

Etiquette When Racing Outrigger Canoes (OC6s).

This document is to provide information and guidance to crews how are new to racing OC6 events, especially races that are considered “Iron” events.

Access to OC6 canoes

- 1) Many races, especially Iron events, do not provide canoes for crews. In Iron events, there is usually one heat of men, one heat of women and one heat of mixed (which sometimes runs with a gendered group). As such, many clubs need their own canoes for their own crews. If you or your club can not provide you with a canoe for racing, do not assume the host club will. Most crews are responsible for securing their own canoes at these types of events.
- 2) Races that are shorter or have multiple heats, may provide canoes to canoes as part of their race grid, but it is up to the registering team to confirm this with the host club.
- 3) Clubs which loan canoes to other crews may ask for a rental fee or even may ask for assistance with the trailering costs. This should be discussed in advance and the agreement made prior to race day. Especially in International Racing, the general practice is that some token of appreciation is provided.
- 4) The club loaning you their canoe is loaning you something very dear to them. It is the crew/sterns responsibility to care for that canoe, to ensure that it is not damaged due to negligence or irresponsible behaviour, including poor choices taken during racing. Any incidents that might involve canoe damage are to be reported to the loaning club immediately so they can assess integrity of the canoe and any costs associated with the damage should be borne by borrowing crew.
- 5) Do not assume that your canoe will be “ready to race” when you receive it from the loaning club. If you do not know how to lash or rig a canoe, tell them in advance and ask them for assistance with this. It is not their responsibility to ensure the canoe will be to your specifications. You will be expected to rig/lash or at least participate in the effort. This also goes for loading/unloading canoes off of trailers.
- 6) If your plans change, and you no longer need access to a borrowed canoe, you should be responsible enough to inform the loaning club. Loaning a canoe, especially trailering one, takes energy, time and money. You should be responsible for this commitment and if you can't make the event, tell the loaning club in advance.

Racing and Preparations

- 7) It is the coaches or crews (captain) responsibility to ensure they read the registration documents for the event carefully. Race directors take effort to point out expectations and provide information that will make registration and racing less stressful.
- 8) Sterns need to attend the stern meeting. It is critical to understanding any changes to the event.
- 9) If you are new to racing, read the CORA Race rules to understand some of the basic rules and requirements for racing.
- 10) Remember that most Race Directors and the host club are volunteering their time and efforts. Pay attention to their racing policies regarding protests and huli recoveries. If you

have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to ask the Race Director but do so in a polite manner since the job they have is not easy and race day is exceedingly stressful.

Racing

- 11) It is important that new sterns/crews do not inadvertently block the race start line for other canoes. It is critical that sterns STEER their boat and not try to command the crew and potentially loss control of it in close quarters.
- 12) If you are not accustom to racing in a pack, you should consider starting outside the main group of canoes.
- 13) Understand that as canoes get closer together, they tend to be attracted to each other, and the primary role of the stern is to steer their canoe safely and avoid collisions and mishaps at all costs (this includes "holding your crew" if collision is imminent).
- 14) Do NOT barge or block an overtaking crew. This is against the rules. This is a difference between "covering your line" and blocking an overtaking canoe. Learn the difference. If a canoe is overtaking you, are do not need to give up your line, but you can not interfere with their ability to overtake you.
- 15) Understand the rules regarding going around buoys or larger obstacles in distance racing. There are rules governing who has right of way going into and out of turns. The turn of a race is NOT an opportunity to cut off, cut in or cause canoes to loss control of their lines. Sterns should talk to each other if they are in close proximity to ensure that it is understood who had right of way and the turns are without incident.
- 16) Hitting another canoe purposefully is against the rules and a collisions (on purpose or not) can cause injury to paddlers and damage to expensive canoes. Collisions should be avoided at all costs.