

# Race Rules

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



The primary 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.
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4. Pre-race inspections will be performed at the discretion of the Race Director. Any boat determined to be unsafe or paddler deemed as lacking the ability to handle that event's conditions will not be allowed to compete.
5. The Race director had the right to impose specific policies or guidelines as needed for certain events or race sites to maintain a safe racing condition for all competitors.

**6. Competitive divisions shall be as follows;**

Novice: Any first year adult paddler, no age requirements.

Novice A: Any Second year adult paddler, no age requirements.

Junior divisions are determined by the race official based on participation.

Any paddler may be **required** to compete in short course races **only**, as determined by the race committee based on the paddler's prior performance.

Long course is open to any male or female paddler having demonstrated the ability to handle the conditions and the distance of said event.

Cruiser: More of a casual division. Open to any male competing in the short course.

Age Groups: **See Point Series rules for Race 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 for award purposes

7. The starting procedure will be as follows; A yellow flag raised on the official starting boat and a short 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.**
8. 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.
9. If a **race start** or **sportsmanship** violation is recognized there will be a 5-minute penalty assessed in the short course and a 10-minute penalty in the long course.
10. A participants time will be recorded upon crossing the official finish line. Any participant that crosses the finish line a second time, will have that time recorded as their official finish time.
11. Any unregistered or unofficial paddler who interferes with the race or crosses the finish line will be penalized 10 minutes in the next official event for which they are registered.

Revised 11/01/2009