



Around the Island Race 2019 – Outrigger Canoe

Sunday 10 November 2019

Race and Safety Rules

These Race and Safety Rules, together with the '**Around the Island Race 2019 - Course Map and Instructions for Outrigger Canoe**' (available at www.atirhkoutrigger.com), govern all crews competing in the Around The Island Race 2019. It is mandatory that all paddlers read, understand and comply with these Race and Safety Rules. Please contact the Rowing and Paddle Sports Manager of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club if you have any queries (rowing.manager@rhkyc.org.hk).

The Around the Island Race 2019 – Outrigger Canoe is open to outrigger canoe clubs or organisations meeting the requirements of the Race Committee as set out below. No entry will be accepted unless all requirements are satisfied. IVF Race Rules will apply to all canoes in this race unless modified herein.

1) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All crews must meet the following criteria to be eligible to compete in the Around The Island Race 2019:

- a) Crews must submit completed Entry Form Application by the specified entry deadline date.
- b) Crews must submit Paddler Declaration and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk Agreements signed by each paddler by the specified entry deadline date.
- c) Crews must pay entry fee before the canoe is transported to the race start venue.
- e) At least one steersperson and the team captain for each participating crew must attend one of the race briefings before race day. The crew will be disqualified if a steersperson and the team captain do not attend the briefing.
- f) Crews must register a crew safety contact and mobile number with race Safety Officer. WhatsApp must be installed on the smartphone of the crew safety contact.

The Race Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application in its discretion.

2) RACE CATEGORIES AND PADDLER ELIGIBILITY

- a) Crews may enter in the following categories: Open (no more than 9 paddlers), Women (no more than 9 paddlers) and Mixed (no more than 10 paddlers, minimum 3 women in the canoe at any time). Minimum age of each paddler is 18 years of age



unless prior permission has been granted by the Race Director. The final crew roster must be submitted no later than **1200hrs on Saturday 3rd of November 2019**. No replacements will be permitted after the final crew roster is submitted.

- b) There will be two divisions of canoe in the Open and Mixed category - 'Unlimited' and 'Standard' (refer to 3 b) for division description). Womens category will be 'Unlimited' canoes only.
 - c) For a division and category to be eligible for a prize, a minimum of three crews must start the race. In the event a category and division does not have three crews entered, then crews in a 'Standard' canoe may elect to race in an 'Unlimited' division. The reverse will not be permitted.
 - d) The team captain, club captain and club coach of each crew are collectively responsible for ensuring that their paddlers are physically fit and capable of participating in a marathon canoe paddling event. If there is a uncertainty regarding a paddler's physical fitness, it shall be the team captain's responsibility to provide a medical clearance form and obtain the Race Committee's approval before the paddler enters the race. Team captains shall ensure that their paddlers are experienced in long distance canoe paddling and experienced in performing sea changes in an OC 6 canoe.
 - e) All paddlers must be able to swim a distance of at least 100m and tread water in paddling clothes for a minimum of 15 minutes. **Paddlers are advised to wear PFDs; those that choose not to wear a PFD acknowledge the additional risk they are taking.**
 - f) Each paddler must sign a Paddler Declaration and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk Agreement and Publicity Waiver prior to commencing the race.
 - g) Paddlers from different clubs may merge to form a crew, provided that each paddler must have written permission to merge from their respective club's designated representative. Paddlers must submit these same letters of permission to the Race Committee upon request.
- 3) **CANOE HULL, RIGGING AND EQUIPMENT**
- a) All canoes and rigging (including ama and iakos) must be of suitable construction for the event, able to withstand the water conditions likely to be experienced and be in good condition. The design is not specified beyond the expectations noted above and the specific requirements as noted elsewhere in these Race and Safety Rules.
 - c) An 'Unlimited' canoe may be of any construction type and weight. 'Standard' canoes are of traditional construction or in the nominal 200kg (400lb) weight class. The Race Committee will determine the category in which any canoe that does not fit within these guidelines will race.



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- d) No fins or keels will be allowed on canoe or ama in either 'Standard' or 'Unlimited' canoe divisions.
- e) Canvas 'skirt' or other similar covering on the canoe is **MANDATORY**.
- f) No sails or other artificial means of propulsion are permitted on the canoe.
- g) No mechanical means of bailing water out of a canoe are allowed in the 'Standard' canoe division.
- h) No foot support or braces of any kind are permitted inside the canoe. Non-skid materials are permitted.
- i) The following equipment **MUST** be carried within the canoe:
- Tow rope
 - One mobile telephone, the number of which has been registered with the Safety Officer before the race
 - 6 buoyancy aids which are ready to wear (refer 4a, below)
 - A minimum of three bailers
 - Safety bag including basic first aid kit
 - At least one (1) spare paddle
 - One whistle
- j) The following equipment must be carried on the escort boat or canoe (and easily accessible) during the race:
- Course Map
 - Spare steering blade plus any additional spare paddles (i.e. in addition to the mandatory additional paddle that must be kept within the canoe as mentioned above)
 - One signalling mirror
 - One small first aid box
 - Bottle of Vinegar or medicated wipes (for jelly fish stings)
 - Knife or tough scissors
 - Spare rigging rope and rubber
 - Duct Tape (in Zip-lock bag)
 - One light
 - **One smartphone in escort boat with WhatsApp installed.** The phone number must be registered with the Safety Officer on or before the safety briefing and tested by sending message to Safety Officer. The crew's designated safety contact must possess the smartphone and be accessible at all times.
- k) During the race, each crew shall have its assigned identification symbol permanently displayed on the starboard side of the bow of the canoe. The Race Committee will assign this identification.



- l) An inspection of all equipment used in the race may be conducted by a race official/ scrutineer at the start venue prior to the race.
- m) The Race Committee shall have the final discretion in approving or disapproving any entry, any canoe or any equipment.

4) WATER SAFETY

- a) Each crew must provide LSA/SOLAS or ISO (EN395 - 100N buoyancy, self righting - orequivalent) approved buoyancy aids for each person that boards their escort boat and each paddler in the canoe.
- b) Each crew is responsible for complying with all applicable Marine Department regulations and requirements.
- c) Each crew is responsible for assuring that each paddler, coach, helper and/or guest are water safe.
- d) Each crew must a) have a person holding a Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency in control of the escort boat and b) ensure that the steersperson for the crew is knowledgeable of the Rules of the Sea as they pertain to Victoria Harbour and approaches to Hong Kong.
- e) Each crew is responsible for providing basic first-aid supplies and has ensuring one member of the crew is qualified to use them.
- f) Each crew is responsible for providing adequate nourishment and liquids for all paddlers in the canoe and each person, on the escort boat.
- g) The Race Committee reserves the right to disqualify any crew if it determines that the crew is incapable of participating in, or finishing, the race within a reasonable time.
- h) In the event of a medical emergency: (1) STOP RACING and inform the Safety Officer about the emergency. The Race Committee may adjust the time if it is possible for the affected crew to resume the race. (2) with the help of the Safety Officer, assess the casualty's needs. The Safety Officer will provide directions to the crew on the rescue. It is critical that the crew safety contact follows the race Safety Officer's instructions at all times.

5) SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE

- a) Any signage used by a crew must be pre-approved by the Race Committee. The Race Committee reserves the right to remove any signage which is not in good taste or which adversely impacts the promotional rights of the race sponsors. The Race Committee will determine whether sponsorship signage on canoes, escort boats,



and the athletes themselves is permitted on a case by case basis, in its absolute discretion.

- b) Signage on a canoe must be between the two (2) iako of each canoe. Signage on escort boat may be in any place except starboard side of bow where the Race Committee requires placement of the assigned identification for each crew.

6) START OF THE RACE

- a) All canoes shall be ready to start before the time set for the beginning of the race at the designated start venue.
- b) The start of the race will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Race Director.
- c) No crew may start the race unless their escort boat is within 200 metres of the start line no later than five (5) minutes before the race start procedure commences. Each crew and escort boat must identify themselves to the race officials. If a crew's escort boat is not at the start line as the start procedure commences, the race officials will prevent the crew from starting the race until their escort boat arrives and identifies itself to the race officials. If this interferes with the start procedure, or any subsequent start procedures, the crew will receive a 15 minute time penalty and the crew may be disqualified. Any crew starting the race without an escort boat will be disqualified.

7) COURSE

- a) The course shall be that defined by the Race Committee, as presented in the "**Around the Island Race 2019 - Course Map and Instructions for Outrigger Canoe**" document.
- b) In general, a crew may follow any course to the finish line to circumnavigate Hong Kong Island, subject always to requirements of the Marine Department to stay on the appropriate side of all channel markers and subject to complying with the sections below.
- c) The Course Map will be provided at the race briefings to identify the course.

8) PADDLERS AND RELIEF PADDLERS

- a) There may be no more than (6) paddlers in any one canoe at any time during the race. Mixed crews must have a minimum of three female paddlers in the canoe at all times.
- b) Starting and relief paddlers may be used at the discretion of the coach.



- c) The first change of paddlers may not take place until after the first no change zone, rounding the point of Ap Lei Chau Island, past the eastern entrance to Aberdeen Harbour near Ocean Park, as marked on the Course Map.
- d) No changes are permitted near or across the western entrance to Aberdeen Harbour.
- e) No changes are permitted in Victoria Harbour. The entrance is marked by Green Island and the Sulphur Channel and the exit by the Lei Yue Mun channel as marked on the Course Map. There will be a mandatory change inside the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter (beside RHKYC Kellett Island). This will be a pit stop with a minimum of 5 minutes, allowing support boats to meet up with race canoes and change paddlers.
- f) No changes are permitted across the entry of a typhoon shelter, or within shipping lanes or fairways.
- g) Each canoe must finish the race with six (6) paddlers in the canoe.

9) SWAMPING OR OVERTUNING OF CANOE

- a) If a canoe swamps or overturns after the start of the race, the canoe may be righted and bailed out and will be permitted to continue in the race.
- b) Relief paddlers and additional qualified persons on an escort boat may assist in righting and bailing out a swamped canoe.
- c) The escort boat will standby and render any assistance to the swamped canoe but must not tow a swamped canoe in the direction of the finish line while the canoe is officially entered in the race.

10) ESCORT BOAT

- (a) Each crew must have one (1) escort powerboat to accompany them throughout the race. The escort boat assists in the retrieving of paddlers during the substitute changes.
- (b) The escort powerboat must be no more than 30ft in length and paddlers must be able to climb directly out of the water onto the main boat deck. A commercial junk may not be used as an escort powerboat. Junks may be used for additional spectators, however they must stay clear of the course and cannot interfere with racing competitors.
- (c) The escort boats must be licensed and bear a Marine Department number. If an escort boat does not have a number, it will be asked to leave the course, and the crew will be declared ineligible to race.**



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- (d) The escort boat must meet the minimum Marine Department requirements to carry passengers.
- (e) The escort boat must be equipped with two-way communications (in addition to the crew safety contact smartphone). Marine Band (VHF) Radio communication capable of receiving and transmitting on Channels 99, 96, 72, 77, 14 and 16 is preferred, but not compulsory. **Any crew whose escort boat does not have a working communication system registered with the race safety officer will NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.**
- (f) It is recommended that escort boats have a GPS on board.
- (g) For safety purposes, all escort boats must have a Marine Department approved carrying capacity to accommodate the relief and support crew of the canoe being escorted in addition to the crew and passengers of the escort boat itself, along with the Marine Department required equipment.
- (h) All escort boats are required to carry a minimum liability insurance coverage required by the Marine Department.
- (i) Each escort boat skipper must hold a valid Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency in accordance with Marine Department regulations.
- (j) Each escort boat skipper will ultimately be responsible for the safety of their own crew and any relief paddlers and supporters on board the escort boat. Crew captains and steerspeople must listen to the escort boat skipper's instructions.
- (k) Each escort boat skipper must comply with the requirements of the 'Notes for Support Drivers', which will be circulated at the race briefing.
- (l) Each escort boat must follow behind its assigned canoe throughout the race, except for swamped and overturned canoes. An escort boat may not come alongside or ahead of the canoe except for during the transfer of relief paddlers, supplies, or in the case of an emergency.
- (m) At no time will an escort boat deliberately cause a wake to assist their own boat or interfere with another canoe. Escort boats cannot block or cause a wake to approaching canoes in the race.**
- (n) At all times, escort boats must maintain a safe distance from canoes and other boats..
- (o) Canoes in the race always have the right-of-way over escort boats.
- (p) Escort boats will pay attention to the special traffic instructions for the crew change inside the Western Cargo Basin at Kellett Island. Failure to abide by these instructions may result in disqualification of your crew.
- (q) Coaching and directing from the escort boat is permitted.
- (r) Escort boats cannot be used to transport any articles to a canoe. However, any qualified person may pass refreshments or other articles to a canoe from the water.



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- (s) The Race Committee may refuse to allow a crew to participate where it considers the escort boat to be overcrowded, or not meeting the Marine Department requirements or is otherwise unsafe.
- (t) Minors are not permitted on escort boats.
- (u) The Race Committee may approve or disapprove of any vessel used as an escort boat in its absolute discretion.

11) FINISH LINE

- a) Relief crew members and crew members on the escort boat must follow the instructions of the Race Officials while unloading gear off escort boats. Crews should keep the pier clear and must remove off-loaded gear in a quick and timely manner to ensure everyone's safety.
- b) Crews on the escort boat must be ready to disembark quickly at Middle Island pontoons. Escort boats are NOT permitted to be secured at the pontoons.
- c) Escort boats must not to stop or anchor in the area in front of the Middle Island Clubhouse as this may damage submerged cables or interfere with the safe passage of canoes.

12) PROTESTS

- a) Protests must be lodged in writing to the Race Director within 30 minutes of the last crew finishing (or withdrawing) from the race.
- b) In the event of a protest, a Protest Committee will be formed at the end of the race. The Protest Committee will be comprised of the Race Director, Safety Officer, the Rowing and Paddle Sports Manager and two other suitably experienced RHKYC members not otherwise involved in the protest.
- c) The Protest Committee will meet with the complainant and with any other witnesses relevant to the protest. An adjudication will be issued on the day of the race.
- d) The Protest Committee may issue any penalty for infractions of these Race and Safety Rules that it deems appropriate, including (but not limited to) time penalties and disqualification.