

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, \$15 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.
5. The race will submit a 10% sanctioning fee and race results that are to be remitted within 7 days following the race. **This is waived for the 2011 race season.**

**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 need to be under \$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 2011)

**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
25					28
26					27
27					26
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.

BY-LAWS  
MICHIGAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

(Updated on 12/02/90)  
Revised on 02/11/95  
Revised on 12/6/97  
Revised 12/6/09

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 or Fledging 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 Fledgling 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. All renewals not paid by April 1, except junior or fledgling, will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee. New memberships are not subject to the April 1 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 than 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.
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 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 rear's time slot.

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

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.**



**Michigan Canoe Racing Association Sponsors' Handbook  
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