

Vatten Paddlar – Canoe, Kayak & SUP Races Rules

Updated 2022

1. Failure to participate with good sportsmanship in the Vatten Paddlar will result in disqualification from the event. This applies to a participant's action towards fellow competitors and race officials as well as their action towards non-competitors on the racecourse. Our racecourse is on a public waterway, we share the lakes with other paddlers, sailors and fishermen.
2. **Age Requirements:** Minimum age of participants for the 10 Mile and 5 Mile Races is 12 years with parental waiver release. Underage passengers in canoes and kayaks are allowed with parental waiver release.
3. **Release Forms:** All Participants must sign a Waiver of Claims and Release of Liability form. Parents must sign for children under the age of 18 who are paddling in a tandem canoe or riding as a passenger in the race.
4. **Ability Expectations:** 10 Mile Race participants should be able to paddle 10 miles of open water. 5 Mile Race participants should be able to paddle 5 miles of open water. Weather and/or water conditions are not predictable. All paddlers should be prepared for any conditions that may arise.
 - a. If a racer discloses a pre-existing medical condition which could place the racer at increased risk during the race, we will provide the racer's personal medical information to the Emergency Medical Service Officer to aid in any emergency response that may be needed.
 - b. We will protect racer privacy and treat racer medical information as "protected medical information" limiting access to emergency medical personnel and the registration staff person Identification
5. **Identification:** Race bib must be worn visible from the front at all times during the race. In the case of tandem canoe, the bib must be worn by the participant sitting in the bow of the canoe.
6. **Canoe, Kayak and SUP Requirements:**
 - a. Only paddle-powered watercraft allowed to race in the Vatten Paddlar.
 - b. No foot pedal or motorized assistance allowed.
 - c. 5-mile race: Kayaks must be less than or equal to 14 ft for award consideration
7. **PFD Requirement:** Coast Guard approved personal flotation device must be worn at all times. Failure will result in disqualification.
 - a. Monitors at start will check participants for bib identification, craft and PFD requirements. Failure to comply can result in disqualification.
8. **Course Adherence:** Participants must stay on the designated racecourse at all times. (Course will be marked with buoys and the route will be between buoys and the closest shore at all times.) Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
 - a. If any changes to course due to weather conditions, the changes will be communicated at the pre-race meeting.

9. **Race Start:** Mass start for all paddling waves – wave starts are self-seeding. No one will be allowed to start after the race is underway. If you leave the river/lakes for reason other than equipment malfunction or personal health, you are on your own! Motorized safety boats will patrol the course for your assistance.
 - a. Early starters will be disqualified.
 - b. Late starts:
 - i. If you miss your start time due to fault of the Vatten Paddlar organization, you will be allowed to start, and times will be adjusted.
 - ii. If missed due to participant error, you will be disqualified.
10. **Portaging Requirements:**
 - a. There are 2 dams on the 10-mile Race route, Outlet Bay Dam (a small roller-dam) and the Lock and Dam. Both dams must be portaged and not paddled over. Non-compliance will result in disqualification.
 - b. There is 1 dam on the 5-mile Race route, the Lock and Dam. The dam must be portaged and not paddled over. Non-compliance will result in disqualification.
 - c. Assistance in portaging is available to participants at both portages; receiving assistance does not disqualify participants from placing in the race or receiving participation awards.
11. **Race Conclusion:** Race officially ends at 5 hours after start. No craft will be timed and recorded as finished after 5 hours.
12. **No Firearms Allowed:** As crazy as this sounds, some people feel the need to carry guns.
13. **No alcohol** allowed on any race event watercraft.

Vatten Paddlar Severe Weather/Safety Policy

The Vatten Paddlar organizing committee is interested in running events that are as safe as possible given the inherent risks of participating outdoor sports activities.

As such, before its events, the Vatten Paddlar safety committee consisting of the Race Coordinator, chief of course, lake safety officer and emergency medical services officer meets (in-person, by phone, or by radio) on the morning of the event to discuss any safety concerns related to the event. Specifically, the safety committee will discuss the course conditions, weather conditions and forecast that may have an impact on the starting or running of the race and any other concerns raised by the event that go beyond normal concerns that would be part of any event of this nature.

1. The committee may delay, reroute, or cancel the event if, in their discretion, they determine that safety concerns may create an undue risk to the participants.
2. **Before a race has started:**
 - a. If thunder is heard and/or lightning seen, or a lightning detector indicates an approaching thunderstorm, the racers, paddlers, helpers, and spectators shall take proper shelter on shore and wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last thunder.

- b. If winds are predicted to reach 'Small Craft or Wind Advisory' as defined by the National Weather Service, (≥ 22 knots (≥ 25 mph)) then the race shall be postponed or canceled.
 - i. Predicted wind gust below the 25-mph threshold can be assessed by the safety committee.
 - ii. Two useful sites include:
 - 1. The DNR's weather observations at the Barnes Ranger Station at <https://www.localconditions.com/weather-barnes-wisconsin/wi021/charts.php>. Is a suggested tool for the predicted weather conditions.
 - 2. official DNR weather station data at https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base_dyn.cgi?stn=BRNW3&unit=0&timetype=LOCAL
 - c. In the case of persistent conditions that make it unsafe to run, the safety committee may decide to cancel or modify the route of the event.
 - 1. Note: The race coordinator is charged using input from the organizing committee in preparing and distributing prior to the race start a single concise contact listing for all safety committee members use.
 - ii. Using this pre prepared contact listing, the safety committee members will contact each of their respective team leads with the needed action information. Each lead will then cascade the information to volunteers under their direction.
 - d. Because of volunteer and police support concerns, the race will not be delayed **beyond 2.0 hours from the designated start time.**
- 3. Once the race has started:**
- a. The Safety Committee members (Race Coordinator, chief of course, lake safety officer and emergency medical services officer) are charged with monitoring the weather conditions.
 - b. If the safety committee members determines that conditions have become unsafe, using ALL of the above guidance, the Committee will decide what course of action to take.
 - i. Using the prepared contact listing, the safety committee members will contact each of their respective team leads with the needed action information. Each lead will then cascade the information to volunteers under their direction.
 - c. Possible actions to be taken.
 - i. If lightning is seen and thunder heard within 30 seconds (6 miles) or if you hear loud thunder; All are to get off the water immediately and seek proper shelter.
 - ii. Lake safety boats will be informed and assist event boaters off the water consistent with the Vatten Paddlar lake safety monitor duties.
 - iii. If the event has just begun, participants may be summoned back to the start.
 - iv. If the participants are near the end of the course, the Safety Committee may decide to take no action.
4. In the event of race day cancellation registration fees will not be refunded but will be applied to the next year's event.