and may be run alone or with another race comparable in speed as a direct final.
- 17.3. A competitor or crew that has not taken part in a heat or semi shall not compete in the final.

- 17.4. If the number of entries in races up to and including 1,000 meters is so great that heats and/or semis are necessary, the number of boats in each heat and semi may not exceed nine (9).
- 17.5. The division of the competitors into heats and the assignment of their lane numbers shall be determined by drawing lots or by seeding or by both.
- 17.6. When making the draw or seeding, the difference between the number of competitors in each heat shall not exceed one (1). If the number of competitors in each heat varies, the earlier heats shall have the larger number of competitors.
- 17.7. The Competition Committee has the authority to run an event with only 10 boats entered as a direct final.
- 17.8. In 1000-meter races the interval between heats, semis, and finals shall not be less than one hour, for 500 meter races not less than 45 minutes, and for 200 meter not less than 30 minutes.
- 17.9. For races of more than 1,000 meters, heats shall not be held, and all competitors or crews taking part shall start simultaneously. Should the width of water not permit a simultaneous start, starts at regular intervals are permitted.

## START

- 17.10. Competitors shall:
- 17.11. Check in with the Aligner not less than five (5) minutes prior to the time set for their race,
- 17.12. Remain in the start area (the starting area is defined as the area of water within 100 meters of the starting line),
- 17.13. Be in line with the allocated race lane two (2) minutes before the defined starting time set for their race.
- 17.14. The start shall commence without reference to any absentees. A competitor who arrives late at the start shall be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn and shall not be allowed to start the race.
- 17.15. When signaled by the starter, the competitors will take the start position designated so that the bow of the boat is on the starting line. In the case of an automatic starting system the competitors will place the bow of the boat on the starting line and thus in the start machine.
- 17.16. Boats must remain stationary.
- 17.17. If the Starter is not satisfied with the lineup, the command will be "STOP" and the Starter or Aligner will reposition the boats.
- 17.18. The starting command will be "Ready-Set-Go" ("Go" can be a shot or strong sound signal).
- 17.19. At the "Ready" command the competitors begin their preparation to paddle. At the "Set" command the competitors place their paddle in the catch position. The competitors must not paddle forward, or this action will be deemed to be a false start. The boat must not move forward at this point in the starting procedure. The starter, when satisfied with the competitors positioning and attention, will say "Go" (or fire a shot, or other powerful sound).
- 17.20. Any competitor who disregards the instructions from the Starter or the Aligner to take up the correct position at the start or who keeps ahead of the other competitors shall be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn and shall not be allowed to start the race.
- 17.21. The Starter may recall a race by means of a second shot, signal or by calling back the competitors.

## FALSE STARTS

- 17.22. If a malfunction of the starting equipment was caused through a boat making a false start, the competitor / crew making a false start, must be given a warning, even though the boat may not have crossed the starting line. If the malfunction was not caused by the competitor / crew false starting, then no penalty should be imposed.
- 17.23. Between the commands "Ready" and "Set" and between the commands "Set" and "Go" (or shot or powerful sound) the competitors must not paddle forward or this action will be deemed a false start. The boat must not move forward at these points in the starting procedure. The competitors must only react to the start command/signal "Go" and are not permitted to anticipate it. The competitors can paddle only upon hearing the starting signal/command "Go".
- 17.24. In the event of a false start, the Starter must immediately give a powerful sound signal. On hearing this signal all competitors must stop paddling and follow the Starter's instructions for a new start. Before the new start the Starter

must identify the offending competitor or crew making the false start and give a warning. In the event of a second false start by the same competitor or crew, the competitor or crew is disqualified from the race and must leave the start area and the course immediately.

17.25. The Starter may also recall competitors for a new start in the event of unforeseen circumstances unrelated to the actions of the competitors. In such a case the same powerful sound signal must be given.

17.26. The Starter shall start the race when he / she is satisfied that everything meets with his / her approval.

17.27. The Starter shall make a written report of false starts and disqualifications to the Chief Official.

## FAILURE TO START

17.28. If a competitor racing in a U16 (Juvenile), U18 (Junior), U23, or Senior event does not start an assigned heat, semi or final, the competitor shall be disqualified from all his / her events scheduled to be held that day

17.29. If a competitor racing in a U14 (Bantam), U12, or Master event does not start an assigned heat, semi or final, the competitor shall be disqualified from that event only.

## MEANS OF PROPULSION

17.30. Kayaks shall be propelled solely by means of double-bladed paddles.

17.31. Canadian canoes shall be propelled solely by means of single-bladed paddles.

17.32. The paddles may not be fixed on the boats in any way.

17.33. If a paddle is broken after a race commences, a competitor may not be provided with a new one by a supporter.

## INTERRUPTIONS

17.34. The Umpire has the right to interrupt a correctly started race if unforeseen hindrances arise by using a red flag and a strong sound signal. The competitors must immediately stop paddling and await further instructions.

17.35. If a race is declared null and void, no change of the composition of a crew is permitted at the new start.

17.36. If a competitor or crew capsizes, the competitor or crew is eliminated (disqualified/DNF) from the race and the event.

## FINISH

17.37. A boat has finished a race when its bow crosses the finish line with all paddlers in it.

17.38. The Finish Line Judges will determine the result of the competition based on the order of the boats arriving.

17.39. The Chief Official may allow the use of lane 10 in the event of a dead heat for the last qualifying place in a semi or final.

17.40. If two (2) or more boats cross the finish line at the same time, they receive the same classification in the results.

When two (2) or more boats finish in a dead heat (exactly the same result in a race) which determines the advance to the next phase of the competition, and when there are a sufficient number of lanes available for all boats to progress to a semi or final, the drawing of lots will determine to which race and/or lane the boats will advance.

17.41. When two or more boats finish in a dead heat (exactly the same result in a race) which determines the advance to the next phase of the competition, and when there are an insufficient number of lanes available for all boats to progress to a semi or final, there will be a re-race between the boats involved prior to the next stage of that event.

## CLOTHING

17.42. No competitor shall be allowed to start in a race unless he /she is properly clad in the racing uniform of (1) his or her national federation or club or (2) his / her personal racing uniform approved by to the Deputy Chief Judge prior to the start of the competition.

## BOAT NUMBERS

- 17.43. All kayaks and canoes shall carry a vertical plate made of non-transparent material marked with black numbers on a white background indicating the lane.
- 17.44. The numbers on the plate must measure 15 cm in height and 25 mm in thickness.
- 17.45. The plates shall be placed on the centerline of the boat on the afterdeck or rear thwart.
- 17.46. The size of the number plate shall be 18 x 20 cm.
- 17.47. Each boat must have a lane number holder firmly attached to the boat.
- 17.48. All numbers must be displayed without obstruction by mountings.
- 17.49. An individual competitor or a club must provide its own sufficient sets of lane number plates one (1) through nine (9).

## PADDLING ON THE COURSE

- 17.50. Taking pace or receiving assistance from another boat not in the race or by any other means is not permitted.
- 17.51. In races up to 1000 meters:
- 17.52. Competitors must keep the whole of their boat within the five (5) meters wide central area of their lane from the start to the finish of the course. Upon any deviation, the boat must go back immediately to this central area of the lane. If a boat fails to actively return and/or gains an advantage in the race, the boat may be disqualified from the event.
- 17.53. A boat which leaves its allocated lane must be disqualified from the event.
- 17.54. In races of more than 1000 meters:
- 17.55. Competitors may deviate from their lane, providing they do not impede other competitors.
- 17.56. When a race is run on a course with turning points, these shall be passed to port (i.e., in a counterclockwise direction)
- 17.57. A competitor will not be disqualified for touching a turning point buoy, unless the opinion of the Turning Point Umpires, an advantage has been gained thereby. In making a turn the boat shall follow as closely as possible the course as marked by the buoys at the turning points.
- 17.58. When a boat is overtaking another boat, it is the duty of the overtaking boat to always keep clear of the other boat.
- 17.59. When a boat is racing in a group of boats it is the duty of all competitors in the group to always keep clear of other athletes. This rule applies to any maneuvering within the group.
- 17.60. Any competitor who is considered by a course umpire of a race to have been responsible for a collision or who damages the boat or paddle of another competitor or unnecessarily deviates from their course may be disqualified and may be required to pay for any damages.

## TASKS OF COMPETITORS AFTER A RACE

- 17.61. Competitors must leave the course immediately after the finish of each race and must not impede the next race.
- 17.62. Boats selected by the Competition Committee for boat control must immediately proceed to post-race boat control. A competitor must not leave the line of sight of the Boat Controllers prior to reporting.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 17.63. Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honorable means, or who breaks the racing regulations, or who disregards the honorable nature of the racing regulations, may be disqualified from the event in which the infraction occurs.
- 17.64. Any competitor who behaves improperly or who by his / her conduct or speech shows contempt towards the competition officials, other competitors, coaches, or spectators, may be disqualified from the event in which the infraction occurs.
- 17.65. Should an athlete / crew have completed a race in a boat which is shown upon inspection does not conform with the racing rules they will be disqualified (DSQ) from the race.

- 17.66. It is forbidden to receive external assistance during a race. No competitor/crew may be accompanied along and adjacent to the racecourse by other boats while the race is in progress. The result will be disqualification.
- 17.67. A competitor shall not receive external assistance during a race from another competitor in the competition. The competitor in the race may be disqualified from that event. The competitor providing external assistance may be disqualified from his / her next event.
- 17.68. A competitor shall not receive external assistance during a race from a non-competitor at the competition. The competitor in the race may be disqualified from that event. The person providing the external assistance is subject to the disciplinary provisions of Rule 56.
- 17.69. When a race is in progress, competitors or crews not taking part in the race and positioned adjacent to the racecourse, must stop paddling until all boats in the race have gone past. If a competitor or crew fails to stop paddling while a race is in progress, the competitor or crew may be disqualified from their next event.
- 17.70. When boats in a race are crossing the finish line, no boat of any kind shall stop on the finish line or pass through the extended finish line on either side of the course. If the boat stopped on or passing through the finish line contains competitors in the competition, they may be disqualified from their next event. If the boat stopped on or passing through the finish line contains non-competitors, they are subject to the disciplinary provisions of Rule 56.
- 17.71. The Chief Official shall immediately notify the disqualified competitor, or his or her team leader or coach. The notice of disqualification shall be in writing and shall contain the reasons for the disqualification. The competitor, or his or her team leader or coach, shall sign a receipt for the notice of disqualification, which shall note the time at which the notice of disqualification was received by the competitor. Time for the filing of a protest against the disqualification starts to run at the time the receipt for the notice of disqualification is signed. If a competitor is unable to attend the Chief Official for the purposes of this rule, his / her team leader or coach may act in his / her place.
- 17.72. The Competition Committee may discipline any competitor, team leader, coach or official whose behavior is detrimental to the good order and conduct of the competition. After repeated behavior by a competitor, team leader, coach or official who has already been disciplined, the Competition Committee may exclude him /her from the competition.

## PROTESTS & APPEALS

- 17.73. A protest against the right of a crew to take part in a race shall be referred to the Competition Committee not later than one hour before the start of the race. A protest may be made within 30 days from the date when the race in question was held, if the person filing the protest can prove that the facts on which the protest is based were discovered less than one hour before the start of the race in question.
- 17.74. A protest filed during a competition shall be addressed to the Competition Committee and handed to the Chief Official no later than 20 minutes after the competitor or his / her team leader or coach has been informed of the disqualification and has signed a receipt.
- 17.75. A fee of fifty (\$50) dollars shall be paid to ACA with every protest filed. The fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- 17.76. At Regional Championships, State Championships, and local competitions all protests shall be made in writing.
- 17.77. At Trials and National Championships all protests shall be made in writing on ACA protest forms. The Competition Committee will not hear protests in cases where the form is incomplete, or the fee is missing.
- 17.78. When a protest or a report is made against a competitor or crew, the competitor or crew or their team leader or coach shall be given the protest or report to read.

## 18. DISCIPLINE

### MEASURES

- 18.1. Disciplinary measures for breaches of these rules may be taken against competitors, coaches, team leaders and other ACA members at a competition.
- 18.2. These ACA disciplinary measures are:
- 18.3. Caution: a verbal warning.
- 18.4. Reprimand: a verbal reprimand of a person previously cautioned.
- 18.5. Exclusion: the exclusion of a person previously reprimanded from the remainder of a competition.
- 18.6. Disciplinary measures for breaches of these rules or other ACA Bylaws can be taken by ACA against competitors, coaches, team leaders, and other ACA members after the conclusion of a competition. These ACA disciplinary measures are:
- 18.7. Suspension: a suspension bans a person from participating in any capacity in ACA sanctioned competitions or ACA national teams, until the suspension is lifted.
- 18.8. Expulsion: a person's membership in ACA ceases.

### ACTIONS

- 18.9. The Chief Official may issue a caution during a competition. A written report must be filed with the Deputy Chief Judge, a club representative of each club in attendance at the regatta and included in the report to the ACA Director of High Performance.
- 18.10. The Competition Committee may issue a reprimand during a competition. A written report must be filed with the Deputy Chief Judge and included in the report to the Director of High Performance and Competition, Sprint Coaches Association, Sprint Officials Association, and Sprint Competition Committee.
- 18.11. The Competition Committee, Director of High Performance and Competition, High Performance Committee (HPC) athlete representative, may exclude a person from the remainder of a competition. The Competition Committee will appoint a senior athlete attending the event to act as an athlete representative, if the HPC athlete representative is unavailable. A written report must be filed with the Deputy Chief Judge and included in a copy of the report to the Director of High Performance and Competition, Sprint Coaches Association, Sprint Officials Association, and Sprint Competition Committee.
- 18.12. Suspension and Expulsion are governed by and determined according to ACA Bylaws. If the Regatta Competition Committee does not include an athlete representative, an elected athlete rep will be consulted as well. If an elected athlete rep is not present at the competition, the director of high performance will appoint an alternative athlete to serve. A written report must be filed with the Deputy Chief Judge and included in a copy of a report to the Director of High Performance and Competition, Sprint Coaches Association, Sprint Officials Association, and Sprint Competition Committee.

### AMENDMENTS

- 18.13. The Sprint Competition Committee must approve the final versions of the rules and will receive edits and updates by the Sprint Officials Association and Sprint Coaches Association as part of their review.
- 18.14. The Rules and Regulations will be reviewed by the Sprint Officials Association and the Sprint Coaches Association at least every two years. Rule changes must be completed at least six months prior to Nationals, or by February 1st, whichever comes first.
- 18.15. Any amendments to these rules shall be published 30 days prior to their effective date.

## 19. SPECIAL RULES FOR TRIALS

### SANCTION & AUTHORITIES

- 19.1. Trials to determine the United States Team for an Olympic or Pan American Games shall be held under the additional sanction and authority of the United State Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”).
- 19.2. A local organizing committee (“LOC”) that has been assigned Trials by the ACA is responsible for carrying out all things necessary and essential to ensure the safe and proper conduct of Trials.

### ELIGIBILITY

- 19.3. In the first and second years after an Olympic Games, Trials for Seniors and Para are closed to all but ACA members in good standing who are United States citizens or holders of a valid permanent resident card and are eligible for selection to an ACA national team under both ICF canoe sprint rules and the published ACA selection criteria for that year.
- 19.4. In the years of a Pan American Games or Olympic Games, Trials for Seniors and Para are closed to all but ACA members in good standing who are United States citizens and who are eligible for selection to an ACA/USOPC national team under both ICF canoe sprint rules and the published ACA/USOPC selection criteria for that year.
- 19.5. Trials for juniors are closed to all but ACA members in good standing who are United States citizens or holders of a valid permanent resident card and who are eligible for selection to an ACA national team under both ICF canoe sprint rules and the published ACA selection criteria for that year.
- 19.6. A competitor shall present proof of age and eligibility upon registration at Trials.
- 19.7. A competitor must have a valid passport upon registration at Trials. This passport must not have an expiration date earlier than six months following completion of the International Regattas for which the competitor seeks selection.

### INVITATIONS & ENTRY FORMS

- 19.8. Invitations to participate at Trials shall be published sixty (60) days in advance of the competition.
- 19.9. The criteria for selection to ACA teams shall be attached to the Invitation.
- 19.10. The selection criteria and program shall be determined yearly by the ACA and Sprint Coaches Association.
- 19.11. Entries fees for Trials shall be set by ACA Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the LOC.

### RACING REGULATIONS

- 19.12. The distribution of competitors into heats shall be determined either by seeding, or by random draw, or by a combination of seeding and random draw.
- 19.13. The distribution of seeded competitors into lanes for heats shall normally occur by allocating the highest seeded competitors to the lanes in the middle of the course. If weather conditions are such that competitors in the lanes in the middle and one side of the course would be at a disadvantage compared to competitors in the lanes on the other side of the course, the distribution of competitors into lanes may occur by allocating the highest seeded competitors to the most advantageous lanes.
- 19.14. The distribution of unseeded competitors into heats shall be determined by a random draw.
- 19.15. The system of progression from EITHER the heats to semis and from semis to finals OR from heats directly to finals shall be determined by the SSC by April 1st of the year of Trials. If no new system of progression is announced by the SSC by April 1st of the year of the Trials, the system of progression of the previous year shall be used.
- 19.16. The distribution of lanes for semis and finals is automatically determined by the results of the previous heats or semis. The distribution of competitors into lanes from heats to finals, from heats to semis, and from semis to finals shall normally occur by allocating the highest placed competitors to the lanes in the middle of the course. If weather conditions are such that competitors in the lanes in the middle and on one side of the course would be at a disadvantage compared to the competitors in the lanes on the other side of the course, the distribution of competitors into lanes may occur by allocating the highest placed competitors to the advantageous lanes.

- 19.17. In the event of a dead heat (the same result in a race) Rule 46 applies.
- 19.18. A semi will not be held if all competitors or crews would advance to the final. The distribution of competitors into lanes from such a semi to a final shall be by a random draw.
- 19.19. Once a crew has qualified for a semi or final, the composition of that crew may not be changed.
- 19.20. Finals “B” for places 10-18, Finals “C” for places 19-27, etc. may be held at Trials if requested by SSC.

## 20. SPECIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### AUTHORITIES

- 20.1. A LOC that has been assigned to National Championships by ACA and approved by the Sprint Competition Committee is responsible for carrying out all things necessary and essential to ensure the safe and proper conduct of our National Championships.
- 20.2. National Championships shall be held only under direct assignment, contract, and sanction from the ACA.

### ARRANGEMENTS

- 20.3. National Championships shall be held each year as directed by the Sprint Competition Committee. The venue and location shall be set one year in advance by recommendation of the SCC to the ACA Chief Executive Officer.
- 20.4. The National Championships shall move on a regional rotational basis from one year to the next. The rotation is west to central to east and back to the west region.

### ELIGIBILITY

- 20.5. National Championships are an open competition for ACA members who are United States citizens, United States permanent residents or holders of current United States work visas.
- 20.6. International Competitors may enter but shall be subject to the progression rules for International Competitors.
- 20.7. For the purposes of eligibility to enter ACA Sprint National Championships, ACA membership shall be determined as of July 1st of the year of National Championships and must remain current through the end of the calendar year.
- 20.8. The ACA membership director shall make available to the clubs upon request a list of current members and the date of expiration of their membership by June 15th of the year of National Championships.

### INVITATION, ENTRIES, & DRAFT ORDER OF EVENTS

- 20.9. The invitation to National Championships shall be approved by ACA Sprint Competition Committee and issued by the LOC in accordance with these rules. The invitation and entry forms shall be published by May 1st of the year of National Championships on the ACA website.
- 20.10. Entries for National Championships shall be made using the online system approved by ACA in consultation with the LOC.
- 20.11. Nominal entries containing the names of the competitors entered in each event must be received by the Deputy Chief Judge not later than 21 days before the first day of the National Championships. Only entries submitted online and paid in full by the entry deadline are valid. A draft order of events publishing the names of the competitors in each event distributed into heats or a direct final, shall be sent to each team leader or coach of each participating club at least fourteen (14) days before the first day of National Championships.
- 20.12. A draft order of events publishing the names of the competitors in each event distributed into heats or a direct final, shall be sent to each team leader or coach of each participating club at least fourteen (14) days before the first day of National Championships and reviewed at a national scratch meeting.

- 20.13. No later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of National Championships a virtual/ remote web-based pre-scratch meeting will be held with club representatives/team leaders to resolve all entry issues and to complete any unresolved team boats.
- 20.14. Entries for National Championships may only be made in accordance with special rules for National Championships.
- 20.15. Late entries or entries that are not made in accordance with the special rules for national championships shall not be accepted.
- 20.16. The in-person Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting will be held one day prior to the first day of Nationals. At the Team Leaders/Scratch Meeting, only scratches and competitor substitutions will be allowed.
- 20.17. Competitors are allowed to enter a total of 10 events. If a competitor competes in more than the allowed number of events, the competitor, and any crew in which he / she participates, shall be disqualified from all events in which he / she competes more than the limit.
- 20.18. Entries fees for the National Championships shall be set by ACA Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the LOC. A reduced fee of 50% of the overall entry fee will be charged for athletes racing in only 1 to 3 races.
- 20.19. A draft order of events publishing the names of the competitors in each event distributed into heats or direct final, shall be sent to each team leader or coach of each participating club at least seven (7) days before the first day of National Championships and reviewed at the virtual scratch meeting.

## PROGRAM

- 20.20. National Championships shall be held on four (4) consecutive days.
- 20.21. The program for National Championships shall be the following events:

## EVENTS BY CATEGORY

### U14 (BANTAM) CATEGORY

200m	K1 MW	K2 MW	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MW	C4 MW
500m	K1 MW	K2 MW	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MW	C4 MW
1000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
3000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	

### U16 (JUVENILE) CATEGORY

200m	K1 MW	K2 MW	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MW	C4 MW

500m	K1 MW	K2 MW	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MW	C4 MW
1000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
5000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	

**U18 (JUNIOR) CATEGORY**

200m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
500m	K1 MW	K2 MW	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MW	C4 MW
1000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
5000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	

**SENIOR CATEGORY**

200m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
500m	K1 MW	K2 MWX	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MWX	C4 MW
1000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	
5000m	K1 MW	K2 MW	
	C1 MW	C2 MW	

**MASTERS CATEGORY (All Age Groups)**

200m	K1 MW	K2 MWX	K4X
	C1 MW	C2 MWX	C4X
500m	K1 MW	K2 MWX	K4 MW
	C1 MW	C2 MWX	C4 MW
1000m	K1 MW		
	C1 MW		
5000m	K1 MW	K2MWX	
	C1 MW	C2MWX	

**PARA CATEGORY**

200m	K1, KL1, KL2, KL3 MW	V1, VL1, VL2, VL3 MW
500m	K1, KL1, KL2, KL3 MW	V1, VL1, VL2, VL3 MW
1000m	K1, KL1, KL2, KL3 MW	V1, VL1, VL2, VL3 MW
5000m	K1, KL1, KL2, KL3 MW	V1, VL1, VL2, VL3 MW

- 20.22. The classification of Paracanoe competitors, and the rules and protocols for specific equipment, shall be in accordance with ICF Paracanoe rules and regulations. If the athlete has not been officially classified, and Classifiers are not available prior to the race event, the Certificate of Diagnosis and the athlete's and coach's contact information will be forwarded to the trained Classifiers for advice for provisional classification.
- 20.23. Para events may be combined in consultation with the coaches of Paracanoe athletes.
- 20.24. The order of events at National Championships shall be determined by the SCA in consultation with the SOA by when the invite is published.
- 20.25. The schedule of events can only be changed prior to a National Championships for extenuating circumstances and only then with the approval of the National Championships Chief Official and the SCA.

**RACING REGULATIONS**

- 20.26. Except for Para and Masters, there must be at least three (3) entries in an event for an event to be contested. The number of entries is determined as at the nominal entry deadline. Para and Master events may be combined in consultation with the coaches.
- 20.27. Competitors who enter an event that will not be contested may enter an alternative event. The Deputy Chief Judge shall coordinate these changes if not resolved at previous scratch meetings.
- 20.28. If a competitor or team withdraws from an event after the nominal entry deadline, the event may be held with less than the required number of entries.

## NATIONALS SYSTEM OF DIVISION INTO HEATS

- 20.29. Competitors will be seeded into heats based on ranking. The ACA Director of High Performance and Competition will rank the bantam, juvenile and junior events. The Senior National Team Coach/s (or Chief Official if the Senior National Team Coach/s are not present) will rank the senior events. If a complete ranking of an event is not received the distribution of competitors into heats shall be determined by a random draw.
- 20.30. The Deputy Chief Judge will send a list of nominal entries in each event to the Director of High Performance and Competition the entry deadline. The Director of High Performance and Competition and the Senior National Team Coach/s will return the seeded list of competitors to the Deputy Chief Judge within 24 hours.
- 20.31. The distribution of seeded competitors into lanes for heats shall normally occur by allocating the highest seeded competitors to the lanes in the middle of the course. If conditions are such that competitors in the lanes in the middle and one side of the course would be at a disadvantage compared to competitors in the lanes on the other side of the course, the distribution of competitors into lanes may occur by allocating the highest seeded competitors to the most advantageous lanes.
- 20.32. The distribution of unseeded competitors into heats shall be determined by a random draw.
- 20.33. International Competitors shall be seeded evenly between the heats.

## PROGRESSIONS

- 20.34. Competitors who are not International Competitors will advance as follows:
- 2 heats: top 2 places from each heat to Final A, next best 5 times to Final A, rest out.
  - 3 heats: top 1 place from each heat to Final A, next best 6 times to Final A, next best 9 ties to Final B, rest out.
  - 4 heats: top 1-6 place from each heat to semis, next best 3 times to semis, rest out. 3 semis: 1 – 2 from each semifinal to Final A, next 3 best times to Final B, rest out.
  - 5 heats: top 1-7 place from each heat to semis, next best time to semis, rest out. 4 semis: 1-2 to Final A, next best time to Final A. Next 9 best times to Final B. Next 9 best times to Final C.
  - 6 heats: top 1-7 place from each heat to semis, next 3 best times to semis, rest out. 5 semifinals: 1 to Final A, next best 4 times to Final A. Next best 9 times to Final B. Next best 9 times to Final C. Next best 9 times to Final D.

Competitor	Plan	Heats	Semis	Finals
1 to 9				A: 1 x 9
10 to 18	<b>A1a</b> 2 x 9 1-2 plus next 5 best times to Final A Rest Out		N/A	A: 1 x 9
19 to 27	<b>B1b</b> 3 x 9 1st plus next 6 best times to Final A next best 9 to FB Rest Out		N/A	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
28 to 36	<b>C1c</b> 4 x 9 1 – 6 plus next 3 best times to semi-final Rest Out		3 x 9 1-2 plus next 3 best times to Final A, Next 3 best times to Final B Rest Out	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9
37 to 45	<b>D1d</b> 5 x 9 1 – 7 plus next best time to semi-final Rest Out		4 x 9 1-2 plus next best time to Final A, Next best 9 times to Final B, Next best 9 times to final C	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9 C: 1 x 9
46 to 54	<b>E1e</b> 6 x 9 1- 7 plus next 3 best times to semi-final Rest Out		5 x 9 1 <sup>st</sup> plus next 4 fastest times to Final A, Next best 9 times to Final B, Next best 9 times to Final C, Next best 9 ties to Final D.	A: 1 x 9 B: 1 x 9 C: 1 x 9 D: 1 x 9

20.35. The distribution of competitors into lanes from heats to finals, from heats to semis, and from semis to finals shall normally occur by allocating the highest placed competitors to the lanes in the middle of the course. If weather conditions are such that competitors in the lanes in the middle and on one side of the course would be at a disadvantage compared to the competitors in the lanes on the other side of the course, the distribution of competitors into lanes may occur by allocating the highest placed competitors to the advantageous lanes.

- 20.36. International Competitors shall only progress to a final or semi if they qualify by place or time according to National Championships progression plans.
- 20.37. Only two International Competitors may qualify for a final. If more than two international competitors qualify for a final, priority will be given to the qualifiers by time.
- 20.38. International Competitors shall compete in Lanes 0 and 10 in a final.
- 20.39. If less than nine (9) ACA competitors or crews enter an event, the vacant lanes in a final may be filled with International Competitors. If there are more International Competitors entered in an event than the number of vacant lanes in a final, a heat limited to those International Competitors shall be held to determine which of them shall progress to the final.

## COMPETITION COMMITTEE

- 20.40. The Competition Committee shall announce a time and location of an open meeting to follow the last event of the first day of the National Championships. This meeting will allow team leaders, coaches and officials to comment concerning the conduct of the regatta. The Competition Committee may make and announce any changes that are permissible within these rules that result from the meeting.
- 20.41. The Competition Committee shall do everything within its power to ensure that the results of National Championships are archived and available on the Internet within 4 hours of the close of each day of National Championships.

## MEDALS

- 20.42. National Championships medals and special awards associated with an event shall be presented immediately following the event at a podium adjacent to Boat Control. Team awards will be presented at a ceremony during the banquet on the last night of the competition.
- 20.43. National Championships medals shall be awarded in each event for first place - gold, second place –silver and third place – bronze.
- 20.44. ACA Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Sprint Competition Committee shall design the medal, or approve of a design suggested by the LOC, for National Championships.
- 20.45. The medal shall be 1 1/2 inches in diameter and shall have a gold, silver, and bronze finish with neck ribbons.
- 20.46. If an International Competitor finishes in first, second or third place in the final of an event, he or she shall be awarded a special medal based on his or her finish in the final.
- 20.47. Any competitor may display a club or national flag during a medal ceremony. No other pennant or blatant commercial displays by athletes or coaches are allowed.

## CLUB TROPHIES AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- 20.48. Only the Sprint Competition Committee, in consultation with an ad hoc Trophy and Awards Committee that they may create, may approve perpetual club trophies and individual awards for performances at National Championships.
- 20.49. National Championships perpetual awards and trophies shall be presented at an awards ceremony during a banquet held on the last night of the competition.
- 20.50. Medals presented for the individual awards shall be distinct from National Championships medals presented to the medalists in each event and shall be presented at the podium ceremony following the event.
- 20.51. Club Trophies at National Championships shall be based on points scored in the following classifications:
- Senior Events - Washington Canoe Club Trophy: points scored in Senior events.
  - U18 (Junior) Events - Black Anvil Trophy: points scored in Junior/U18 events.
  - U16 (Juvenile) Events - Thomas Horton Trophy: points scored in Juvenile/U16 events.
  - U14 (Bantam) Events - Columbia-Murphy Trophy: points scored in Bantam/U14 events.
  - Master Events – Jack Blendinger Trophy: sum of all points scored in Masters events.

- National Champions - Yonkers Trophy: sum of all points scored in every classification (including Para) during the National Championships.
  - Men K4 Events – Chris Barlow Trophy: sum of all points scored in every classification in men’s K4 events.
  - Women K4 Events - Alan Anderson Trophy: sum of all points scored in every classification in women’s K4 events.
  - C4 Events – Coach Bill Bragg Trophy: sum of all points scored in every classification in C4 events.
- 20.52. Individual Awards at National Championships shall be given to the following competitors.
- Winner of the K1 500 U16 (Juvenile) Women – Francine Fox Award
  - Winner of the K1 500 U18 (Junior) Women - Mimi LeBeau Memorial Award.
  - Winner of the C1 200 U18 (Junior) Men – Andy Toro Award.
  - Winner of the K1 1000 U18 (Junior) Men – Greg Barton Award.
  - Winner of the K1 1000 Senior Men - Donald Dodge Memorial Award.
  - Winner of the K2 200 Senior Men – Eugene & Henry Krawczyk Award.
  - Winner of the K2 1000 Senior Men - Beachem & Van Dyke Award.
  - Winner of the K4 500 (was 1000) Senior Men – Eric Feicht Memorial Award.
  - Winner of the K1 500 Senior Women - Marcia Smoke Award
  - Winner of the K4 500 Senior Women
  - Winner of the C1 5000 Senior Men - Frank Havens Award
- 20.53. Burgee Awards at National Championships
- Winner of the C1 500 U16 (Juvenile) Women - Nancy Kalafus Award.
  - Winner of the C1 500 U18 (Junior) Women - Debby Smith Page Award.
  - Winner of the C1 1000 Senior Men - Jim Terrell Award.

## POINT SCORING

- 20.54. To score points for a club at National Championships a competitor shall:
- 20.55. Be an ACA Member.
- 20.56. Be registered with ACA as a member of that club by July first of the year of National Championships.
- 20.57. Be a current member of the club through the conclusion of National Championships.
- 20.58. No International Competitor may earn points for a club for a National Championships Award. No crew containing an International Competitor may earn points for a club for a National Championships Award.
- 20.59. If ties occur, points shall be assigned equally, and duplicate awards will be given.
- 20.60. Points won by crews shall be divided equally among the members of the crew and credited to the clubs that they represent.
- 20.61. Points in each 200, 500 and 1000m events are awarded as follows:
- First (1st) Place equals nine (9) points,
  - Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Place equals seven (7) points,
  - Third (3rd) Place equals (5) points,
  - Fourth (4th) Place equals three (3) points,
  - Fifth (5th) Place equals two (2) points, and
  - Sixth (6th) Place equals one (1) point.
- 20.62. Points in each 1000m+ distance event are awarded as follows:
- First (1st) Place equals twelve (12) points,
  - Second (2nd) Place equals ten (10) points,
  - Third (3rd) Place equals eight (8) points,
  - Fourth (4th) Place equals six (6) points,
  - Fifth (5th) Place equals five (5) points,
  - Sixth (6th) Place equals four (4) points,

- Seventh (7th) Place equals three (3) points,
- Eighth (8th) Place equals two (2) points, and
- Ninth (9th) Place equals one (1) point.

## MASTER'S AGE GROUPS

20.63. Age Groups K1, K2, C1, C2, K4 and C4 events.

- A – ages 30 and above
- B – ages 40 and above
- C – ages 50 and above
- D – ages 60 and above
- E – ages 70 and above

## MASTER'S SPECIAL RACING REGULATIONS

20.64. Competitors who enter an event that will not be contested may enter an alternative event. This may be resolved at the scratch meeting, or thereafter by the Deputy Chief.

20.65. If a competitor or crew withdraws from an event after the nominal entry deadline, the event may be held with less than the required number of entries.

20.66. An event with ten entries may be held as one final providing the racecourse can accommodate it.

20.67. Races by Age Group may be combined (run simultaneously) if there are insufficient entries to fill a nine (9) boat race. These will be treated as separate races even though they run simultaneously. If agreed to by the competitors, K4 and C4 races may be combined, and even Men's and Women's races may be combined.

## SPECIAL RACING REGULATIONS FOR U14 (BANTAM) AND U12 EVENTS

20.68. In all U14 (Bantam) and U12 events, the competitors are not summoned to Boat Control.

20.69. Officials following a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event in a motorboat are to "coach" a competitor, for example, "lane 4 move to your right" OR "lane 5 move back into your lane."

20.70. A Bantam competitor is to try and stay in the center of the lane as per the rules of racing. In a circumstance, where a U14 (Bantam) or U12 paddler in a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event leaves their lane and does not impede or collide with another competitor the principle of "no harm, not foul" will be in effect – the Competition Committee will not disqualify the athlete. the official may "coach" the athlete back to their lane.

20.71. In a circumstance where a Bantam paddler in a Bantam event leaves their lane and does impede or collide with another competitor the Official will "red flag" the event.

20.72. The red flagged race will be reviewed by the Chief Official for possible disqualification.

20.73. At the Start line the starter is to be mindful of wind or no wind and use discretion in the aligning of the competitors – perfect alignment is not always possible.

20.74. If a competitor in a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event arrives at the Start line without a boat number or having an incorrect number, the starter will contact the finish line tower to indicate for example, lane 5 will start without a number. If a pattern develops with a paddler making multiple errors, the paddler may be disqualified at the discretion of the Starter.

## APPENDIX – GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITIONS

### *Guidelines for Local Organizing Committees*

Racing happens at many levels daily. This appendix is designed to help determine what facilities are expected at different levels. What is needed as someone says “GO” during a friendly paddle is dramatically different from the facilities needed to determine who is the best in the world at the Olympic Games. When some sort of selection is on the line, an effort should be made to assure a fair field of play appropriate to the significance of the selection. When the stakes get high, a race becomes an event and there is a significant investment in a quality field of play, results systems, spectator facilities, merchandising, housing, media, and hospitality facilities.

The following venue descriptions are appropriate for the ACA National Championships or National Team Trials. The ACA National Office, the ACA executive director (or an ACA staff member designated by the executive director), the Sprint Competition Committee, SCA, SOA and SEC can help the Local Organizing Committee and Officials determine what technical facilities are appropriate for any National event depending on the budget, demands of the selection criteria, the importance of the competition and significance of the result. The Local Organizing Committee should work closely with the above groups and meet regularly starting several months prior to the competition to assure a successful and pleasant competition.

## FREQUENTLY OCCURRING ACRONYMS

ACA: American Canoe Association

HPC: High Performance Coach

LOC: Local Organizing Committee

NGB: National Governing Body - currently the ACA

SCC: Sprint Competition Committee

SCA: Sprint Coaches Association

SEC: Sprint Events Committee

SOA: Sprint Officials Association

SSC: Sprint Selection Committee

USOPC: United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee

## ROLES

- **International Olympic Committee (“IOC”)** – Oversees all International Governing Bodies.
- **International Canoe Federation (“ICF”)** – is the International Governing Body for Canoe Sports.
- **United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”)** – Oversees all United States National Governing Bodies – Approves / provides High Performance Budgets, High Performance Plans and National Team Selection Criteria for each NGB
- **ACA (American Canoe Association) – National Governing Body (NGB) for Sprint Canoe in the United States.**
- **Staff** - Responsible for - marketing, communication, administration, budgets, events bid packages, sponsor recruiting and services, contracts, supervision of programs by staff, liaison with standing Committees, coordination of the Sports and their events, recruiting volunteers. The ACA Staff administers the sport as directed by the ACA Board of Directors.
- **ACA Board of Directors** – Responsible for the vision and direction of the Sport, adherence to the bylaws, the hiring and performance evaluations of the Chief Executive Officer.
  
- **Sprint Events Committee (“SEC”)** – Responsible for - accepting the event bid request package, making recommendations of event venues and event concepts to the ACA, administering the volunteer responsibilities of event contracts, setting and

publishing event dates, assisting the LOC at National Championships and Trials. The staff liaison is the ACA Director of High Performance and Competition.

- **Sprint Officials Association** (“SOA”) – Responsible for – developing, recommending and implementing the ACA rules to support the objectives of the sport, reviews and make recommendations regarding ICF and ACA rules, conducts Sprint Officials Levels 1, 2 and 3 training and certification courses, recommends officials for National Championships, Trials, any other National level events as well as ICF international events, The staff liaison is the ACA Executive Director (or an ACA staff member designated by the executive director) and the Sprint Competition Committee.
- **Sprint Coaches Association** (“SCA”) – Responsible for – assisting with the draft process of selection criteria, selecting athletes for National Teams and Camps, recommending amendments for ACA rules, designing programs and standards to achieve performance goals, The ACA staff liaison is the High Performance Director or his/her designate.
- **Sprint Selection Committee** (“SSC”) – Responsible for – the development and approval of selection criteria to achieve the sport’s High Performance Plan, the coordination of the High Performance Plan and its associated selection criteria with the “USOC”, management of the international Team USA final selections.
- **Local Organizing Committee** (“LOC”) – Responsible for - hosting an event once awarded the contract by ACA, provides the site, volunteers, technical facilities, supplies and equipment as per ACA rules, provides information to all participants regarding the Venue and Hospitality, works with the “SEC” to provide all participants with the approved sport specific information.
- **High Performance Committee** (“HPC”) – Responsible for - the evaluation of ACA annual program performance plan, final approval for recommended rule amendments to the rules, annually evaluates and recommends strategies and benchmarks, specific tasks to achieve sustained international competitive success. The staff liaison is the ACA Sprint National Team Manager.

## VENUE and COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications are the minimum requirements necessary to qualify an aquatic site as an appropriate venue for the ACA Sprint National Championships or National Team Trials. As part of the bid process, the “LOC” shall provide a certified survey of the field of play assuring that the course is square, distances are accurate and marked with stable survey markers, and the depth of water is consistent and appropriate. The survey should describe any water current and expected wind conditions.

- The body of water for a sprint racing event shall accommodate a course 1000 meters in length with a minimum additional 50 meters run-out beyond the finish line. Ideally, the dimensions of the course are a minimum of 1,600 meters x 140 meters.
- The depth of the water must be a minimum of two (2) meters over the entire course, and must be current, tide and wave-free. The course must be free from motorboat and leisure watercraft activity during the competition.
- The course must be installed at least twenty (24) hours prior to the race start.
- The course must accommodate nine (9) lanes of equal width with an additional lane marked on each side, (lanes 0 and 10) for international athletes in the final (National Championships).
- The width of the lanes must be at least nine (9) meters wide and not more than 13.5 meters wide. Courses must also accommodate an additional two lanes (18 meters wide) outside of the course for warm-up and traffic to the start area.
- The venue shall have a finish line tower to accommodate finish line officials, announcer, and results processing. This structure must seat five (5) officials in a direct line with the finish line, each with a clear view of the finish area.
- The Finish tower must be stable enough to support and protect a photo finish system.
- The maximum distance from the nearest finish line judge to the nearest lane is 40 meters.
- A Finish Line Target with a vertical sight line on the far side of the course (marked with at least a 4ft x 6ft target with a wide black line on a yellow background shall be provided.
- Sight line targets must be clearly visible opposite the starter at each start and opposite the finish line officials at the finish).
- A sight line string or cable shall be fitted to the finish tower in line with the finish line target on the surveyed finish line. Many host venues can construct an appropriate finish tower with scaffolding.

- Large 4 x 6 ft signs painted yellow with black lettering mark the course distance at 250 M intervals.
- The Finish Tower shall also be fitted with a sound system and power for computers, photo finish and results production.
- The course must be constructed so that each lane has a line of marker buoys on either side extending the entire length of the course. These marker buoys must be white, green, yellow, or red or another easily seen color, and must not exceed 25 meters between each buoy for each lane. (10 meters between buoys is the international standard.)
- Between one (1) and two (2) meters beyond the finish line, each lane must be marked zero (0) through ten (10) with the number clearly visible from the finish line tower and the competitor. The numbered buoy is to be on the corresponding competitor's right-hand side as they traverse the course.
- Lanes must also be numbered at each of the start lines. The lanes are numbers from left to right on the start line. Lane number one (1) shall be the far left lane then number two (2) and so on.
- Colored buoys are required to mark the 250 meter line (red), 500 meter start line (red), 1,000 meter start line (red) and the finish line (red). The last 50 meters must also be marked with red buoys.
- Finish line marker buoys are not actually on the finish line but are just beyond it. They must be in a line across the course, perpendicular to the course no closer than one (1) meter and not farther than two (2) meters from such lines.
- There are no buoys on the actual finish line other than those marking the outside of the course.

## SAFETY BOAT REQUIREMENT

- Each Venue is required to have a minimum of two (2) safety boats appropriately sized for canoe kayak rescue on the water at all times during the competition.
- The boats must be positioned so that they can quickly react to a capsized boat at each end of the course.
- The drivers must be well trained in sprint canoe kayak rescue and must be familiar with the first aid needs of sprint athletes.

## START

- It is preferred that all starts are to be held by a boat holder on a boat holder platform positioned in the center of each lane. If there is a problem with the boat holders or platforms, either ALL or NONE of the boats will be held.
- The start will be equipped with a sound system sufficient to clearly project the starter's commands to all athletes simultaneously. There should be speakers on both sides of the course at a minimum.
- The starter's platform must provide protection from the elements for the starter and aligner and provide a quality sound system that projects across the entire finish line and up and down the course.
- The start can be positioned on either side of the course and should be elevated to a position where the starter can clearly see all athletes in all lanes.
- It is preferred that the results system in the finish tower is started by the same sound or motion of the starter that starts the athletes.
- Radios should be provided to the start to communicate with the Chief Official and back up timers on a clear channel.
- The starter will provide an audible start to the backup finish line through this dedicated radio channel.

## SECURED AREAS

Secured areas in close proximity to the finish line must be available to accommodate the following:

## BOAT CONTROL

- The boat control area is used to ensure that all boats fulfill sprint rule requirements concerning classification.

- This covered area must be at least 20 meters x 30 meters to accommodate an electronic scale, at least one 40 ft boat (at any one time), a recording table with chairs, and several boat control representatives.
- The LOC must provide an electronic scale accurate to 0.1g and fitted with a boat cradle.
- The LOC must also provide a set of weights to calibrate the scale, a set of numbers to call boats to boat control, boat stands, sand and bags or other weights, a jig to measure boat length and straight edges to check concavity.
- An area sheltered from wind, sun and rain (picnic area, tent, etc.) is mandatory.

## DRUG TESTING

- The drug testing facility will NOT be needed in all competitions. When needed, however, this facility should be indoors and consist of (2) two separate rooms, a waiting area, a testing area and a private restroom.
- A cooler or refrigerator with sealed water and sports drinks will be needed to help hydrate athletes.
- Further specifications will be provided if drug testing is anticipated.
- The LOC will supply whatever is required by the Drug testing organization.

## MEDIA CENTER

- The media center is used to service and provide information to the media. Depending on the type of event and expected turnout, this area must consist of at least one (1) 10' x 10' covered area, with additional adjacent space available.
- This area must be set-up with adequate tables and chairs, phone, electricity, refreshments, regular posting of schedules and results and internet access.
- A knowledgeable, personable representative should be available to guide the media to results, athletes, coaches, and stories of interest.

## OFFICIALS / VOLUNTEERS HOSPITALITY

- The officials/volunteers area is used to service and provide information to volunteers for the event.
- In most cases, at least one meal (typically lunch) is provided to volunteers. Coffee / Tea and some small food item should be provided in the morning.
- A small tent is suggested for those working within the hospitality area if there is no existing concession stand. Both areas must be set-up with adequate tables and chairs.
- An appropriate space is provided for 20 officials to meet each day and to store equipment as well as paperwork.
- The LOC should also arrange a location for the scratch meeting which should accommodate at least two representatives from each team.
- The scratch meeting should have tables, chairs, and a projection system available.

## INFORMATION CENTER / DEPUTY CHIEF JUDGE AREA

- The Deputy Chief Judge area is used to process all the paperwork and administrative tasks of the competition.
- The LOC should provide areas for computer processing, printing, copying, and sorting paperwork.
- The area should be set-up with electricity, internet access and adequate tables and chairs.
- A mailbox area should be provided for team leaders and officials to receive paperwork.
- A working area for being able to receive scratches, protests or concerns should be considered.

## AWARDS / BANQUET AREA

- The awards area is used for the awarding of medals at the end of the event.
- Either a floating or three-tier platform is normally used for the awards if they are given on the course.
- The awards area is to be set up adjacent to the boat control.
- The awards stage for the National Championships should accommodate all the team award recipients.
- The LOC should see that proper provisions are made for the presentation of the Awards to the competitors at the Awards Banquet on the final day of the National Championships or in a manner agreed to by the LOC and SEC.

- The Officials / Results team will provide the results. The LOC will provide the list of awards to be presented.

## PARKING

An area for parking at least one trailer for each registered club team, and at least 80 vehicles is needed for competitors and race officials. Spectator parking can be in a separate area.

## LAUNCH AND RECOVERY DOCKS

- Adequate launch and recovery docks must be provided for athlete and motorboat use. Because most boats are fragile and very expensive, a beach or floating dock must be used.
- If using a beach, the water must remain deep enough and clear of obstructions, so boats are not damaged.
- Floating docks must be stable enough that entry may be safely executed. The dock must also be nearly at water level to facilitate entry into boats.
- There must be a dock or beach and it should be near the boat control area.

## TEAM AREA

- An area must be designated for team tents.
- This area should view the field of play and should be provided with a sound system for announcements and should allow competitors to easily access boats, results, start lists and the field of play.
- Restroom facilities, first aid, free water and food should be available at the venue.

## RESULTS SYSTEM PROVIDER

ACA events shall be conducted exclusively with a Results and Photo Finish Timing system provider approved by the ACA. The results format must comply with the ACA Archives.

## RESULTS SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Rapid updates to the competition program.
- Updates from team leaders / scratch meeting.
- Race operations including automatic classification of boats.
- Medal tables.
- Point rankings.
- Statistics (e.g., number of races, athletes, best times)
- Web based Interface that can be used for teams, media, and spectators.
- An internet-based system (online entries, accreditation, starting lists, results on a website) and shall be tested and validated prior to use at any event.

## PHOTO-FINISH / TIMEKEEPING

- The LOC shall provide a photo-finish system accepted by the ACA, SEC, and the SOA.
- The time must be recorded and published in 1/1000 of a second.
- There shall be a backup video system with camera/VCR with slow motion at the finish line. (Video films are not a substitute for photo finish). The photo finish must show all participants in a race. The system should have the capability to post the photo finish image on the internet after each race. In case of close arrival of two or more boats one copy of the photo finish shall be placed on the official notice board. The official notice board can be electronic.
- If the photo finish system fails, the judges at the finish will supply the results by printed stopwatch with a video camera to back up order of finish.

## PROGRAM

The LOC will provide a printed program for the National Championships that may be sold or distributed free. This program should also be available online. The program will include and not be limited to:

- Schedule and time of events,
- Name of clubs and competitors competing, and
- Name and position of officials.

## Local Organizing Committee

The LOC shall provide the following in consultation with the SEC and SOA:

- Computers
- Printers
- Office supplies, high speed collating photocopier and staff for printing, posting and distribution.
- A score board (can be electronic or hard copy).
- Radios/communication equipment for officials, a public address system.
- The installation of the racecourse,
- Umpire and safety boats.
- Motorboat traffic control before and during the races.
- Covered finish tower, video camera, 2 printing stop watches.
- A large bulletin board to post results and messages.
- Red flags, white flags for course umpires and chief finish line judge (one set for each course umpire boat and one set on the finish line).
- Megaphones - one for each course umpire, one on the start and finish,
- Toilet facilities.
- Shelter from sun and rain should be available.
- Drinking water.
- A boat storage area where the possibility of damage to the equipment will be minimized.
- A designated location for meetings, where announcements may be posted, and for other pertinent event activities.
- Event and equipment security day and night.
- A first aid center and emergency action plan should be established.

## TURNING POINTS - Guidelines for Race Courses exceeding 1000 meters

- The turning points shall be marked by at least six buoys.
- The distance between the starting line and the first turning point buoy (1st open leg) shall be straight and a maximum of 1,859.25 meters.
- The distance between the last buoy of the first turning point and the first buoy of the second turning point (2nd leg) shall be straight and a maximum of 1,759.25 meters.
- The distance between the last buoy of the second turning point and the first buoy of the third turning point (3rd leg) shall be a maximum of 500 meters.
- The specifications for all other stretches shall be in accordance with (c).
- The radius of each turn shall be at least 31.5 meters.

## GUIDELINES FOR KNOCKOUT FORMAT

The knockout progression is as follows:

- Progression to the final shall be according to National Championships progression plans.
- Competitors shall be assigned a lane for the final and keep it throughout the final.
- After each race of the final, competitors shall immediately return to the start in the same lane.
- The Competition Manager shall announce the last placed competitor or crew of the previous race. That competitor or crew is “knocked out” and shall not start in the next race of the final as follows:
  - Race 1 - 9 competitors – knock out 1
  - Race 2 - 8 competitors – knock out 1
  - Race 3 - 7 competitors – knock out 1
  - Race 4 - 6 competitors – knock out 1 Race
  - 5 competitors – FINAL
- No false starts shall be allowed. If a competitor or crew false starts, that competitor or crew shall be disqualified from the event. Disqualified competitors or crews shall be notified at the conclusion of their heat or final race.

## SPECIAL RULES FOR U14 (BANTAM) / U12 EVENTS

- In all U14 (Bantam) and U12 events, the competitors are not called to Boat Control.
- Officials following a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event in a motorboat are to “coach” a competitor, for example, “lane 4 move to your right” OR “lane 5 move back into your lane.”
- A Bantam competitor is to try and stay in the center of the lane as per the rules of racing. In a circumstance, where a U14 (Bantam) or U12 paddler in a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event leaves their lane and does not impede or collide with another competitor the principle of “no harm, not foul” will be in effect – the Official will not disqualify but rather “coach” the athlete back to their lane.
- In a circumstance where a Bantam paddler in a Bantam event leaves their lane and does impede or collide with another competitor the Official will “red flag” the event.
- The red flagged race will be reviewed by the Chief Official for possible disqualification.
- At the Start line the starter is to be mindful of wind or no wind and use discretion in the aligning of the competitors – perfect alignment is not always possible.
- If a competitor in a U14 (Bantam) or U12 event arrives at the Start line without a boat number or having an incorrect number, the starter will contact the finish line tower to indicate for example, lane 5 will start without a number. If a pattern develops – more than one occasion, the club coach is called to the Finish Line tower.