

Rules & Safety

Rules

Life Jackets (PFDs) and whistles

1. Each contestant is REQUIRED to have a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved PFD **in their possession and easily accessible** while on the water during the entire event. Insurance requirements specify **USCG** approval of all PFDs: *Non-USCG-approved PFDs, such as Mocke life jackets and most Canadian Coast Guard approved life jackets do not meet this event requirement **and their use in place of USCG approved PFDs is grounds for disqualification.***

- **A PFD must be worn** by all non-swimmers, and by all participants under the age of 14.
- Race officials **may require ALL participants to wear** their life jackets if, in the race officials' opinion, water level, wind, temperature, or other conditions require it – regardless of class or skill.

2. All craft must carry a whistle or sounding device.

Behavior on the water

3. **No alcohol or illegal drugs.** The use of alcohol is **prohibited** on the water during the entire event and is of danger to the user and other participants. The use of illegal drugs is **prohibited** on or off the water.

4. **No interference with other participants, no unsporting behavior.** Any behavior that impedes the passage or safety of other boats on the river, such as forming rafts (boats linked together), or ramming, or otherwise deliberately interfering with another craft's progress, and any other unsporting behavior is **prohibited.**

5. **No starting before the official starter starts your heat.**

6. **Following a race official's instructions.** All instructions given by any race official must be followed.

7. **Competing in a craft not appropriate to your registered class** is prohibited. A change of boat class can be made at the registration tent.

8. **Leaving the race course at one location and reentering at another** is prohibited.

9. **Pulling out of the race.** If you have to abandon the race you must call the hot line within 20 minutes of pulling out, to give your boat number, names, and the location where you pulled out. (This is important to avoid diverting safety resources.) Failure to do so may result in our unwillingness to allow you to participate in next year's event.

Participants under age 16 and under the age of 10

10. **Paddlers under the age of 16 must be monitored (shadowed) throughout the entire Marathon or Minithon** by a competent paddler, 18 or older in the same boat or an accompanying (partner) boat. The 18+ paddler must be able to provide needed assistance and be able to arrange for alternate transportation via the radio crew at any bridge crossing.

11. **Any participant under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a competent paddler, 18 or older,** in the same boat. Of course, Adult-Youth Class registrants will automatically fulfill this requirement.

Severe Weather, Flooding, Race Cancellation, Interruption

12. If severe weather, including high water, is forecast in the days leading to the race, check the website Home Page for any cancellation notice. If the race is underway and a severe weather warning is issued, officials at the bridges will require participants to get off the river. If the weather allows safe return to the water, the race can be completed. The total elapsed time, including any delay, will be used for

award purposes. In the event of cancellation, participants will receive a T-shirt (if pre-ordered,) a patch, and a voucher for a portion of next year's entry fee.

Deadline for the End of the Event

13. The event finishes at 1 p.m. All craft should be off the water by 1 p.m. If you are still on the water at 1 p.m. you must inform race officials no later than 1:30 p.m. by calling the race hotline with your boat number and names. Failure to do so may result in our unwillingness to allow you to participate in next year's event. Note: your participation – and your insurance coverage – in the Save the Tygart Canoe & Kayak Race – ends at 1 p.m.

Waivers

14. All participants **MUST** sign a waiver of liability. Each contestant under the age of 18 is required to have a parent or guardian's signature on their waiver of liability. **No entry will be accepted without a signed waiver form.** Waivers may be signed electronically through the online registration procedure. A paddler registering a team will sign online on behalf of him/herself and any minor for which he/she is responsible. Other adult team members will receive an email prompting them to sign the waivers electronically. Waivers, whether electronic or printed, not received by Race Day must be completed at the Start Line registration tent of the race.