

Race Rules

Hawai'i Island Paddlesports Association (H.I.P.A.)



The main intent of these rules is to allow fair, even competition in one person, two person, kayak and surfski racing. We hope to keep the rules as simple as possible.

1. The basic premise of sportsmanship shall influence all competitive situations in this association. Sportsmanship Defined: Civility – be gracious in victory as well as in defeat., Fairness – observe the spirit and the letter of the rules, Responsibility – Take charge of your actions and words, Courage- the heart to do the right thing, Respect – acknowledge good efforts by opponents and officials.
2. Leashes shall be mandatory in all H.I.P.A. sanctioned events. Any paddler crossing the finish line without a leash may be disqualified.
3. Pre-race inspections will be performed at the discretion of the Race Director. Any boat determined to be unsafe will not be allowed to compete.
4. Competitive divisions shall be as follows;
Novice: Any first year paddler, no age requirements. Novice paddlers can compete in short course races only. A novice paddler may paddle in the long course race if they have won three of the events they have competed in. Once a novice paddler has competed in an age division they are no longer novice. Novice A related to any second year paddler. This division will run on the short course. Open Division Long course is open to any male or female paddler.
Cruiser: More of a casual division. Open to any male competing in the short course.
Age Groups: For male paddlers competing in the long course and all female paddlers in short and long course races. 15-20, 21-29, 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+
For male paddlers competing in the short course there is also 50-59 and 60 + divisions.
No division will be eligible for awards with less than three participants unless an exception is deemed appropriate by the race director. Any paddler registered in one of these divisions will be moved down 1 age group.
5. **The starting procedure will be as follows; A yellow flag raised on the official starting boat and a double horn blast will be sounded five (5) minutes before the start of the race. A green flag will be raised to signify 1 minute till the start.**
The race will be started by an audible single horn blast.
6. If there is a question as to the application of these rules or a situation requiring an interpretation of these rules, approach the race director and if needed the race committee will listen to input from parties involved before making a decision.
7. If a violation is recognized there will be a 5-minute penalty assessed in the short course and a 10-minute penalty in the long course. **This includes race start violation (starting across the line)**

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Revised 10/21/2002