

2013

BCAnoe Race Rules



Belize Canoe Association

BCAnoe - Race Rules

January 01, 2013

1 Disclaimer

In consideration of being permitted to participate in any of BCAnoe activities or events and to compete for prizes and awards, each participant and team sponsor hereby agrees that neither the team sponsors, the event sponsors/promoters or organizers nor any person or entity connected with BCAnoe is responsible to them for any injury to themselves or damage to their property as a result of their participation in any event and that they specifically waive any such claims and fully release and hold harmless said persons from any such liability or claims. BCAnoe will not be responsible for any delays, expenses or inconveniences which may be caused directly or indirectly by any events including acts of God, government, machinery, or equipment. In addition, all participants hereby understand the risk involved in canoe and kayak racing and shall adhere to safe precautions and agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth by BCAnoe.

2 Registration

- 2.1 **ONLY** paid members of the BCAnoe that are in good standings will be allowed to race.
- 2.2 Deadline is the **Wednesday at midday** before any race, **completed** and **signed** registration forms must be submitted and registration fees paid. Teams that have registered and wish to cancel will get a refund of 50% of the registration if this cancelation is made by 5pm the day before the race.
- 2.3 Late registration will be considered with a \$10 late fee.

3 Before the Race

- 3.1 No Team will be allowed on the starting line unless officially registered and have received the all clear from the Race Officer. Teams are required to check in with the Race Officer in advanced of any race.
- 3.2 Canoes and kayaks must be registered with a BCAnoe racing number which shall be attached to the front of the canoe/kayak. Those teams violating this rule will not be allowed to race.
- 3.3 Prior to a race, no contestant nor his/her support crew will touch or move any other contestant's craft or equipment without permission.

4 Start of Race

- 4.1 Each team member **MUST WEAR** a Coast Guard approved, inspected and serviceable, **LIFE PRESERVER** or **Personal Flotation Device P. F. D.** and have an **Auditory Device** (plastic whistle without the ball) that is attached to his/her life preserver or P.F.D. at all times while on the water. The whistle is only to be blown during and in case of an emergency. Those teams violating this rule will immediately be disqualified.
- 4.2 Teams must be on the river at least 5 minutes before the start time.
- 4.3 The start shall be on time and shall be given without reference to any absentees.
- 4.4 There shall be a 5 minute notice and a countdown notice at 2mins, 1min and finally 30 seconds, there shall be no countdown beyond 30seconds, the next word shall be **"SET"** followed, at any given time after, by the sounding of the starting gun or air horn to commence the race.
- 4.5 If a team commences paddling after the word **"SET"** and before the shot or sound of the horn, this is a false start and shall be called within 15 seconds of the starts by two quick blasts of the starting gun or air horn. A failure to return to the starting line after a false start is a disqualification. The team that attempts a false or unfair start will be warned. A second warning will result in the imposition of 2 minutes time penalty, third warning will result a disqualification.

5 Team Composition / Division

5.1 Teams may consist of a maximum of 3 members, in all categories, except the Open Category C2, K1, K2, K4, men's solo and women's solo. No substitution of original team members will be allowed at any time during the entire course of the race for teams comprising of multiple members.

5.2 The race will be divided into 9 Categories. Teams may register and compete in one (1) Category only. All teams from all categories compete to be the overall Champion Winner. The Categories are as follows:

a) **OPEN:**

- i) Single paddler in K1 registered kayak
- ii) Two paddlers in a specified registered canoe, or C2 canoe
- iii) Two Paddlers in K2 registered kayak
- iv) Three male paddlers in a registered canoe
- v) Four paddlers in K4 registered kayak

b) **MEN'S SOLO:** Single male paddler. Refer to Rule No. 6.2 for craft type.

c) **FEMALE:** All team members must be female.

d) **WOMEN'S SOLO:** Single female paddler. Refer to Rule No. 6.2 for craft type.

e) **MIXED:** Team members shall have any combination of both male and female members.

f) **MASTERS:** All team members must be FORTY (40) years of age or older at the start date of the race and may consist of any combination of male and/or female members.

g) **PLEASURE:** Teams may consist of any combination of male and/or female members. Refer to Rule No. 6.3 for size and construction limitations.

h) **JUNIORS:** All team members must be younger than or reach the age of Eighteen (18) years in the current year and may consist of any combination of male and/or female members.

i) **INTRAMURAL:** All team members must be students presently enrolled in either Secondly or Tertiary level institutions in Belize. The team may consist of any combination of male and/or female members. Students must submit a valid student ID or letter stamped and signed from the school's principal or official as proof of enrollment.

(As more of the C1, C2, K1, K2 & K4 are participating, then they will have their own categories)

6 Craft Type, Length, Construction and Restrictions

6.1 THREE MALE PADDLERS in the open category, FEMALE, MIXED, MASTERS, AND JUNIORS DIVISIONS - Only open CANOES with a maximum length of TWENTY (20) FEET will be allowed to compete. Canoes may be constructed of any material and by any method but for safety considerations the material and/or permanently added floatation shall provide at least 25 pounds of buoyancy with the canoe swamped.

6.2 MEN'S and WOMEN'S SOLO: open canoes with a maximum length of TWENTY (20) FEET or any C1 canoe.

6.3 PLEASURE DIVISION - Canoes with a maximum length of EIGHTEEN (18) FEET and a minimum width of TWENTY-SEVEN (27) INCHES at the FOUR (4) INCH WATER LINE will be allowed to compete. Canoes may be constructed of any material but for safety considerations the material and/or permanently added floatation shall provide at least 25 pounds of buoyancy with the canoe swamped.

6.4 Any craft specifications as previously used in Belize up to 2012, in addition, any craft recognized by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) for C1 and C2 canoes and K1, K2 and K4 kayaks.

6.5 The following restrictions shall apply to all canoes:

- i- Rudders: Steering rudders or any guiding apparatus directing the course of the craft WILL NOT be permitted.

- ii- Keels: A keel, if any, must be straight and shall extend over the entire length of the craft and not project more than ONE (1) inch below the hull.
- iii- Decking: A maximum of TWENTY-FOUR (24) inches of cowl or decking of any kind or material WILL be permitted at each end of the canoe.

7 Bailers & Spray Skirts

- 7.1 Any Non-Mechanical bailers (i.e. scoop or sponges) or any type of person-powered manually operated bilge pump or permanently installed siphon may be used. Electrical or battery-powered bailers are NOT allowed.
- 7.2 Permanent or temporary spray skirts or other devices used to deflect or prevent water from entering the canoe can be used. *(see details for specific races where applicable)*

8 Propulsion

- 8.1 Propulsion will be by manual, human muscle powered, single blade or double blade paddles. Paddles may be made of any material and the blades may be of any shape, width or angle. These must not be attached to the craft in any way. Motors, sails or any other mechanically powered propulsion devices of any nature or kind ARE NOT allowed.
 - All CANOES shall use SINGLE blade paddles only. All KAYAKS shall use DOUBLE blade paddles only.

9 Protest

- 9.1 Verbal: Any team with a dispute can verbally voice their discontent to the **BCAnoe Race Officer** before the start of the award ceremony. If a solution is not resolved, the team may indicate their intent to submit a formal written protest.
- 9.2 Written: The WRITTEN protest accompanied with \$20 (non-refundable fee) must be submitted to the **BCAnoe Race Officer** within 48 hours after the race. Protest received after this time **will not** be accepted. Decisions regarding all protests are within the sole parameter of the Protest Committee.

10 Appeals

- 10.1 Any competitor/team has the right to appeal against any decision handed down from the Protest Committee. After receiving that decision, a verbal intent to appeal must be made within 24 hours to the Executive Body. The appeal in WRITING shall be accompanied with \$50 fee (refundable if the appeal is upheld) to the Executive Body no later than 4 days after. Appeals received after this time **will not** be accepted. The ruling of the Appeals Board is considered Final.

11 During the Race

- 11.1 Each team is completely responsible for their own safety, food, drinks, equipment, and any other necessities.
- 11.2 Intentional littering will result in disqualification of any team found guilty of this act.
- 11.3 Once the race has officially started, modifications or changes of any kind to the original design, shape or construction of a team's canoe/kayak are NOT allowed. Necessary repairs in the event of damage to the craft during a race can be made. Replacement of craft is not permitted!
- 11.4 All teams must remain in the water within the natural banks of the river. Canoes/kayaks may be carried or dragged through shallow waters or around total river flow obstructions or any obstruction that exceeds

personal safety considerations. When portaging around an obstruction, a team is required to re-enter the river at the nearest safe entry point immediately after the obstruction.

- 11.5 If the race route is marked, all teams must navigate along the marked path. Teams will be disqualified if they deviate from the marked route.
- 11.6 All teammates are to remain together while engaged in the actual race. In the event that a team member or members are forced to leave the canoe and discontinue the race for medical or other reasons, he or she does so at their own risk and can disembark from the canoe only where **(a)** their support crew or **(b)** a race official is waiting. The remaining team member(s), if they so desire, may continue on with the race. When a team member or members leave a team under the above circumstances, he or she WILL NOT be permitted to rejoin their team for the duration of the race.
- 11.7 Teams WILL NOT be allowed to receive any physical assistance of any kind or nature from ANYONE during the course of the race, except **(a)** if a team has capsized, that team may receive assistance with emptying their craft and regaining their paddling position, but not be progressed in any way. **(b)** In emergency life-threatening situations or **(c)** authorized assistance received from BCAnoe Race Officials.
- 11.8 Teams WILL be allowed to receive assistance from their ground support crews during the course of the race, as long as it does not impede other competitors, but may not be progressed in any way. Such assistance is limited to water, nutritional liquids, food, clothing, replacement of faulty equipment, first aid services and repairs.
- 11.9 A competitor suffering from a lower-body handicap may, by prior agreement from the Race Officer, receive assistance at a portage, provided no advantage is received as a result of such assistance and provided the competitor leaves or is lifted from his or her canoe/kayak before the helpers carry the craft.

12 Overtaking / Collision

- 12.1 Commonly accepted rules of sportsmanship will prevail. When a team is overtaking another team, it is the duty of the overtaking team to keep clear of the team being overtaken at all times. When a canoe or kayak is racing in a group of competitors it is the duty of all the competitors in the group to keep clear of other competitors at all times. This rule applies to any maneuvering within the group. **(THE LEAD CANOE/KAYAK HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY)**
- 12.2 Good Sportsmanship is expected at all times. Any competitor who is considered by a race official to have been responsible for a collision, or who damages the canoe, kayak or paddle of another competitor or unnecessarily or intentionally deviates from their course and any un-sportsman-like conduct warrants immediate disqualification.

13 Illegal Substance

- 13.1 Under no circumstances shall any illegal drugs be taken. If there is cause to believe that such a drug has been taken by a racer, it will be the right of the Belize Anti-Doping Agency to have such laboratory test done that will prove or disprove the presence of any illegal drug in the racer's body. If the test confirms the presence of illegal drugs, the racer shall be imposed to penalties for infractions as stated in the International Canoe Federation's (ICF) Regulations.
- 13.2 Any participant in a race who has a physical ailment for which it is necessary to ingest or inhale a stimulant type medication to control said ailment must bring this fact with supporting evidence to the attention of the Race Officer before any race shall begin.
- 13.3 Alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs are not allowed during a race at any time.

14 Anti-Doping

14.1 **Prohibited List:** BCAnoe shall use the World's Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) current list of Prohibited Substances and Methods. This list is revised and published yearly by WADA, for more information, visit their website at www.wada-ama.org. You can also find a link of the list from the BCAnoe's website.

15 Finish Line

15.1 The finish line is reached when the bow of the canoe/kayak with the competitor(s) in it has passed the red buoy/flag.

16 Code of Conduct

16.1 All team members, coaches, ground crewmembers, sponsors, representatives, and fans must exercise the highest degree of sportsmanlike conduct and professionalism (including respect for self, the sport, other teams, the Association and property) at all times throughout the race. Teams will be penalized or disqualified if any of the above groups abuse this rule. All BCAnoe Race Officials and Race Medical Personnel must be shown respect and their directions followed at all times.

17 Clean Up

17.1 All teams, fans, supporters, are responsible to keep the areas we use clean and in proper order.

18 Reservation

18.1 The BCAnoe Executive Body may reserve the right to change or amend these Rules and Regulations to meet any unforeseen safety or other conditions or considerations that may threaten the safe and uninterrupted completion of the race.

DISQUALIFICATIONS TERMS:

- a) Any team that has been disqualified whilst on the water will be asked to leave the competition immediately.
- b) Any paddler (team) disqualified **will not** be awarded any prizes nor points for that race.
- c) Any paddler disqualified in a specific year **is not** eligible for the BCAnoe Awards.
- d) Any paddler disqualified a second time, **will not** be allowed to **participate** in the next 5 races, this carries over to the next season.
- e) Any paddler disqualified a third time will immediately have his/her membership **revoked and banned** for life from the Association.
- f) Any paddler that has been disqualified **will not be recommended** to represent Belize internationally.
- g) Disqualifications are throughout a paddler's life time and will be recorded on his/her permanent record.

PROTEST TERMS:

Any team(s) that is eligible for a prize and is in a protest dispute, prizes will be awarded to the deserving team after the decision is made by the Protest Committee, considering that there isn't an appeal made against that decision. If any disqualified, see disqualifications terms.

APPEAL TEAMS:

Any team(s) that has made an appeal shall expect further delay on the prizes to be awarded (if any) and disqualifications if warranted. The ruling of the Appeals Board is final. – END –