

STEELCASE THE DRAGON RUN COMPETITION RULES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules that govern the way of running the STEELCASE DRAGON RUN.

LANGUAGE

The English written language is the only acceptable language for all official communications relating to these Competition Rules. For the sake of consistency, British spelling, punctuation and grammatical conventions have been used throughout. Any word that may imply the masculine gender also includes the feminine.

Abbreviations:

COMPETITOR: Male or female competitor

CATEGORIES: Surfski single (SS-1), Surfski double (SS-2), OC single (OC1), OC Double (OC2).

CHAPTER I -

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1

DEFINITION OF CANOE and SURFSKI

In canoe and surfski Ocean Racing, the competitor races over a designated course on open water or the open sea. The Events are reserved for craft as defined in Chapter II. The competitor must take the water as it is found, with an emphasis on testing competitor's abilities to use challenging water conditions to their advantage.

2

CLASSES

2.1 Races may be run in the following Outrigger Canoe and Surfski Classes (singles and doubles; 24km and 10km distances):

- Open Men 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-50 Men 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over 60 Men 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Open Women 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-50 Women 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-60 Women 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Mixed: SS-2, OC2 24km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Open Men 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-50 Men 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over 60 Men 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Open Women 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-50 Women 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Over-60 Women 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2
- Mixed: SS-2, OC2 12km: SS-1, SS-2, OC1, OC2

CHAPTER II -
CLASSES AND BUILDING RULES

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LIMITATIONS

3.1 There are no length or weight limitations for surfski construction.

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TRADEMARKS

4.1 The guidelines for any advertising material carried on the clothing and equipment of paddlers should be as follows:

- a. The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks will not be accepted.
- b. All advertising material should be placed in such a way that it does not interfere with competitors' identification and does not affect the outcome of the race.
- e. All advertising material used should be in accordance with the Steelcase Hong Kong Dragon Run Athletes Standards and Requirements (provided at the mandatory safety briefing in advance of the race).

Competitors are responsible for their own equipment.

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CONSTRUCTION

5.1 All the crafts shall be boats which the competitor sits on with one watertight compartment, and Self-bailing.

5.2 The shape, construction method, materials used and steering mechanisms are without restrictions.

5.3 All the crafts shall have one hard point provided near the cockpit for attaching a leash.

5.4 All openings into the hull larger than 12mm in diameter (drain and vent holes) must be fitted with a cover that is mechanically fastened in place.

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MEASURING AND INSPECTION

6.1 The dimensions of the surfski do not need to be measured. Inspection shall be limited to hull openings and their closure methods and the presence of hard point suitable for attaching a leash.

CHAPTER III -
ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

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OFFICIALS

7.1 the Steelcase Dragon Run shall be held under the supervision of the following officials:

- Race Director
- Technical Director
- Race Convenor
- Starter(s)
- Aligner
- Course Umpire
- Finishing Line Judge(s)
- Timekeeper(s)
- Boat Scrutineer
- Safety Officer
- Announcer
- Press Official

7.2 One person may function in two or more of the above positions.

7.3 The competition will be managed by a Competition Committee, made up of:

- Race Director
- Technical Director
- Safety Officer

7.4 The Competition Committee shall:

7.4.1 Organise the competition and supervise its arrangements;

7.4.2 In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out or finish the competition, postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held, or abandon the competition, or, if the competition has already begun, abandon or reschedule the competition;

7.4.3 Hear any protests that may be made and settle any disputes that may arise;

7.4.4 Decide on matters concerning disqualification in cases where the regulations have been broken during the competition. The decision of the Committee shall be based on the present Rules.

7.4.5 Before any decision is made regarding an alleged infraction of the rules, hear the opinion of the officials who are in control of the race, if it is felt to be of importance in clearing up the alleged offence;

7.4.6 The Competition Committee may disqualify any competitor who behaves improperly or who by his or her conduct or speech shows contempt towards the officials, other competitors or onlookers.

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DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

8.1 The race (chief) officials shall carry out the following duties, where applicable:

- The Race Director shall decide all matters arising during the actual contests, which are not dealt with in these rules.

- The Technical Director is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition.
- The Race Convenor is responsible for recording the results and preparing lists of prize-winners. He or she must keep the minutes of the proceedings of any protest meetings. He or she must provide the Press Official with all necessary information regarding the running of the event or the results.
- The Starter decides all questions concerning the start of the races, and alone is responsible for decisions as to false starts. He or she must see to it that the starting signal equipment is in working order. The starter must order the competitors to their places and carry out the start in accordance to the Steelcase Hong Kong Dragon Run Rules. The language used shall be English. The starter's decision is final.
- The Aligner is responsible for bringing the boats to the starting line with the least possible delay. The language used shall be English.
- The Course Umpire shall ensure that during a race the rules are complied with. If the rules are broken, the Umpire shall report the infraction to the Race Director, who, in turn, shall refer it to the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee shall then decide whether any of the competitors concerned shall be disqualified, or not. The Course Umpire shall appoint officials to supervise the control points along the course.
- The Finishing Line Judges decide the order in which the competitors have crossed the finishing line. They shall be placed at the finishing line. If the judges differ regarding the placing of two or more of the competitors, a simple majority shall decide the disagreement. In the case of equal voting, the Chief Judge shall exercise a casting vote. The decision of the judges is final.
- The Timekeepers are responsible for recording the times. Before each race the Chief Timekeeper shall establish that the time-keeping equipment is working satisfactorily.
- The Boat Scrutineer shall ensure that the boats, equipment, clothing and advertising conform to the Steelcase Dragon Run Racing Rules. Should any not fulfil the race requirements they will be excluded from the competition.
- The Embarkation Marshall confirms that the boat and equipment have been approved by the Boat Scrutineer he/she confirms that the boat, equipment and clothing of the competitor meet the requirements of the competition regulations and, when satisfied, dispatches the boats, in the appropriate order, to the Aligner.
- The Safety Officer is responsible for advising the Competition Committee on the safety measures necessary, and for seeing that these are taken.
- The Announcer, on the instructions of the Race Director, announces the start of each race, the order of starting, and the placing of the competitors during the race. After the race is finished he or she will announce the results.
- The Press official will supply all necessary information to the representatives of the press, radio and television, on the race and its progress. The Press Official is therefore authorised to seek this information from the

various officials, who must provide, as quickly as possible, copies of the official results.

9

RACE MARKERS

9.1 Race markers (start line, finishing line and other course markers) will be explained in the race instructions.

10

CRAFT AND PERSONAL NUMBERS

10.1 All craft shall carry a number, which shall be attached to the craft as instructed by the race organiser. Marking must be set up in order to recognise the boats on the starting line and on the course. This procedure is for the safety and identification of the craft.

10.2 Craft should be marked on the port side with a number, letters or a combination of the two. The markings should be in a contrasting colour to that of the craft or be printed on a contrasting background.

10.3 The whole of the number must be visible on the first 50 cm of the craft. Personal numbers may be provided by the organisers and shall, if required, be placed on the back and / or front of the competitor. The title or main sponsors name may be shown with the personal numbers.

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RACE INSTRUCTION

11.1 The following information shall be posted or distributed to team leaders at least 5 hours before the beginning of the competition:

- a) Detailed information on the course(s) and their markings;
- b) Starting time(s) and procedures;
- c) Starting line;
- d) Finishing line;
- e) Competitor's racing number;
- f) Obligatory safety equipment requirements;
- g) Transport arrangements for boats and competitor, if being provided by the organisers.

CHAPTER IV –
RACING REGULATIONS

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MEANS OF PROPULSION

12.1 Ocean Racing shall be propelled solely by means of one double bladed pair of paddles per occupant or one single-blade for canoes per occupant. The paddles may not be attached to the boats in any way while being used, except by a safety leash that is kept slack at all times while paddling.

12.2 The use of kites and sails are prohibited.

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START

13.1 The start line shall be clearly indicated, with the marks described to the competitors in the race instructions.

13.2 The start line should be long enough to allow all competitors to line up alongside each other. When this is not possible, seeded paddlers should be allowed places in the front row.

13.3 The start signal audible to all racers, may be a blast of a whistle or horn, a shot from a start gun or a shouted word “go”. The start signal shall be described in the race instructions.

13.4 A start with flag signal can be used if the conditions don't allow an audible signal.

13.5 Competitors shall be at the start at the time specified in the racing programme.

The start shall be given without reference to any absentees.

13.6 The start will be as fair as possible, allowing all competitors an equal chance. The type of start will be selected according to prevailing conditions and local customs.

Starting procedures may be, but are not limited to those described below:

- **Stationary Water Start**

The competitors shall position themselves so that the bows of the competing craft are behind the start line. The boats must be stationary.

- b) **Rolling Water Start**

Where strong wind or currents render a stationary start difficult, a rolling start may be used, the boats being allowed to drift or paddle slowly towards the start line with a view to crossing on the signal. The start line may be fixed or be between two boats that are moving, usually upwind.

13.6 In all cases paddlers shall be called to the water at least ten minutes before the scheduled start

13.7 The following procedures will apply for the respective starts:

a) Water Start

The starter shall ensure all craft are stationary behind the starting line as appropriate. When the starter is satisfied that the competitors are aligned correctly and are stationary he or she shall call "Ready" followed by the start signal (a shot, horn blast, whistle blast or the word "Go").

b) Rolling Start

The competitors shall move towards the start line slowly, aligned with each other as best as possible. When the competitors are approximately 10 metres from the start line, the command "Ready" shall be called. When the starter is satisfied that the craft are correctly aligned and that no competitor will obtain any undue advantage as a result of the start, he or she shall give the start signal (signal (a shot, horn blast, whistle blast or the word "Go").

c) False start

If a competitor moves forward after the word "Ready" and before the start signal, he or she has made a false start.

A competitor who attempts to start before any instruction is deemed to have made an unfair start.

A competitor who attempts a false or unfair start will be warned.

A second warning will result in the imposition of a two-minute penalty.

A third warning will result in the competitor's disqualification from the event.

A disqualified competitor must leave the water immediately.

d) False start (rolling start)

If a competitor commences paddling after the word "Ready" and before the start signal is given, he or she has made a false start. An immediate time penalty of two minutes shall be imposed upon the competitor making a false start.

13.8 Any penalty imposed under this rule shall be notified to the offending competitor, or to a paddler's team Leader of the offending competitor, by the Technical Director. Whenever possible, advice of any time penalty shall also be given to the offending competitor(s) at the first available opportunity.

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URNS

Marks shall be rounded as described in the race instructions.

15

GROUP RACING AND SLIPSTREAMING

15.1 When competitors are racing in a group, it is the duty of all the competitors in the group to keep clear of each other at all times. This rule applies to any manoeuvring within the group and while slipstreaming. Inadvertent contact between craft should be avoided.

15.2 The organisers may prohibit slipstreaming between competitors in different categories and / or classes. Notice of any limitations to slipstreaming should be published in the race instructions. Single craft may not slipstream a double craft in same or different category.

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COLLISION OR DAMAGE

16.1 The International Navigation rules will apply in full. In particular, note that it is every competitor's responsibility to avoid a collision, whether they have right of way or not and all action necessary shall be taken to avoid a collision.

16.2 Any competitor who is considered by a course umpire or race official to have been responsible for a deliberate collision, or who deliberately damages the craft or paddle of another competitor may be disqualified.

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CHECK POINTS

Competitors may be required to land ashore or pass through checkpoints for safety or other reasons, at points designated by the race organisers.

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ASSISTANCE

18.1 A competitor may not be accompanied along the course or assisted in any way by other craft not entered in the event or by any vessel (e.g. motor boat).

18.2 Any outside help (food, coaching, and navigation) is prohibited during the competition.

18.3 Assistance from a boat outside of the competition (motorboat, sailboat, rowing boat etc.) may lead to the disqualification of the competitor.

18.4 Private boats must not obstruct competitors during a race. If a relationship can be established between a competitor and an unofficial boat, which obstructs an opponent, the competitor will be disqualified.

18.5 In the event of capsizing during the race, a competitor may be helped by another contestant. A competitor will be disqualified only if he/she uses the safety devices set up by the organisation of the race or the assistance of another boat outside the racing committee.

18.6 A competitor suffering from a lower-body handicap may, by prior agreement from the Race Committee, receive assistance at a beach start or at a check point, from designated helpers, provided no advantage is received as a result of such assistance and provided the competitor leaves or is lifted from his or her craft before the helpers carry the boat.

18.7 No exchange or substitution of craft is permitted during the race, even with other competitors from the same team.

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SAFETY MEASURES

19.1 All competitors shall wear a flotation device approved by the race committee from before the start until after the finish of every event.

19.2 Each competitor shall carry hydration on their person or attached to their craft, that is deemed sufficient by the safety officer for the duration of the event.

19.3 All competitors shall wear a leash (approved by the organisers) attaching the competitor or paddle to their craft.

19.4 All competitors should carry a whistle.

19.5 All competitors should carry a cell phone.

19.6 All competitors to carry a navigation aid, which will be provided by the Race Officials.

19.7 Any competitor failing to observe the safety requirements shall be refused the right to start. If they have started he or she will be disqualified.

19.8 Every official is required to observe that the safety measures are being adhered to, and to prevent boats or competitors from starting or continuing if they fail to meet the requirements laid down in the race instructions.

19.9 Ocean Racing may involve participants in dangerous situations. It is a requirement that any competitor, seeing another in real danger shall render all assistance in his or her power. Failure to do so may involve disqualification. Time bonuses based on actual delays can be awarded to any competitor providing assistance to a fellow participant.

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FINISH

20.1 The finish line will be between two marks described in the race instructions, either afloat, on the shore or both. A competitor or team is deemed to have finished when the bow of their craft crosses the finish line, or the upper body of the athlete if the finish line is on shore.

If two or more boats cross the finish line at the same time, they will be awarded a tie.

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DISQUALIFICATION

21.1 Any Competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than honourable means, or who breaks the racing regulations, or who disregards the honourable nature of the racing regulations will be disqualified for the duration of the race concerned.

21.2 Should a competitor have completed a race in a craft that is shown upon inspection, or other requirements as described by the organisers, he or she shall be disqualified from the race in question.

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PROTEST

22.1 A protest against the right of a competitor to take part in a race shall be referred to the Chief Official not later than one hour before the start of their race.

22.2 A protest made during a competition relating to an incident in the race must be addressed to the Race Committee and handed to the Race Director not later than one hour after the last of the competitors involved in the incident have completed the course, or if forced to retire, one hour after the retirement has been reported to the organiser.

22.3 The organisers shall be permitted to commence issuing preliminary results and carry out award ceremonies after one third, or the first three, whichever is the greater, of the competitors of the class have completed the course, or their retirements notified to the organiser.

22.4 All protests shall be made in writing and be accompanied by a fee of US100 (or an equal sum in the local currency) the fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

22.5 The decision of the Competition Committee is final.

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INFORMATION

23.1 After the ending of all Racing Competitions one copy of the results, protests and appeals will be uploaded to the event website.

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AWARDS

The Competition Committee gives the awards in the form of medals, trophies or “gift” awards, as deemed appropriate.