

The Michigan Canoe Racing Association provides the following information and guidelines to assist canoe race organizers in planning a successful race. The handbook is to establish uniform standards for canoe racing in Michigan.

## **Michigan Canoe Racing Association Race Sanctioning**

The Michigan Canoe Racing Association will present a slate of canoe races that meet the guidelines outlined in this publication at the annual spring membership meeting. The voting MCRA in attendance at the meeting will make the final selection of races that will be MCRA point races for the year.

**Expert Racing Class** is the elite racing class of the MCRA. A minimum purse of \$1,000 is required for a race to be considered for point status. It is recommended the purse increase as the length and difficulty of the race increases. See Table A for the recommendations. The prize money breakdown requirements are included on Table A. There is a required bonus for the 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers in the Mixed, Master's, Senior's and Women's divisions. There is a bonus award per team in a race. The Expert canoe race specification is listed in the MCRA By-Laws.

**Expert II Racing Class** participants compete for separate Expert II awards: \$20 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$16 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$10 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The MCRA recommends the Expert II races be a maximum of 90 minutes in length. Awards are given to both paddlers in the top 3 canoes. Expert II participants may use a 4X32 or 3X27 racing canoe. See the MCRA By-Laws for specifications.

**Junior and Fledgling Racing Classes** are 45 minutes or less in length. They should be in view of the spectators, if possible. Junior paddlers are those under 18 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Fledgling paddlers are those youth under 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Awards are given separately to each class. It is suggested that all the participants are recognized for their efforts with a ribbon or certificate. The entry fees should be a minimal amount.

**C-1 Racing Class** will include paddlers of all ages and levels of expertise. Table B reflects the fee schedule and prize money structure that is to be awarded. Special awards may be made to the amateur, junior and women participants.

### **Point Status Guidelines**

1. The race will offer all the MCRA racing classes.
2. The race sponsor will meet the MCRA guidelines for the entry fee and prize structure.
3. The race dates will coordinate with established races. Priority is given to established MCRA races.
4. The race will offer a safe course with MCRA approval.

**Table A Requirements for a MCRA Expert & Expert II C-2 Point Race**

MCRA point races must meet the following minimal guidelines. Note provisions if a community offers pre-registration. Expert II entry fees needs to \$20.00 per canoe.

**Expert Entry Fee Standards**

\$1,000 purse	\$20 per team pre-registration/\$30 race day per team	\$20/team No pre-registration option
\$1,500 purse	\$25 per team pre-registration/\$35 race day per team	\$25/team No pre-registration option
\$2,000 purse	\$30 per team pre-registration/ 40 race day per team	\$30/team No pre-registration option
+\$2,500 purse	Consult the Board	Consult

**C-2 Prize Money Breakdown**

Approximate winning time will not exceed minimum amount of prize money.

Place	2.0 Hr Race \$1,000	2.5 Hr. Race \$1,500	3.0 Hr. Race \$2,000	+3 Hr. Race \$2,500
1	126	200	276	290
2	116	160	248	240
3	98	136	196	200
4	82	98	158	164
5	66	86	136	152
6	62	84	118	142
7	56	76	96	132
8	50	74	86	118
9	46	66	76	106
10	42	64	72	98
11	38	56	68	86
12	30	54	64	78
13	28	46	56	70
14	24	44	54	66
15	22	42	46	58
16	18	32	44	56
17	16	30	38	52
18		26	34	46
19		24	30	44
20		22	24	42
21				40
22				38
23				36
24				34
25				32

*Required Bonus Awards: \$20 to the 1st place Mixed, Women's, Master's, & Senior teams. Sanctioning Fee: Race sponsor will remit 10% of entry fees of MCRA point race classes within 7 days (waived for 2013)*

**Table B Requirements for a MCRA C-1 Point Race  
Entry Fee Standards**

\$350 purse	\$10.00
\$500 purse	\$10.00
\$750 purse	\$15.00
+\$750 purse	Consult the Board

**C-1 Prize Money Breakdown: \$20 Bonus Required to 1<sup>st</sup> Woman, Master, Senior paddler**  
Approximate winning time will not exceed minimum amount of prize money

Place	.5 Hr. Race \$350	1.0 Hr. Race \$500	1.5 Hr. Race \$750	2.0 Hr. Race \$1,000	+2.0 Hr. Race \$1,500
1	46	65	97	128	128
2	41	50	77	113	113
3	36	39	68	98	98
4	31	36	48	88	88
5	26	33	43	68	68
6	24	31	41	58	58
7	22	28	38	48	54
8	20	25	36	43	52
9	18	23	33	38	51
10	16	21	31	35	50
11	15	19	28	33	49
12	10	15	26	31	47
13	5	14	23	28	46
14		12	21	26	44
15		11	20	23	43
16		10	16	21	41
17		8	14	20	38
18			11	16	35
19			10	15	34
20			9	10	13
21					32
22					31
23					30
24					29
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26					27
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28					25
29					22
30					20

## Responsibilities of the Race Chairman

1. Appoint committee six months prior to the race. Keep some continuity from year to year. Persons have prior canoe race knowledge is an asset.

Suggested Committees:

- A. Promotion and Publicity
- B. Timers and Registration
- C. Judges
- D. Safety and Communications
- E. Awards
- F. Entry Packet Info
- G. Concessions

### 2. Race Course Selections Ideas:

- Sections of rivers with large log jams and whitewater sections (Class III and above) should not be used for marathon racing.
- Dams should be easily portaged.
- A few minor rapids and obstructions are good, and make a challenging course.
- Put in and take out points should be easily accessible by vehicles and river banks should be negotiable for easy entry and departure from the water.
- Parking areas should be adequate at the start and finish lines.
- Access points along the race course should be marked and listed in race flyers.
- Spectator access should be adequate and numerous along the entire race course to make for more interesting spectator participation. It is suggested maps of the course be available including viewing points.
- Remember that a flooded or highly swollen river is dangerous. The race committee should use caution and discretion in this area of safety. If in doubt, remember, safety first. MCRA Board approval is needed.
- Distractions from a race include:
  - Poor water quality
  - River chocked with weeds or logs
  - Trash in the river
  - Dangerous water or very cold water
  - Busy highway paralleling the river
  - Long portages

## Entry Packet Suggestions

### **Information Sheet**

1. Name of the race
2. Sponsoring organization(s)
3. Date
4. If race is MCRA sanctioned, state it.
5. Classes starting time and race lengths
6. Describe the course
7. MCRA rules will apply
8. Describe purse and awards
9. Course Map
10. Describe portages or river obstacles
11. Camping and motel information
12. Area things to do and see
13. Previous course times and winners, if applicable
14. State need for life jackets and one sounding device
15. Availability of food and drinks at the start and finish lines
16. List sponsors

### **Registration Form Template Provided in Packet**

1. List events
2. Space for names, addresses, date of birth, age of paddlers and canoe number  
\*Note All MCRA members must have a MCRA number on their canoe to use at registration. See a Board member.
3. Waiver of liability. See sample
4. Entry fee amount
5. Name of organization to whom check should be made payable to...

### **Starts**

Mass starts are the preferred method. If a team starts with those they are competing against, they will know their position. It is easier for timers and more interesting for spectators. The race needs a river that is wide enough to accommodate 30-40 canoes in a line.

Give the paddlers a warning around 2 minutes, again at 1 minute BUT not a countdown beyond 30 seconds. Command "Paddles Up - Go" A gun or horn works the best.

When heats are required for starting due to congested areas, the seeding for the preferred heats will be done by the MCRA Board based on the contestant's performance in the most recent MCRA point race. If they are out of state paddlers, the Board will make the decisions.

RACE RULES  
MICHIGAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

Revised 12/11/2010

1. Two contestants for each canoe. They must remain as a team for the duration of the race, in the same canoe as started with.
2. A single bladed canoe paddle of any width is the only means of propulsion each contestant may use.
3. Entrants must provide their own canoe and equipment.
4. Canoes must meet the specifications given for each division:

**EXPERT:**

1. Minimum length of the hull shall be 18'6"
2. Minimum heights, measured from the 0" waterline:  
15" Bow      10" Center      10" Stern  
The minimum-height gunwale line shall from a continuous, smooth arch-curve.
3. Minimum width:  
33" on the top, at the gunwale line  
27" wide at the 3" waterline or 3" of draft.
4. The point at which the 33" minimum top-width measurement and the 27" minimum waterline-width measurement are taking may be divided up to 14" maximum
5. The 33" minimum top-width and the 27" minimum waterline-width may be measured a maximum of 14" for or aft of the center of the canoe.
6. The cross-section(s) of the hull at the location(s) of the 33" minimum top-width and the 27" minimum waterline-width shall have no more than 1/4" concavity between the 3" waterline and the gunwale line of the hull.
7. No concave curve(s) are allowed under the 3" waterline. The imperfections from repairs will be tolerated but will have to be very minimal to conform to the regulations.
8. All of the measurements will be verified on the exterior of the hull.  
Gunwales, sponsons and keels shall not be included in the measurement, whether added to the hull or built into the hull.

**CRUISER:**

1. Cruising canoes of maximum length 18' 6".
2. Width not less than .14375 times the length of the canoe in inches, measured at a 4" waterline.
3. Minimum height: 15-1/2" Bow 11-1/2" Stern 11-1/2" Center
4. Bailers are allowed.

## **JUNIOR/FLEDGLING:**

1. Any canoe meeting Expert or Cruiser specifications.
5. Contestants shall have a Coast Guard approved P.F.D. and an Auditory Device (i.e. whistle, horn, etc.). They must be easily accessible.
6. Except for those portages specified by the race committee, canoes must remain in the river. All illegal portaging will disqualify the team. There will be checkers along the river bank at unspecified points.
7. No one is allowed to help convey a contestant or his equipment although the contestant may pick up food, water, or extra paddles during the race.
8. Commonly accepted rules of sportsmanship will prevail. Intentional capsizing or damaging an opponent's canoe will mean disqualification.
9. Prior to a race, no contestant will touch or move any other contestant's canoe or equipment without permission.
10. If any doubt exists to the physical condition of the contestants, the race committee reserves the right to demand a physical examination.
11. Under no circumstances shall any illegal drug be taken. If there is cause to believe such a drug has been taken by a canoe racer, it will be the right of the MCRA to have such laboratory test done that will prove or disprove the presence of any illegal drug in the racer's body. 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 to the attention of the committee before any race shall begin.
12. No team will be allowed on the starting line unless officially registered. Those violating this rule will be disqualified. Canoes must be registered with a MCRA racing number.
13. In case of disputes, decisions will be made by the MCRA Board of Directors. All protests will be made to the board, in writing, within one half hour of the race finish accompanied by \$10.00 (non-Refundable).
14. Both members of a canoe team must be paid MCRA members for either participant to receive MCRA points and awards.
15. A C-1 Point system (USCA C-1 boat specs) will be kept for any MCRA member who paddles in a sanctioned C-1 race.
16. Any paddler that does not complete the designated race course will receive automatic disqualification from the race. The infraction is reviewable by the Michigan Canoe

Racing Association Board of Directors.

**THIS IS THE END OF THE RACE RULES OF THE M.C.R.A.**

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**Michigan Canoe Racing Association Sponsors' Handbook  
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