



Regatta

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Registration

- Registration will close at 11:59PM on Thursday, March 19, 2026. To qualify for advanced pick up of your race packet. Participants must register by 11:59PM on Monday, March 16, 2026. Participants who wait until race day to register at \$65 per person will be registered in the Non-Competitive class (see below).
- Minimum entry age for all divisions is 12. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on the boat and a waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Boat Rules

- Allowed boats are solo, two-person, and multi-person canoes and kayaks. Human muscle power propulsion only. See below for boat classes.
- **DISALLOWED BOATS:** Inflatable boats of any kind; rafts; stand-up paddleboards; outrigger canoes; boats with motors, or any boat that does not meet the specifications of any division.

Race Boat Classes and Boat Specifications

- **Non-Competitive Class: NEW FOR 2026** This division will be the first to start at 8:00AM. Please plan to be in the water 10 minutes before you start. 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.
- **Tandem Canoe and Team Sponsored Canoe:** Two-person canoes, may be made of aluminum, fiberglass, plastic, or wood construction, and must meet the length/width specs for the recreational class canoe (17'-6" max length). No carbon fiber hulls or Kevlar hulls are allowed in this class. No rudders. Single-blade paddles only. Carbon paddles are allowed.
- **Tandem Kayak:** Tandem kayak max length is 17'. Plastic, wood, or fiberglass hull, sit on top or sit inside. Rudders allowed. If your boat is made of carbon fiber or Kevlar, or is longer than 17' or is classified as a sprint K2 or tandem Surfski, enter Performance Unlimited.
- **Performance Unlimited:** Any boat with two or more people may enter this class. This class includes all tandem canoes longer than 17'-6". All tandem kayaks longer than 17', all tandem or multi-person boats made of carbon fiber or Kevlar, USCA C2, 18' Standard, Wenonah Sundowner, Jensen 18', and concrete canoes. Rudders allowed. Any human muscle-powered propulsion allowed.
- **Solo Unlimited:** Any solo boat may enter this class. This class includes solo canoes, boats made of carbon fiber and/or Kevlar, ICF K1, Surf ski, USCA C-1, and any solo kayak longer than 15'-6", regardless of hull material. Rudders allowed. Any human muscle-powered propulsion allowed.
- **Solo Kayak:** Solo kayak max length is 15'-6". Plastic, wood, or fiberglass hull, sit on top or sit inside. Rudders allowed. If your boat is longer than 15'-6" made of carbon fiber or Kevlar, or is classified as a K1 or Surfski, enter Solo Unlimited.

Race Day Rules

General and Start Area

- **NEW FOR 2026:**The Non-Competitive division will be the first to start at 8AM. Please plan to be in the water 10 minutes before you start.
- **NEW For 2026:** Competitive boats will not be allowed to go through the gate to the staging area until after 830 AM, in order to allow the 8 am start to clear the 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. Any participant found not abiding by these rules will be disqualified.
- All previous years' Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta race numbers should be removed from boats or securely covered to not be visible. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure the correct race number is unambiguously visible at the finish line. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- All participants will have in-water starts. Participants are allowed to enter the water at least 20 minutes before their designated start and wait for their start wave to be called.
- Any contestant crossing the start line before their designated start will be subject to disqualification.
- The Race Director has the right to remove and/or disqualify a participant due to inappropriate 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.
- Competitive participants not in the water by 9:30AM will be disqualified from the event.

Race Course

- General rules of sportsmanship apply to this event. Intentionally capsizing or damaging another competitor's canoe or kayaking, grasping, or pushing or pulling another competitor's boat or person during the race, with intent to harm or gain an advantage, will disqualify the offender. Participants may report infractions to the Race Director.
- Except for portages over channel obstructions. boats must remain in Buffalo Bayou during the race.
- 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 2PM, he/she must have cleared the Woodway Bridge by noon. Any participant not reaching Woodway by noon will be asked to take out at Woodway. A shuttle bus will bring you back to the start of the race to pick up your car.

Finish Line

- The finish line will be between two Finish flag markers on opposite banks as designated by the race committee and will be clearly visible to competitors.
- "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 racecourse.
- Any participant not crossing the finish line by 2pm will not be included in the official timekeeping.

Awards

- The top three finishers in each class will receive a trophy including men's, women's, mixed, and senior divisions. The winning team sponsor will gain possession of the BBP Regatta Cup for one year.

Severe Weather or Water 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.**