

Trinity River Challenge Official Rules

1. Definitions

a. Recreational Division

Kayaks

Recreational Kayak: any single kayak, sit on top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 16' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 22".

Sea Kayak: any single kayak with a maximum overall length of 18' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 8.5% of length with bulkheads and hatches fore and aft.

Touring: Any single kayak with a maximum overall length of 20' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 18".

Tandem Kayak: Any double kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski with a 4" waterline beam of at least 22".

Additional rules for both single and double kayaks

Flip up rudders not included in the length.

Recreational Kayak may be made of any material.

No hull modifications.

Kayaks may be paddled with either a single or double bladed paddle.

Pedal Driven Kayak – Any Solo kayak as described above, but equipped with a pedal propulsion drive. ONLY the pedal drive may be used although a paddle must be carried for safety

Canoes

Canoe: Any solo or tandem canoe with a maximum overall length of 18' 6", and minimum width of 15% of the overall length (overall length x .15) measured with 12" fore or aft of the center point of the canoe made of any material.

Additional rules for both Canoes

Rudders of any kind are not allowed.

No hull modifications.

Canoes must be paddled with a single bladed paddle, EXCEPT that any paddler age 50 and over may use a double blade paddle if paddling solo.

b. TCRA

C1: Any solo canoe with a maximum length of 18' 6" and a maximum width of 14 3/8 % of the overall length (length x .14375) at the 4" water line measured within 12" of center of the canoe (fore or aft).

The minimum height at the bow will be 15 inches and the minimum depth 10 inches.

The canoe may be made of any material.

The canoe may not have a rudder of any kind.

The must be paddled with a Single Blade paddle

Any kind of people powered bailer is allowed.

C2: Same as C1 above.

K1: Any solo kayak with a maximum length of 17'2".

Must be paddled with a double blade paddle.

Can be made of any material.

Must be completely decked / spray skirts not required.

Steering rudders allowed.

Any kind of people powered bailer is allowed.

K2: Any tandem kayak with a maximum length of 21' 4".

Must be paddled with a double blade paddle.

Can be made of any material.

Must be completely decked / spray skirts not required.

Steering rudders allowed.

Any kind of people powered bailer is allowed.

Unlimited: Any TCRA boat with more than two paddlers OR:

Exceeds the maximum dimensions in C or K classes.

Any C class boat, which has a rudder of any kind or races with a double blade paddle.

There is no restriction on the number of paddlers allowed.

Any paddle is allowed.

All boats must carry one PFD for each occupant of the boat. It is recommended, but not required that they be worn.

c. Boat/ Award Class Breakdown

Recreational Classes

Whitewater / Small Recreation Kayak – Any Recreational Kayak as described in section a, with a maximum length of 10’.

Recreational Kayak - Any Recreational Kayak as described above with a Minimum length of 10’ 1” and a Maximum length of 16’.

Sea Kayak – Any Sea Kayak as described in section a.

Touring Kayak – Any Touring Kayak as described in section a.

Tandem Kayak – Tandem Kayak as described in section a.

Pedal Driven Kayak – Any Solo kayak as described above, but equipped with a pedal propulsion drive. ONLY the pedal drive may be used although a paddle must be carried for safety

Tandem Canoe – Any canoe as described in section a, which is paddled by two persons, except aluminum canoes.

Tandem Aluminum Canoe – Any Aluminum canoe as described in section a, which is paddled by two persons.

TCRA Classes

C1 – As described in boat definitions.

C2 – As described in boat definitions.

K1 – As described in boat definitions.

K2 – As described in boat definitions.

Unlimited - As described in boat definitions.

Specialty Classes

Pedal Driven Kayak - As described in boat definitions.

Recreational Age Classifications

The racers age on race day will be used to determine then age class in which they will compete. The age classes for recreational paddlers are as follows;

Junior - All persons under 18 years of age.

Junior/Adult - One person under 18 years of age, one person 18 years of age or older.

Adult - All persons 18 to 39 years of age.

Master - All persons 40 to 59 years of age.

Senior - All persons 60 or more years of age

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Adult - All persons 18 to 39 years of age

Master - All persons 40 or more years of age

Race Divisions

Co-ED - Men and women race in same division.

Special Awards

The Brian O. Lisle Trophy - Given for the fastest time of all entries.

The Julie Basham Trophy - Given for the fastest time by a female paddler in a recreational class.

The G.E. Rounsefel Trophy - Given for the fastest time by a male paddler in a recreational class.

Age Group Awards - The boat turning in the fastest time with all persons in Junior, Junior/Adult, Master or Senior age classes, win a trophy.

In tandem crews where the age groups are mixed, the crew races in the YOUNGER age group. For Example;

A crew with a 21 year old (adult) and a 71 year old (senior) crew, races as adult.

A crew with a 61 year old (senior) and a 40 year old (master) crew, races as Master.

Junior Race – There will be two new classes that will run a 5.5 mile race starting from the Start Finish Line to the I35 E bridge and back. The two classes will be.

- A. **Junior Tandem Canoe** – Tandem Canoe (see boat definitions) with two paddlers 16 years of age or under.
- B. **Junior/Adult Tandem Canoe** – Tandem Canoe with one adult paddler and one Junior 10 years of age or under OR one adult paddler 55 years of age or older and one paddler under 16 years of age.

2. Official Race Rules

NOTE- Official Rules can be subject to change without notice. The Race Chairman can, at his discretion,

- 1. Combine / delete race classes that are not full (less than 3 entries)**
- 2. Change the turn around Cutoff Time.**
- 3. Make changes to timing and class setup.**
- 4. Create incentives to increase event participation.**

Registration

On Site Registration will open at 6:45 am on race day and close at 9:15 am. No additional registrations will be accepted from anyone not present at the registration table at 9:15 am.

Each registrant must completely fill out and sign the race application and liability waiver.

Registrants will be given a number printed on a water resistant backing, which must be placed on the left side of the forward paddler (in the case of a tandem) or the boat so it can be clearly seen at the turn around and the finish line by the judges. It may be affixed in any fashion that does not obscure the numbers.

Any boat that has a number that is not clearly visible to the finish line judges may be disqualified.

Once the registration packet has been picked up the racer should go to the designated staging area for his or her boat type and check in with the Harbor Master.

The Harbor Master will check each boat to make sure that it is registered in the correct class and meets the specifications for that particular class of boat as defined in Section 1.

The Harbor Master will make a colored mark on the white section of the Racer Number if the boat is correctly classed.

No boat will be allowed to enter the water or participate in the race until a Harbor Master has approved it. The Harbor Master's decision on any boat classing issue is final.

Pre Race Rules/Safety Meeting

All races must gather at the boat ramp at 9:30am for a pre race meeting. The basic ground rules of the racecourse, how the race will be started, the location of safety team members and any other information crucial to the safe running of the race will be discussed.

Racecourse

The Trinity River Challenge start / finish is the concrete boat ramp at McInnish Park in Carrollton. The recreational race course is 5.9 miles upstream to turn around a buoy at the Hebron Parkway bridge and return to the start / finish line at McInnish Park. The TCRA race course is 10.0 miles upstream to turn around a buoy at the Business 121 bridge and return to the start / finish line at McInnish Park.

Cancellation of Race

The race will be cancelled if:

The flow on USGS River Gauge 08055500 Elm Fk Trinity Rv nr Carrollton, TX is over 1000 cfs. This rule may be modified if more than 30% of the gauge volume is being added by Denton Creek.

The race is run rain or shine, but will not be started during a thunderstorm. If storms pass by 11:30am the race will be started, provided the rainfall has not raised the river level above the cancellation point.

Starting the Race

Start Order

The race will be conducted in three group starts;

First Group – All USCA racing boats

Second Group – All Recreational Kayaks

Third Group – All Recreational Canoes (tandem, solo or aluminum).

The start order may be changed depending on number of entries, weather conditions or at the discretion of the race management.

Warm Ups

Warm ups will be permitted until 9:15am. After 9:15am, all racing boats must be out of the water and in their respective staging areas.

Any boat found in the water between 9:15am and the official call to the boat ramp for that racer's boat will be disqualified.

Start Time

Racers in the first group should be prepared to go to the boat ramp by approximately 9:40am. Subsequent groups should be ready as the previous group starts the race.

Each boat must be checked off by number at the boat ramp before being launched.

All boats must stay within 75 yards of the starting line and be visible to the Official Race Starter and timing judges after being launched.

Once all boats are launched, the Official Starter will call all boats to the starting line and begin the race for that group at a time of his or her choosing.

During The Race

The Safety Team will control race traffic once the race is started. They will be stationed along the way with cold water and first aid gear. They will also be positioned at any potential hazards. Be prepared to follow their direction.

All boats must carry one PFD for each occupant of the boat. It is recommended, but not required that they be worn.

The turnaround checkpoint of the race is at the Hebron Parkway overpass. Race judges and the sweep team will be stationed here to verify that all boats reach this point before turning around.

All race results are subject to verification that the checkpoint was actually reached. It is imperative that the judges at the checkpoint are able to see every racer number.

Racers who are not verified by the checkpoint judges receive a DNF (did not finish) and are ineligible for any race awards.

If the flow of the river is 150cfs or less all boats must turn around at the Hebron Parkway bridge checkpoint within 2 hours of their start or be disqualified. At that time, the sweep team boats will launch from Hebron Parkway Bridge to collect racers, who did not reach the turn around buoy. That way, everyone will be back at start / finish in time for lunch and awards ceremony.

If the flow of the river is above 150cfs, but less than 600cfs, the 2 hour rule is waived automatically.

The race Chairperson may also waive the rule at his discretion due to excessive high temperatures, winds or any other factor that may present itself.

Based on information provided by the Harbor Masters, Safety Team or Race Judges, the race Chairperson may disqualify any racer for:

Unsportsmanlike Conduct on or off the river
ANY intentional contact with another boat
Failure to Follow Safety Team Directions
Failing to Pass the Hebron Parkway Checkpoint
Not Properly Displaying Racer Number

Finishing the Race

Racer numbers must be plainly visible to the judges and timing officials when the boat crosses the Finish Line.

Racers should proceed directly to the boat ramp from the Finish Line. A Harbor Master must verify the racer number with the timing officials before releasing the boat from the ramp.

Uncorrected racer times will be posted by boat number. Timing Officials will provide deduction from race start to calculate actual time based on when each group started.

Timing officials will begin calculating winners as soon as 60% of all entered boats have crossed the finish line and either the Hebron Parkway checkpoint reports all boats have passed the halfway point or 1 hour and 30 minutes has passed since the start of the final group.

Awards

Awards will be presented to First, Second and Third place for each class, age group or special award.

Specialty Classes will only receive awards for their own class and no be figured into age or special awards.

They will be presented as soon as winners have been determined for each award type.