

BY-LAWS MICHIGAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

Revised 12/06/09

Revised 12/11/10

Revised 12/2019

Revised 9/2025

ARTICLE I

The registered office of the corporation shall be located at the current president's home address. The registered office location may be changed by action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II

A. Qualifications Any person interested in the sport of canoe racing, who wishes to promote the aims and ideas of the corporation, shall be eligible for membership.

B. Classification:

Expert Racing Member Dues shall be \$30.00 per calendar year and shall entitle the member to voting rights, the right to hold office, receive monthly newsletter, competes for awards of the Association, and compete in sanctioned MCRA Expert races.

Expert II Racing Member Dues shall be \$30.00 per calendar year and shall entitle member to all privileges of an Expert member except that he/she may compete in sanctioned MCRA Expert II races and compete for annual Expert II awards.

Associate Member Dues shall be \$10.00 per calendar year and shall entitle the member to all privileges of an Expert member, except that he/she may not receive prize money or awards.

Family Membership Dues shall be \$50.00 per calendar year and shall entitle membership to two adults and unlimited children under 19 years of age by January 1st of the calendar year, residing within the same household. Adults are entitled to all privileges of an Expert racing member and the children are entitled to Junior of Fledgling member privileges. One newsletter will be addressed per family.

Fledgling Racing Member Dues shall be \$2.00 per calendar year to any paddler at least 7 years of age, who has not reached age 14 before January 1st of the current year. They are entitled to all privileges of a Junior member except they will qualify

for Fledging awards.

Junior Racing Member Dues shall be \$2.00 per calendar year to any paddler who has not reached age 17 before January 1st of the current year. He/she is entitled to receive a monthly newsletter and any Association award for Junior paddlers. No voting rights are allotted to this membership. Junior members may race and receive points in all MCRA racing classes.

Life Member Dues to ten times the current membership dues. Member is entitled to the same privileges as racing members.

All MCRA membership renewals are due April 1.or spring MCRA membership meeting whichever is later. All renewals not paid by new season deadline, except junior or fledgling, will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee. New memberships are not subject to the new seasonal deadline. All Dues are in U.S. Currency.

C. Meetings. There shall be at least one regular meeting of the MCRA every year. Additional meetings can be called upon the discretion of the president and/or the Board of Directors.

D. Voting Rights. All members entitled to vote shall have the right to vote on all matters properly brought before the membership, except as restricted elsewhere in these By-Laws or by stature. Members may vote only to elect director.

E. Quorum. At all annual and special meetings of the members, the presence of one-fifth of the members entitled to vote at such meetings shall constitute a quorum, unless otherwise provided by law.

F. Non-Cumulative Voting. In all elections for directors, each member entitled to vote shall have the right to vote for as many persons as there may be directors to be elected, but no member may cumulate his/her vote and give one candidate more then one vote.

G. Place of Meetings. All annual meetings shall be held at such places as the president shall designate.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

A. Authority. The property and lawful activities of the corporation shall be held and managed by the Board of Directors.

B. Number The number of Directors shall be eleven. They will be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Times Secretary, and six appointed. The President shall be the Chairperson of the Board. The past President shall be appointed for 1 term following his/her presidency.

C. Term The term of office of each director shall be one year.

D. Officers Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the MCRA Board of Directors

E. Call of Regular Meetings The annual meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held the first weekend of December. Adequate notice, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, shall be given each director at least ten days but no more than sixty days prior to such meeting. Any director may waive notice of the regular meeting in writing or phone or his presence at such a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice. Officers shall be elected by the directors during the annual meeting.

F. Call of Special Meetings The special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by three directors. Adequate notice stating time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be given each director at least ten days but no more than sixty days prior to such meeting. Any director may waive notice of special meeting in writing or phone or his presence at such meeting will constitute a waiver of notice. The highest ranking member of the Board of Directors at a race may call a special meeting of case of an emergency. During a special meeting called in case of an emergency, a majority of those members of the Board present may make any decision deemed to be in the best interest of the MCRA.

G. Quorum Five directors shall constitute a quorum and the acts of a majority of the directors present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the Board of Directors.

H. Place of Meetings The meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such places as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall designate.

I. Voting Rights At all board meetings, each member (including the President) shall have one vote.

ARTICLE IV

A. Selection The officers shall be elected annually by an official ballot mailed to each member who has paid dues by August 1 of that year. The ballot will then be returned to a designated person before a designated deadline. The results will be announced at the fall meeting. All elected Board members must be legal Michigan residents and members of the Michigan Canoe Racing Association.

B. Duties

The **President** shall have the:

1. Authority to operate and conduct the ordinary activities and affairs of the corporation.
2. Authority to execute contracts on behalf of the corporation.
3. Authority to superintend and direct the activities of all officers and agents of the corporation.
4. Authority to appoint and suspend all agents of the corporation, except the Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Times Secretary.
5. Presiding position at all meetings of the Board of Directors and all meetings of the members.

The **Vice-President** shall have the:

1. The authority to perform the duties of the President when delegated by the President, or when the President is unavailable due to disability or absence from the state.

The **Treasurer** shall have the:

1. Authority to receive and disburse funds of the corporation, subject to approval of the President and/or Board of Directors.
2. Authority to maintain books and records reflecting the financial conduct of the corporation.
3. Duties to deposit all funds of the corporation which may come into his/her hands in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors may designate.
4. Duty to render such accounts and present such statement to the Board of Directors and President as may be required of him/her.
5. Duty to turn over the books for a yearly audit if called for by the Board of Directors.

The **Recording Secretary** shall have the:

1. Authority to maintain and retain custody of the minutebook of the corporation.
2. Duty to maintain a record of the members of the corporation, showing their names, addresses, and any other necessary information.
3. Duty to notify any person whose membership has been canceled for non-payment of dues as notified by MCRA Membership Chairman.
4. Duty to notify canoe racers by newsletter or other means, of all canoe racing information.

The **Times Secretary** shall:

1. Obtain, from the proper officials, the results of all sanctioned canoe races and he/she keep accurate records of results.
2. Communicate (in a timely manner) all canoe race results and other information to the proper news media.
3. (from the canoe race results and the records thereof), compute the points compiled by canoe racing members to determine their rankings. This applies to all racing classes.

C. Removal The Board of Directors may remove any officer, whenever in their judgment the interest of the corporation will be served, by a 2/3 majority vote.

D. Reimbursement The reimbursement of the officers of the corporation shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

E. Chain of Command The chain of command is as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Times Secretary.

ARTICLE V

The members of the Board of Directors of the corporation may make and/or alter any By- Law or Race Rule with the exception of changing boat specification. Also the Board shall not make and/or alter any By-Law affixing their number, qualifications, or term of office. Also the Board shall not alter Article V.

Corporation members may amend By-Laws by a 2/3 written majority vote of the membership. Said voting to be conducted by mail and the results announced at the general meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Order of Business

The order of business at the meetings of the MCRA shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Communications
6. Committee reports
7. Old business
8. New business
9. Good of the order
10. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII

Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Canoe Specifications

1. Refer to MCRA Race Rules.
2. Any amendments pertaining to Expert Canoe Specifications shall require:
 - A. A petition signed by at least one-fifth of the current members of the Expert racing class.
 - B. Present the petition to the Board of Directors who will endorse the proposal and present to the Expert members or will present it to the Expert members un-endorsed.
 - C. An official written ballot will be mailed to the members of the Expert racing class who are have paid dues by August 1 of that year and have participated in at least 3 MCRA Expert point races within the previous 24 months. The outcome of the voting will be determined by the following formula and descriptions:

Pass if $Y - N$ exceeds $0.05M + 0.15M(1-V/M)$
Where M =the number of voters eligible to vote
 Y =the number voting YES
 N =the number voting NO
 $V=Y+N$ =the total number voting
3. Any amendments pertaining to Amateur Canoe Specifications shall require:
(The same three steps as found in the amendment procedure for Expert Canoe Specifications with the substitution of Amateur racing class in place of Expert racing class.
4. Specification changes will take effect the following calendar year.

B. Amendments

1. Amendments pertaining to detrimental remarks - Any member that speaks detrimental remarks against the MCRA, or causes undue humiliation of the cause and purpose of the MCRA, may be brought before the Board of Directors for disciplinary action, and can be discharged and/or fined.

2. Annual Awards - Annual awards shall be given to the individuals in their respective places.
3. The calendar year for the racing season of the association shall be from October 1 to September 30.
4. Race sponsors must notify MCRA Board of Directors, no later than January 1 of said year, to secure their prior year's time slot.
5. Points Champion (Amendment 9/2025)

The previous years men's and women's points champion for C1 and C2 will be allowed a special exemption regarding MCRA numbers in the race rules, so they can display their status as reigning points champion. The MCRA board will provide the champions with one set of exempted numbers for the following season, and one set of standard numbers to replace their exempted numbers if they don't maintain points champion status. If a previous points champion does not retain the title they must follow all relevant MCRA rules regarding issued numbers. Failure to comply with race rules and bylaws can subject the member to race penalties at the discretion of the race organizers and MCRA board. If a member wishes to do so, they can request additional sets of exempted numbers at their expense.

6. Issued Numbers (Amendment 9/2025)

Assigning, issuing, and revoking numbers are performed under the discretion of the MCRA member chairperson. The following are guidelines regarding the reissuing of numbers previously assigned to inactive members. Inactive members may have their number reassigned, at the discretion of the membership chair.

Year to Year Membership: to be considered an active member, you must maintain a current year to year membership and participate in at least one MCRA sanctioned canoe race in three consecutive years. If after three years a member has either failed to pay dues, or participate in at least one race, they will be considered inactive.

Lifetime Member: to be considered active a lifetime member must compete in at least one MCRA sanctioned canoe race in five consecutive years. If after five years a lifetime member has not participated in at least one race they will be

considered inactive.

THIS IS THE END OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE M.C.R.A.