

# Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation

## *Cardboard Boat Construction Rules*

- **The ENTIRE BOAT must be BUILT OF CARDBOARD and DUCT TAPE**
- The cardboard may be as thick as you want, but may NOT be glued or attached to wood, plastic, fiberglass, etc.
- Cardboard can be found at recycling centers, appliance stores, department stores, discount clubs, and for a short time at the Decatur Parks Department, 231 E Monroe St. (Phone-724-2520) call to see if available.
- Except for cardboard carpet tubes, you must only use corrugated cardboard from these types of boxes.
- **PRE-TREATED** or **COATED CARDBOARD** that has been processed in such a way as to make the cardboard waterproof, **MAY NOT BE USED**. The emphasis is on the fun-filled process of turning discarded cardboard boxes or carpet tubes into floating boats.
- **Surfboard style designs are NOT allowed**. Consider “staying dry” part of the challenge.
- Metal (or plastic) staples, clamps, nails, screws, etc. are **NOT** allowed. These are dangerous to the safety of yourself and others.
- Wood or Styrofoam can **NOT** be used, the buoyancy proved from these materials is not necessary and defeats the purpose of build and float a “cardboard boat”.
- Boats can **NOT** be wrapped with plastic, fiberglass or any similar product. Please note that duct tape will be allowed.
- Care should be taken that construction does not include pointed objects and sharp edges that could injure anyone.
- Where the crew sits can **NOT** be enclosed (the boat crew must be able to get in and out of the boat easily. The propulsion system must be made out of cardboard also. Duct tape may be used to cover or construct. If participants lose their “oars” they may continue paddling without it using on their hand up to their elbow.
- Decorations and props that are not part of the boat’s structure are allowed as long as they in no way effect the strength or buoyancy of the boat.
- Duct tape, masking tape, **CAN** be used to connect cardboard to cardboard and to reinforce all seams and stress points. Only water latex or acrylic paints may be used to decorate your boat. **NO OIL BASED PAINTS**. Please work in a well-ventilated area.
- If there is any doubt about the construction, the judges reserve the right to verify that only cardboard has been used.

# ***Race Rules and Procedures***

- Minimum age of any race participant is 6 years old.
- All crew members will be required to sign a liability release/registration form when they register. Parents or guardian signatures are also required on the registration forms and waivers for anyone under the age of 18. Participants who are racing in multiple boats will need to sign a form for each boat they are riding in. Boats will not be allowed to race without signature for each minor participant.
- Date of birth on the day of the race determines age. If one of the participants is over the age of 15 and the other participant is under the age of 14, that team will be entered into the older age category.
- Any participant that cannot swim or stand flat footed on the bottom of the pool with their head and shoulders out of the water must wear a properly fitted personal floatation device that you provide.
- Use the back double gate entrance of the pool located by the police department to carry your boat in to the pool.
- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT PERMITTED** at the Decatur City Pool at any time.
- Boats and all crew members are to report to the Decatur City Pool between 5:30 and 6:00 on race day to check in.
- ALL CARDBOARD and DECORATION and BOAT RELATED MATERIALS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE WATER AND GROUNDS BY THE PARTICIPANTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE RACE.
- Failure to abide by any race rule or direction of race official shall be cause for disqualification. All decisions by the judges are **FINAL**.