

Black River Rumble Race Rules 2024

General Rules

- Infractions of any rule during the event will be grounds for time penalties or disqualification, to be reasonably and fairly determined by the Judges Committee.
- Deliberate littering of the river is illegal. Teams must keep their trash in their canoes/kayaks and either transfer it to the event support boats or go ashore themselves to properly dispose of the waste.
- All participants agree to appear in any event-related media coverage free of charge.
- **All participants in this event, including paddlers and other team members, must sign the event waiver. This waiver is required for participation in this event.**
- **All participants in this event, including paddlers and other team members, must sign the Emergency Contact portion of the waiver as well.**

Safety Rules

- Each racer must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver (**personal flotation device/PFD**) at all times while on the water. A **whistle** must also be attached to each life preserver at all times. All racers are required to wear their PFD at all times while on the water.
- **Paddlers are NOT allowed to stop on sand bars or the riverbank unless there is an emergency.**
- All team members should understand there are serious risks involved in this endeavor. Any water-based activities along the river inherently have risk. The greatest risk, however, is from the numerous large and small power craft that use the river. Constant vigilance, clear thinking, and quick reactions are essential at all times. Good judgment must dictate when it is time to rest.
- All team members (racers and support personnel) enter this race at their own risk and will not hold this event's organizers, judges, officials, or sponsors liable for accidents to personnel or damage to any property.
- Safety boats will be placed at the 5km and 10 km turn around points, with an additional boat following the last paddler the length of the course throughout the race.

Craft and Paddling Requirements

- Each race craft must be propelled exclusively by paddle power (single or double blade) while on the water.
- No rowing configuration is permitted.
- No sail or kite is permitted.
- No "shortcut" is to be legal, you must follow the main flow of the river.
- Overland portages are not allowed. Portages over shoreline is not permitted.
- Outside assistance that provides intentional aid in the forward progress of a canoe/kayak is not allowed. This includes towing, wake riding, deflection of wind, and "rafting up." However, limited interaction between competitor race crafts, as is the case in most canoe

and kayak marathon races, is acceptable. This will be restricted to only wake riding and wind deflection. No towing of race craft is permitted.

- **Big boat class craft must have hand bailers, at least one tied to the boat. Inspections will be made at the beginning of the race.**
- The original craft must be paddled from start to finish. Repairs may be made to the craft during the race, but other alterations are not permitted.
- Any part of the craft (rudders, outriggers, etc.) that will be below the water line during any portion of the race must be “on board” from start to finish.
- In formulating the rules that govern this event, every effort has been made to foresee all situations and problems that may arise. However, officials of the Black River Rumble and its volunteers retain the right to change or amend these rules at any time without liability or recourse from any party regardless of the circumstances. Should such changes or amendments be made, every effort will be made to notify all entrants.
- Multiple teams may not share paddlers.
- Teams must make formal contact with race officials at each distances’ designated checkpoint. Formal contact is defined as verbal contact by providing your name to the checkpoint official. You are not required to exit your boat.
- Checkpoints are staffed by volunteers and race staff until the last paddler at that distance has checked in. If you are not going to make a checkpoint, you must contact the sweep race official for assistance. If you elect to end your race you must contact any of the race officials and let them know.

Age of Racers

- Anyone paddling solo in the main race event must be at least 18 years of age on July 4, 2024, or at least 16 years of age if part of a tandem team accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Parent or legal guardian must sign a liability waiver for the 16 or 17-year-old.