

RULES AND REGULATIONS



**BUFFALO BAYOU
PARTNERSHIP**

48th Annual Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta

**Saturday
March 7, 2020**

Registration

- ▶ Registration will close at 11:59pm on Thursday, March 5. To qualify for advanced (prior to race day) pick up of your race packet, participants must register by 11:59pm Monday, March 2. **Any participant who prefers to wait until race day to register (March 7 at \$60 per person) will be registered in the Non-Competitive class (see below).**
- ▶ Starting position is assigned according to the time registration and payment is received by BBP.
- ▶ Minimum Regatta entry age for all divisions is 12. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on the boat and waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- ▶ **NEW:** The Senior class is now 60+ years of age.

Boat Rules

- ▶ Allowed boats are solo, two-person, and multi person canoes and kayaks. See below for boat classes.
- ▶ **DISALLOWED BOATS:** Inflatable boats of any kind; rafts; stand-up paddleboards; outrigger canoes; pedal-driven boats; or any boat that does not meet the specifications of any division.
- ▶ No towables or floating coolers allowed during the race

Race boat classes and boat specifications:

- ▶ **Non-Competitive class:** For participants who are paddling "just for fun" in any allowed style of boat. Participants will receive all the Regatta benefits except they will not be part of the official timekeeping. This division will start 5 minutes after the last competitive division (9:35am)
- ▶ **"Recreational Canoe" and "Team Sponsor":** Boats used in these classes are two-person canoes, may be of aluminum, fiberglass, plastic, or wood construction, and must meet the length/width specs for the recreational class canoe (17'6" max length, see table below. No carbon fiber hulled or Kevlar hulled boat allowed in this class. No rudders allowed. Single blade paddles only.
- ▶ **Unlimited:** This class includes all boats with two-persons or greater, that do not meet the specs of the Recreational/ Team Sponsor class. Boats in this class would include all two-person or multi person kayaks, any two-person canoes greater than 17'6" length, all two-person or multi-person carbon fiber or Kevlar canoes, USCA c2, the 18' Standard, Wenonah Sundowner, Jensen 18', concrete canoes. Double or single blade paddles.
- ▶ **Solo Unlimited:** If you are paddling solo, in any boat (except a K1 racing kayak or Surfski, see page 2), you are free to enter this class. This would include all solo boats made of carbon fiber (such as the Landick, Spencer, and Rainmaker boats), and USCA C1s. Double or single blade paddle.
- ▶ **K1 and Surfski:** if you are paddling a K1 racing kayak or Surfski, this is your division to race against the fastest solo hulls around. DO NOT enter solo unlimited or recreational kayak.
- ▶ For all plastic or fiberglass solo kayaks, solo sea kayaks, solo sit on top kayaks, solo sit inside kayaks, etc., that are not made of carbon fiber, that are not K1 racing kayaks or surfskis, and do not exceed 17'6" in length, and you would like to race against similar kayaks, we have two divisions:
 - Solo Recreational Short Kayak: This division includes all solo kayaks, of plastic, wood, or fiberglass materials, sit on top or sit inside, 13' 6" long or shorter. (If your boat is made of carbon fiber or Kevlar, enter solo unlimited or K1/Surfski class.) Double or single blade paddle.
 - Solo Recreational Long Kayak: This division includes all solo kayaks, of plastic, wood, or fiberglass materials, sit on top or sit inside, longer than 13'6", but shorter than 17'6". (If your boat is longer than 17'6", or made of carbon fiber or Kevlar, enter Solo Unlimited or K1/Surfski class.) Double or single blade paddle.

Race Day Rules

- ▶ **General and Start Area:**
 - All participants must wear a horse collar (around the neck) or vest style US Coast Guard approved PFD (personal flotation device) during the entire race. NO BELT STYLE PFD OF ANY KIND ALLOWED. The inflation system of a Coast Guard approved inflatable PFD need not be armed when the PFD is worn inflated and in good condition. If uninflated, the vest must be armed with a fully charged cartridge and must be reviewed by a race official prior to the start. Any participant found not abiding by these rules will be disqualified.

- All Regatta race numbers from previous years must be removed from boats or participants will be subject to disqualification.
- All boat classes will have in-water starts. Participants are encouraged to enter the water via the Staging Area beach launch at least 15 minutes prior to their class start time, and wait in the water or along the banks on either side of the bayou for their designated start wave. When the Race Director calls for each start wave, classes for that wave may then move to the Start Area downstream of the bridge and wait for the start signal. Contestants are expected to maintain control of their boats at all times. Any contestant crossing the start line prior to their designated start, even if the intent is to "warm up" prior to the start gun, will be disqualified. Any "warm up" paddling activity is to be conducted upstream of the bridge. The Race Director has the right to remove and/or disqualify a participant due to behavior or alcohol/drug influenced impairment. Additionally, the Race Director can disallow, at his/her sole discretion, the entry of any boat or team in any division that may in any way be deemed to be a potential danger to other contestants or themselves.

Race Course

- ▶ General rules of sportsmanship apply to this event. Intentional capsizing or damaging of another competitor's canoe or kayak will disqualify the offender. Grasping or pushing/pulling another competitor's boat or person during the race, with the intent to gain advantage, is also grounds for disqualification.
- ▶ This race course along Buffalo Bayou includes many sharp turns and goes under several bridges. Participants will encounter navigational challenges during the race, including logs, rocks, overhanging tree limbs and vines, and multiple bridge support columns, especially in the downtown area.
- ▶ Except for portages over channel obstructions, boats must remain in Buffalo Bayou. Illegal portaging will disqualify participants.
- ▶ To qualify for awards, no third party is allowed to touch or help a participant with his/her boat after the starting gun and while the race is in progress. Participants may pick up food, water or extra paddles during the race.
- ▶ For a participant to have a reasonable chance of finishing the race by 2 pm, he/she must have cleared the Woodway Bridge by noon. Any participant not reaching Woodway by noon will be disqualified and any participant not crossing the finish line by 2pm will not be included in the official timekeeping.

Finish Line

- ▶ The finish line will be between two points or markers as designated by the race committee, and will be clearly visible to competitors.
- ▶ Competitors are required to cross the finish line in order to be included in the official results.
- ▶ "Close" finishes will be called by the finish line judge. All decisions are final.
- ▶ After crossing the finish line, competitors are required to exit the race course. Any competitor who finishes, and then goes back upstream on the course, and crosses the finish line a second time in the same direction of the race, will be disqualified.

Team Sponsor Division:

- ▶ Two contestants per canoe.
- ▶ If supplying own canoe, boat must meet the Recreational class requirements. (For specifications, please see chart below for Recreational C-2 and Team Sponsor.)

Team Sponsor Division:

- ▶ Two contestants per canoe. The winning Team Sponsor will gain possession of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta cup for one year.

SEVERE WATER OR WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Because conditions can change without notice, race information will be provided at the start location by race officials on race day. The Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta is rain or shine. **If cancellation does take place due to severe water or weather conditions, all entry fees will support Buffalo Bayou Partnership.**

BOAT SPECIFICATIONS	Recreational C-2 and Team Sponsor	Recreational Kayak K-1 (short)	Recreational Kayak K-1 (long)	Surf Skis/ICF K-1	Solo Unlimited	Unlimited (2 or more in same boat)	Non-Competitive Not part of timekeeping
# of Contestants	2	1	1	1	1	Any	Any
Construction	Plastic/fiberglass, aluminum/wood/composite	Plastic or fiber glass	Plastic or fiber glass	Surf Skis/ICF rules	Any	Any	Any
Weight	50+ pounds	Any	Any	Surf Skis/ICF rules	Any	Any	Any
Length	17'-6" max	up to 13'-6"	over 13'-6" to 17'-6"	Any	Any	Any	Any
Width	15% length @ 4" waterline	22" @ 4" waterline	22" @ 4" waterline	Any	Any	Any	Any
Paddle	single paddle	double paddle	double paddle	double paddle	Any	Any	Any

In an effort to make the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta a race where the most skilled and conditioned contestant(s) have the greatest opportunity to win their division and not the contestant(s) with the "fastest" boat, the basic classifications of boats and equipment have been established. Additional specifications or restrictions may apply and will be applied/enforced on those competitors who place in any division. Enter the Unlimited class if your boat or number of contestants does not qualify for any other category as described above. Select the Non-Competitive class if entering "just for fun" and know that you will not be part of the official timekeeping. Questions concerning the correct class to enter should be directed to Buffalo Bayou Partnership by phone at 713.752.0314 ext. 101 or e-mail at info@buffalobayou.org prior to the race.