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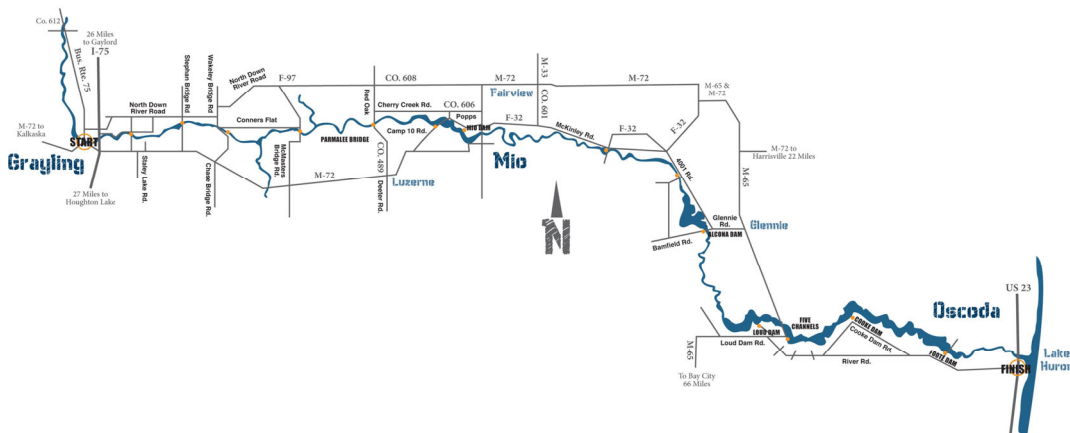
78TH ANNUAL

# AUSABLE RIVER CANOE MARATHON



# 2026 PADDLER'S BOOK

**RACE RULES & ENTRY INFORMATION**



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## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

The name of the organization that plans and runs the AuSable River Canoe Marathon is AuSable River International Canoe Marathon, Inc. (ARICM, Inc.). ARICM, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the State of Michigan, and officially recognized by the City of Grayling and the Townships of Oscoda and AuSable.

The mission of ARICM, Inc.'s volunteer organizing committee is to:

- ◆ Organize, promote, and expand the annual AuSable River Canoe Marathon;
- ◆ Generate positive public exposure of the communities in the AuSable River Valley;
- ◆ Increase public awareness of our unique natural resource which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations: The AuSable River.

Grayling Committee	Committee Role	Oscoda Committee
Amy Martella Michelle Millikin Yvonne Schreiber Karen Martella Suzanne Schlachter Kate Reitz	<b>Co-Chairperson</b> <b>Vice Co-Chairperson</b> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Secretary</b> <b>Board Member</b> <b>Board Member</b>	Kathy Erickson Justin Griffith Mike Stephenson Jennifer Jackson Ryan Matthews Mikayla Erickson
Camren Money Kristina Brown John Sullivan	<b>Board Alternates</b>	Chris Lovelace Kathy Lott Sarah Clouse

ARICM, Inc. is comprised of a Grayling Committee and an Oscoda Committee, which coordinate the implementation of ARICM, Inc.'s mission throughout the AuSable River Valley.

## WHAT IS THE AUSABLE RIVER CANOE MARATHON?

The AuSable River Canoe Marathon, a.k.a. "The Marathon", is a non-stop canoe race that starts at night with a thrilling LeMans-style running-start to the river in Grayling, MI, and ends 120 miles later near the shores of Lake Huron in Oscoda, MI. Contestants must navigate the narrow, winding upper stretch in total darkness, as well as stump-filled ponds, and the blazing July sun in the lower stretch.

This race is not a recreational canoe float, but a professional, ultra-competitive race with the very best professional paddlers from around the world. Contestants must be in peak condition in order to complete the race in the allotted time, and to endure the grueling and strenuous physical and mental strains The Marathon demands of the paddlers.

## RACE HISTORY: HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The idea for the original Marathon developed over a cup of coffee at Si 'n Gerts Restaurant in Oscoda, in 1947. Howard Brubaker, then president of the Oscoda Chamber of Commerce, was brainstorming with Frank Davis. Davis was then the executive manager of the Eastern Michigan Tourist Association (EMTA), and they were at the all-night truck-stop restaurant trying to come up with an idea for a tourist draw to the area after Labor Day. A canoe race was suggested, and the two men decided they would check with Grayling, Roscommon, and Mio along the AuSable River to see if it was feasible. Brubaker agreed to make the contacts, and found officials along the way more than interested.

All agreed that a trial run should be made, but they could not rustle up volunteers to make the trip. Brubaker teamed up with Percy Jocks, in a 17-foot Old Town canoe, and launched the run personally. They wanted to see, first of all, if it could be done, how long it would take, and if the canoes could move at night. They launched from Grayling on a Monday morning, around 9:00 A.M., and did not arrive in Oscoda until Wednesday afternoon; the test run took them 31 hours of paddling. Brubaker said, "at Mio, I was ready to throw in the sponge." He and Jocks ran into a heavy thunderstorm, and the pup tent they slept in one night collapsed on them. They were tipped over by a sweeper (a limb from a tree), and after the run was over, it took a full week to recuperate. "It was very rugged," he said, "but we knew it could be run." After the trial run by Brubaker and Jocks, a meeting was held in Mio on April 22nd, 1947, by members of the EMTA, discussing the planning of the First Annual Michigan Canoe Championship. The first race was held September 6th & 7th, 1947, and the race would eventually come to be known as the AuSable River Canoe Marathon. Brubaker became General Chairman for the first race and sponsored a team for the first ten years.

## NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE, SPONSORS, & SUPPORTERS

Together, Consumers Energy and AuSable River International Canoe Marathon, Inc. (ARICM, Inc.) work to promote and expand the sport of canoe racing, generate positive public exposure of the AuSable River Valley, and increase public awareness of this unique natural resource while helping to protect it for future generations.



### A MESSAGE FROM AMY MARTELLA

*ARICM, Inc. Co-Chairperson*

As Co-Chair of the Consumers Energy AuSable River Canoe Marathon, it is my honor to welcome paddlers, volunteers, sponsors, and fans to another unforgettable year of one of the greatest endurance races in the world.

The 2026 theme, “World’s Toughest Spectator Sport,” perfectly captures what makes this race so special. The AuSable River Canoe Marathon is more than a race. It is tradition, community, perseverance, and passion woven together by countless people who dedicate themselves to preserving and growing this incredible event. From longtime marathon families to first-time spectators, every person who takes part becomes part of the story.

On behalf of the entire Marathon Committee, thank you to our racers, volunteers, and local communities for continuing to support this iconic event. We look forward to another remarkable year celebrating the spirit, grit, and excitement that make the AuSable River Canoe Marathon truly the “World’s Toughest Spectator Sport.”

We will see you on the river!



### A MESSAGE FROM KATHY ERICKSON

*ARICM, Inc. Co-Chairperson*

As we prepare to kick off the 78th Consumers Energy AuSable River Canoe Marathon, I am deeply excited and incredibly grateful to be a part of this magnificent event.

Each year that I volunteer my time to the ARICM, I am continually amazed by the dedication and commitment of our committee members. Everyone works tirelessly to ensure we host an event that our paddlers, sponsors, and community can truly be proud to support.

As Co-Chair, I have witnessed many positive changes over the past several years, and I remain proud to continue supporting a race that means so much to me personally. Although I have never competed as a paddler, my profound respect and admiration for all of you who challenge this grueling course is what keeps me motivated to improve the race experience each year.

Good luck to all the competitors this year—I look forward to seeing you in Oscoda!



### A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD CASTLE

*Consumers Energy Community Affairs Manager for Northeast Michigan*

Welcome paddlers and those attending from around the globe!

Consumers Energy is once again a proud sponsor for the 78th annual AuSable River Canoe Marathon, THE signature competitive canoe race held in northeast Michigan. It doesn’t matter if you are a seasoned veteran or a rookie, the “World’s Toughest Spectator Race” is sure to create great memories for all taking the plunge into the AuSable River.

Best wishes for another amazing and safe event for the paddlers, their teams and spectators who are rooting them on 120 miles from Grayling to Oscoda.

I look forward to seeing you on the River!

## ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY FEES	
Team Entry or Team Change <u>Received</u> on or before the <b>Early Entry Deadline</b> date listed in the Event Schedule	\$250 USD per team
Team Entry or Team Change <u>Received</u> on or before the <b>Main Entry Deadline</b> date listed in the Event Schedule	\$350 USD per team
Team Entry or Team Change <u>Received</u> before 11:59 P.M. EDT on the <b>Late Entry Deadline</b> date listed in the Event Schedule	\$450 USD per team
Team Change <u>Received</u> before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) EDT on the <b>Final Deadline</b> date listed in the Event Schedule	\$450 USD per team
Please make checks and money orders payable to: AuSable River Canoe Marathon	

- The Official Entry List is updated on our website at [www.ausablecanoemarathon.org](http://www.ausablecanoemarathon.org). Please visit the site to confirm your entry has been received and to check your scheduled Time Trial starting time. A team's entry won't be posted until both paddlers have completed the entry application and signed the waivers.
- All Marathon entry applications and fees must be received by the Late Entry Deadline at 11:59 P.M. To meet the deadline, the entry application must be complete, including the paddler profile, and signed by both contestants.
- Teams are required to race as indicated on their entry form.
- **No Initial Team Entries will be accepted after the Late Entry Deadline.**
- A change of team members will require a newly completed and signed entry application and will be subject to the new entry fee, based on the new date received. Each contestant will be credited half of the original entry fee for re-entry. Please refer to Race Rules Section 1. **No Team Change Entries will be accepted after the Final Deadline.**
- There will be **no refund** for entry withdrawals.
- The Marathon Committee reserves the right to reject any entry.
- Participants/guardians will be required to sign a release and insurance forms during (mandatory) contestant check-in prior to the event. Participants are encouraged to check-in as early as possible during race week. Pre-race check-in will be available beginning a week before the Marathon, at the Grayling City Park Pavilion, during the Spike's Challenge sprints.
- During check-in, each entrant receives paddler support items including a competitor's shirt and entrance information to Sunday's Post-Race Awards Banquet. Every paddler that finishes the course under 19 hours will qualify for Finisher's Prizes.

## MARATHON SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Safety of paddlers is a prime concern during the grueling 14-19 hour race along the 120+ mile course of the AuSable River. Beginning at 9:00 P.M. Saturday in Grayling with a LeMans start, the narrow twisting upper stretches are paddled in darkness. Several hours later are the backwater ponds and six hydro-electric dam portages before reaching the Finish Line in Oscoda between 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on Sunday.

This race is challenging and should be attempted by only those who are conditioned, experienced paddlers. Paddlers will need a knowledge of the river, a light source for night paddling, and a support team to provide food and fluids. Please make arrangements for your feeders well in advance! The race committee is not responsible for providing feeders. A designated support team captain, two USCG-approved (Type I, II, or III) inherently buoyant lifejackets/PFD's, and two pea-less signaling devices are mandatory. All required equipment must be in the canoe at the Official Canoe Inspection, and throughout the duration of the race.

Several cut-off points as outlined in the Race Rules have been established (see Race Rules Section 8). Paddlers unable to reach a given point within the allotted time will be disqualified and asked to leave the river. Safety protocols include race officials established along the race course with portable communication equipment to alert emergency personnel if necessary.

## ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Check-in at the Grayling Race Office before their respective deadline, Wednesday through Friday of Race Week. Optionally, contestants may check-in during the Spike's Challenge at the Grayling City Park Pavilion as noted on the **Event Schedule**. Available check-in times are listed on the **Event Schedule**. See the "Event Check-In" section below.
- Be on-time and present for the **Pre-Race Briefing** on Friday of Race Week, as noted on the **Event Schedule**.  
**Attendance is MANDATORY! DO NOT BE LATE!!**  
**NOTE:** Only contestants and their team captains will be allowed into the area for the Briefing.
- Be on-time and present for the **Introduction of Marathon Paddlers** on Race Night during the Pre-Race Program, located at the Old AuSable Fly Shop.

Teams which do not attend required events listed above are subject to a penalty (see Race Rules).

## EVENT CHECK-IN

**PLEASE NOTE:** All contestants must check-in prior to the Contestant Check-In Deadlines listed in the **Event Schedule**. Available check-in times are listed in the **Event Schedule**.

**(A)** Contestants scheduled to do their Time Trial during Wednesday of Race Week, must check-in before the Wednesday Contestant Check-In Deadline.

**(B)** Contestants scheduled to do their Time Trial during Thursday of Race Week, must check-in before the Thursday Contestant Check-In Deadline.

**(C)** Contestants scheduled to do their Time Trial during Friday of Race Week, must check-in before the Friday Contestant Check-In Deadline.

**(D)** Contestants who fail to check-in by their respective deadline (refer to A, B, & C above) will be assessed an additional fee of \$200 USD, and granted a two-hour extension to check-in. Any contestants who fail to check-in by their respective extended deadline will be disqualified. Refer to Race Rules Section 2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Volunteers with the AuSable River Canoe Marathon typically have several assignments during Race Week. Your cooperation and consideration on the timeliness of your appearance for check-in, Time Trials, Canoe Inspection, the Pre-Race Briefing, the Introduction of Paddlers, and other required events will enable our volunteers the greatest opportunity to complete their assigned tasks, and is much appreciated.

## IMPORTANT: PRE-RACE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

If a team withdraws prior to the Late Entry Deadline, and one of the original team members enters with a new partner, a credit equal to 50% of the original entry fee will be applied to the new entry.

If a team withdraws prior to the Late Entry Deadline, and both of the original team members enter with new partners, a credit of 50% of the original entry fee will be applied to each of the new entries.

The rule will be followed by the Marathon Committee without regard to which of the original team members paid the original entry fee. This rule pertaining to partner changes is limited to one change per person. Any new entry is subject to the rate in effect on the date of the new entry (See Race Rules Section 1).

Paddlers wishing to withdraw and re-enter should contact the Marathon Committee prior to completing a new entry application. Please use [registration@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:registration@ausablecanoemarathon.org) to contact the Committee about entry registration or Pre-Race Withdrawals.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

⊛ = Mandatory for All Paddlers

★ = Mandatory for Paddlers with Time Trial Scheduled That Day

### MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

**Early Entry Deadline**

### MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026

**Main Entry Deadline** [Teams entered on or before this date will be included in the ARCM Spectator Guide]

### FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

12:00 P.M. — **Deadline for Listing or Changing Canoe Sponsors**

### SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. — **Registration for Curley Memorial C-2 Canoe Race @** Cooke Dam, Oscoda

9:00 A.M. — **Start of the Curley Memorial C-2 Canoe Race @** Cooke Dam, Oscoda

### SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

8:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. — **Registration for Curley Memorial C-1 Canoe Race @** Children's Park, Au Sable

10:00 A.M. — **Start of the Curley Memorial C-1 Canoe Race @** Children's Park, Au Sable

### MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

**Late Entry Deadline** [No new ARCM Entries will be accepted after this deadline!]

### SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In @** Grayling City Park Pavilion (During the Spike's Challenge Sprints)

### MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

12:00 P.M. — **Final Deadline** [No team changes will be accepted after this deadline!]

### TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. — **Registration for Da\$h For Ca\$h @** Finish Line Park, Oscoda

5:15 P.M. — **Da\$h For Ca\$h @** Finish Line Park, Oscoda

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In @** The Grayling Race Office

★ 2:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In Deadline** (For teams with a Wednesday Time Trial)

★ 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. — **Time Trial Sprints for Starting Position @** Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling  
(Official measuring of canoes is available during Time Trials)

### THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In @** The Grayling Race Office

★ 2:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In Deadline** (For teams with a Thursday Time Trial)

★ 3:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. — **Time Trial Sprints for Starting Position @** Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling  
(Official measuring of canoes is available during Time Trials)

6:00 P.M. — **C-1 Express Race @** Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling

## EVENT SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

⊛ = Mandatory for All Paddlers

★ = Mandatory for Paddlers with Time Trial Scheduled That Day

### FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

- 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In @ The Grayling Race Office**
- ★ 12:00 P.M. — **Contestant Check-In Deadline** (For teams with a Friday Time Trial)
- ★ 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. — **Time Trial Sprints for Starting Position @ Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**  
(Official measuring of canoes is available during Time Trials)
- 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. — **Official Canoe Inspection and Sequestration @ Grayling Middle School**  
(Canoes must be measured at Penrod's before the Canoe Measuring Deadline on Friday!)
- 2:45 P.M. (Approx.) — **Special Olympics Event @ Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**
- ⊛ 4:30 P.M. — **Official Canoe Measuring Deadline @ Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**
- 5:30 P.M. — **Doors Open for Pre-Race Briefing @ Kirtland Community College**
- ⊛ 6:00 P.M. (Sharp!) — **Official Marathon Pre-Race Briefing @ Kirtland Community College [Don't Be Late!]**  
(\*\*Only Paddlers and their team captains will be allowed into the area for the Briefing\*\*)

### SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

- 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. — **Official Canoe Inspection and Sequestration @ Grayling Middle School**  
(Canoes must be measured at Penrod's before the Canoe Measuring Deadline on Friday!)
- ⊛ 12:00 P.M. — **Canoe Sequestration Deadline**
- 6:00 P.M. — **Pre-Race Program Begins @ Old AuSable Fly Shop, Grayling**
- ⊛ 6:45 P.M. — **Introduction of Marathon Paddlers @ Old AuSable Fly Shop, Grayling**
- 7:00 P.M. — **Canoes Released From Sequestration @ Grayling Middle School**
- ⊛ 8:30 P.M. — **Deadline to Pick-up Canoes From Sequestration @ Grayling Middle School**
- 8:45 P.M. — **Drawing for the ARCM 50/50 Raffle @ Old AuSable Fly Shop, Grayling**
- ⊛ 8:50 P.M. — **Deadline for Canoes to Lineup On the Starting Lines @ Peninsular Ave, Grayling**
- ⊛ 9:00 P.M. — **Start of the AuSable River Canoe Marathon @ Peninsular Ave, Grayling**

### SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

- 10:30 A.M. — **Pre-Finish Program Begins @ Finish Line Park, Oscoda**
- 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. — **Finish of the AuSable River Canoe Marathon @ Finish Line Park, Oscoda**
- 2:30 P.M. — **Drawing for the ARCM Racing Canoe Raffle @ Finish Line Park, Oscoda**
- 6:00 P.M. — **Post-Race Awards Dinner @ Richardson Elementary School (near Oscoda High School)**

### MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

- 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. — **Paddlers Breakfast @ AuSable Inn, Oscoda**

**NOTE:** Paddlers who do not attend Mandatory Events or fulfill Mandatory Deadlines, as listed in the Event Schedule and elsewhere in the Paddler's Book, are subject to a penalty (See Race Rules).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ◆ **Online Registration** — All teams must use online registration; paper entry forms are no longer available. Please see the Registration page on the Marathon website for details. Please contact the race committee for any questions or assistance.
- ◆ **Cell Phone Signal** — Please be aware that for most cell phone carriers, cell phone signal is very limited or unavailable along the AuSable River Valley. Please plan accordingly.
- ◆ **Race Rule Updates**
  - Rule 4.2 has been updated. This rule was updated to fix a typo in the 4x32 table.
  - Rule 4.8 has been created. This rule was created to clarify a commonly asked question.
  - Rule 5.2 has been updated. This rule was updated to reflect a change in Committee procedures.
  - Rule 6.3 has been updated. This rule was updated to clarify the penalty enforced.
  - Rule 6.5 has been created. This rule was created to clarify the penalty enforced.
  - Rule 8.2 has been updated. This rule was updated for clarity.
  - Rule 10.5 has been updated. This rule was updated for clarity regarding the Code of Conduct in Section 11.
  - Rule 10.6 has been updated. This rule was updated for clarity.
  - Rules Section 11 has been updated throughout. This section was updated for the Code of Conduct.
  - Rule 12.3 has been created. This rule was created to clarify procedures for pre-race withdrawals.
  - Rule 15.2 has been created. This rule was created to clarify an asked question.
  - Rule 16.1 has been updated. This rule was updated for teams that receive their checks at a later date due to USADA testing.
  - Rules Section 17 has been created. This section was created for the Clean Sport Initiative.
  - Rule 20.6 has been created. This rule was created to clarify procedures for breaking a tie in sprint times.
  - Rules 20.20 & 20.21 have been created. These rules were created to clarify commonly asked questions.
  - Rules 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 20.22, 20.23, 20.24, 20.25 have been renumbered.
- ◆ **Parking at Foote Dam** — Due to construction taking place at Foote Dam, there will be no feeder or spectator parking allowed in the parking area next to the dam. Feeders will be able to park alongside Rea Rd and walk across the dam to the portage area via a designated path. Please plan feeds and pit stops accordingly as parking along Rea Rd will be congested. More information will be announced at the Pre-Race Briefing.
- ◆ **Hill Stairs at Five Channels Dam** — The stairs down the embankment hill at Five Channels Dam will not be mandatory in 2026, and teams will be able to portage down the grass. Please note the stairs at the top of the portage (the take-out) will still be mandatory. More information will be announced at the Pre-Race Briefing.
- ◆ **Post-Race Awards Dinner Location** — Due to summer renovations at the Oscoda High School, the location for the Post-Race Awards Dinner will be at Richardson Elementary School, located adjacent to the Oscoda High School football field. Please be aware that this building is not air conditioned.
- ◆ **Checks for Prizes and Bonuses** — Contestants will have 90 days after the check issue date to cash checks for prizes and bonus awards. After that date, uncashed checks will no longer be valid.
- ◆ **USADA Anti-Doping Testing** — Starting in 2026, the ARCM Committee has contracted with USADA to perform anti-doping testing. For more information, please visit <https://www.ausablecanoemarathon.org/paddlers/clean-sport/> and refer to Race Rules Section 17.
- ◆ **Rookie Teams** — Typically, rookie teams are contacted by a race volunteer to discuss the challenges of the race before the team's entry is accepted by the committee. Please note that this can cause a delay for rookie teams being posted to the Official Entry List on the ARCM website.
- ◆ **Canoe Inspection Deadline** — Starting in 2026, please be aware that all canoes must be initially measured and inspected before the end of the Time Trials on Friday. Canoe measuring will no longer be available before noon on Race Day. If a team's canoe fails inspection on Friday, the race committee, on a case-by-case basis, will be in contact with that team to make arrangements for a re-measuring and/or re-inspection of the canoe.
- ◆ **Pre-Race Contestant Check-In** — Starting in 2026, Contestant Check-In will no longer be available on Monday or Tuesday of Race Week. Since very few teams checked-in during those days, we are eliminating those check-in days to give time for race volunteers to perform other tasks.
- ◆ **Contact the Committee** — The email address [urgent@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:urgent@ausablecanoemarathon.org) will be created for paddlers to contact the committee regarding any issues or questions that arise during Race Week pertaining to the race.

## ASSOCIATED EVENTS

### WEYERHAEUSER TIME TRIAL SPRINTS FOR STARTING POSITION

**Presented by Home Waters Real Estate & Paddle Hard Brewing**  
**Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Race Week — Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**

Marathon teams paddle a timed, looped course to determine Marathon starting positions for Saturday night's LeMans-style start. One canoe will be released onto the course at designated intervals. Be sure to select your preferred Time Trial sprint slot on the Entry Form.

**NOTE:** You do not have to use your Marathon canoe in the Time Trials; however all canoes must meet specifications and may be measured prior to the Time Trial. An official measuring of your Marathon canoe is available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons at the Time Trials. ALL canoes must still pass the official inspection before being sequestered.

### CONFLUENCE HYDRO DA\$H FOR CA\$H

**Presented by Gilbert's Drug of Oscoda & Kalitta Air**  
**5:15 P.M. Tuesday of Race Week — Finish Line Park, Oscoda**

The Da\$h For Ca\$h is a bracket-style, single elimination event. Teams will be competing for a part of a \$5,000+ prize pool! Sprints are scheduled to start at 5:30pm and will be held in approx. 2-3 minute intervals until a champion is crowned. Prize money will be handed out following the final sprint, and paddlers must be present to collect their prize.

Check-in and registration for the Da\$h for Ca\$h will be held at Finish Line Park from 4:00pm until 5:15pm. Teams are positioned on the bracket via random draw at 5:15pm. The event is free to enter for paddlers registered for the Marathon, and the cost is \$20 per person for non-Marathon-entrants.

For more information, please visit the Marathon website.

### C-1 EXPRESS RACE

**Presented by Dead Bear Brewing Co.**  
**6:00 P.M. Thursday of Race Week — Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**

The C-1 Express Race is a C-1 event open to the general public. Racers line-up in the river at Penrod's Canoe Rental, and race to the river-end of Burton's Landing Road, approx. 6 miles downstream.

Event registration is held from 2:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Thursday of Race Week at Penrod's Canoe Rental. The entry fee is \$15.00.

The drawing for starting position will take place approx. 5:45 P.M. at Penrod's Canoe Rental. Prize money will be distributed at the finish line at Burton's Landing.

For more information, please visit the Marathon website.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENT

**Sponsored by Grayling Knights of Columbus**  
**2:45 P.M. Friday of Race Week—Penrod's Canoe Rental, Grayling**

Marathon Paddlers and Special Olympians! It's a Marathon Tradition since 1993! Sign up through the Grayling Race Office. Awards await each Special Olympian participating with a Marathon paddler on a brief, looped river course.

The deadline for entering the Special Olympics event is 2:00 P.M. Wednesday of Race Week. Please do not plan to participate in the event if your scheduled Official Time Trial is after 2:15 P.M. Friday of Race Week. Participants are expected to check-in for this event at 2:30 P.M. and are asked to stay for the awards presentation. If you paddled in this event last year and would like the same Special Olympian partner, please let the committee know as soon as possible.

**Be a part of the fun!**



**Let me win,  
 But if I cannot win  
 Let me be brave  
 In my attempt**



## PRIZES

North America's Richest Canoe Race! Over **\$75,000** In Cash & Prizes!

CASH PRIZES			
Pos.	Prize (USD)	Pos.	Prize (USD)
1st	\$6,000	26th	\$480
2nd	\$4,000	27th	\$460
3rd	\$2,900	28th	\$440
4th	\$2,300	29th	\$420
5th	\$1,700	30th	\$400
6th	\$1,500	31st	\$380
7th	\$1,400	32nd	\$360
8th	\$1,300	33rd	\$340
9th	\$1,200	34th	\$320
10th	\$1,100	35th	\$300
11th	\$1,050	36th	\$290
12th	\$1,000	37th	\$280
13th	\$950	38th	\$270
14th	\$900	39th	\$260
15th	\$850	40th	\$250
16th	\$800		
17th	\$750		
18th	\$700		
19th	\$650		
20th	\$600		
21st	\$580		
22nd	\$560		
23rd	\$540		
24th	\$520		
25th	\$500		

Finishers from 41st position will receive Finisher's Prizes only; no cash prizes

Over **\$20,000** in Finisher's Prizes to be awarded to AuSable River Canoe Marathon Finishers

**NOTICE!! - Contestants have 90 days after the check issue date to cash checks for prizes and bonus awards!**

Checks for Bonus Prizes are mailed to the appropriate contestants after the race results have been reviewed and declared official.

BONUS DIVISION PRIZES			
<b>Women's</b> (Two Female Paddlers)		<b>Masters</b> (Both Paddlers 40+ Years Old)	
<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>
1st	\$350	1st	\$250
2nd	\$200	2nd	\$150
3rd	\$150	3rd	\$100
<b>Mixed</b> (One Male, One Female Paddler)		<b>Seniors</b> (Both Paddlers 50+ Years Old)	
<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>
1st	\$350	1st	\$250
2nd	\$200	2nd	\$150
3rd	\$150	3rd	\$100
<b>Rookie</b> (Both Paddlers' 1st Marathon)		<b>Veterans</b> (Both Paddlers 60+ Years Old)	
<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>
1st	\$250	1st	\$250
2nd	\$150	2nd	\$150
3rd	\$100	3rd	\$100
<b>All-Michigan</b> (Both Paddlers Live In Michigan)		<b>Youth-Adult</b> (One Teenager, One 35+ Years Old)	
<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Prize (USD)</b>
1st	\$250	1st	\$250
2nd	\$150	2nd	\$150
3rd	\$100	3rd	\$100
<b>NOTE:</b> Seniors & Veterans teams do not qualify for the Masters Bonus. Veterans teams do not qualify for the Seniors Bonus.			

### LEADER'S BONUS — SPLIT TIMES

For each of the official timing checkpoints (excluding the Oscoda checkpoint), the team with the fastest split time wins \$50. In total, \$700 is awarded.

### LEADER'S BONUS — POINT-TO-POINT TIMES

For each of the official timing checkpoints (excluding the Burton's Landing checkpoint), the team with the fastest point-to-point time wins \$50. In total, \$700 is awarded.

### BREAK THE RECORD BONUS

If the winning team in the Marathon breaks the current time of 13:54:09, the team will be awarded a **\$1,400** bonus, to be increased annually by \$100 until broken.

### HARRY CURLEY PADDLE TO THE FINISH AWARD

In 1972, a resolution by the Michigan state legislature honored Harry Curley for his tireless and decades-long efforts for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, giving him the title of "Mr. AuSable Canoe Race."

In the spirit of Harry's famous quote, "the team that comes in last has paddled just as far and just as hard as the first," the last finishing team will be awarded \$120.

## CANOE SPONSORSHIP

### TEAM SPONSORS

Each team may list a maximum of two sponsors on their entry form. Sponsors listed on the entry forms that are received by the **Main Entry Deadline** will be used in the Spectator Guide and Paddler Introductions.

The deadline for listing or changing team sponsors is listed in the **Event Schedule**. Sponsor changes or additions after this time will not be acknowledged by the race committee. Be sure to have your sponsors listed by these dates.

### FINDING YOUR OWN SPONSOR

When speaking to a prospective sponsor for your team, inform them they will receive the following:

1. Team Sponsors listed on entry registration forms before the **Main Entry Deadline** (up to two) will be published in the **ARCM Spectator Guide** (15,000+ copies printed, and distributed throughout the AuSable River Valley and various spots in Michigan).
2. Two sponsors for each team will be announced at the Time Trials.
3. Two sponsors for each team will be announced during the Pre-Race Program.
4. Two sponsors for each finishing team will be announced at the Finish Line.
5. If you have secured your sponsorship, there are vendors in Grayling and Oscoda that can supply you with sponsorship lettering for your canoe.

*It is safe to say that tens of thousands of Marathon fans will hear or read your sponsor's name over the course of the event!*

### RACER SPONSORSHIPS

Generally, competing teams are expected to recruit their own sponsors for the Marathon. A limited number of \$100 paddler sponsorships will be made available by the volunteer organizing committee to teams which are unable to solicit their own sponsor. Priority is given to out-of-state teams.

Teams should request sponsorship assistance from the committee only as a last resort and only if they have ***NO*** other sponsors. If a team requests and accepts sponsorship support that has been arranged by the organizing committee, that is to be the only sponsor(s) for the team, otherwise the team will forfeit the committee-arranged sponsorship support.

Requests by qualified teams for sponsorship assistance should be made to the organizing committee in writing as soon as possible by emailing the race committee.

### EMMETT WEILER YOUNGEST PADDLER GIFT

In 2023, the Weiler family established the *Emmett Weiler Youngest Paddler Compensation Gift*.

Each year, the entry fee of the youngest paddler entered in the Marathon will be paid back to the paddler by the Weiler family to honor the memory of their son and grandson, Emmett Michael James Weiler. The Weiler family has been involved with the Marathon for over 40 years, and wishes to celebrate and recognize the youth paddlers who are so important for the growth of this great race, while helping to keep Emmett's memory alive.

## ETIQUETTE

### RESPECT AND SHARE THE AUSABLE RIVER

Respect & Share the AuSable River when practicing on the AuSable for the Marathon or any other race, please practice common courtesy and respect nature. Let wading fishermen know that you are approaching; pass quietly and disturb the fishing as little as possible. If you ask them, they will generally let you know where they'd like you to pass (usually behind them).

When practicing at night, use a white or red light to let the fisherman know you are coming. Contact one of the local fishing shops to find when fishing traffic will be busiest and try to plan your run to avoid the busy periods (this time will change throughout the season).

Please do not disturb log jams and "sweepers" (the trees hanging low over the river), they are important parts of the AuSable River ecosystem. Trimming of these natural structures is illegal and gives the river unnaturally clean, straight flow that inhibits plant, insect, and trout growth.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION OF PADDLERS

This is a mandatory event for Marathon paddlers, held at the Old AuSable Fly Shop. Teams are lined up in reverse-starting order, and are released one team at a time. Teams walk the boardwalk in front of the race fans gathered at the starting line, while they are announced to the crowd by the Pre-Race Program announcers. The Introduction of Paddlers provides the race fans an opportunity to celebrate their favorite paddlers, and it provides the competitors an opportunity to shine in front of the race fans and recognize them as the stars of the event.

### POST-RACE AWARDS DINNER

All registered Marathon paddlers are invited to attend the Post-Race Awards Dinner in Oscoda. In lieu of tickets, a list of all registered paddlers will be at the door, and attendees will check-in at the door for the dinner.

The cost of entry is free for registered Marathon paddlers. The cost of entry for non-paddler attendees (such as spouses or feed team members) will be announced at the Pre-Race Briefing. Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are not permitted on school property.

**Cash and/or credit cards will be accepted for payment for non-paddler attendees.**

### ARCM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As part of an effort to be more proactive within our communities, the ARICM, Inc. Marathon Committee created a scholarship fund in January 2017. Our goal is to award four scholarships each year as follows:

- ◆ A graduating senior from Crawford AuSable (Grayling) High School
- ◆ A graduating senior from Oscoda High School
- ◆ A graduating senior from Mio-AuSable High School
- ◆ A Marathon paddler who is currently pursuing a degree or enrolled in a trade school—OR—a graduating senior who is the child or grandchild of a past or current Marathon paddler.

Academic performance is considered; however, the primary selection criteria is involvement in school and community activities. The scholarship recipients will be announced during the Opening Program in Grayling and the Finish Line Awards Dinner in Oscoda. The recipient's name and school attending will be printed in a congratulatory message in the Marathon Spectator Guide. Each recipient will also be invited to the Marathon VIP areas. For more information, please visit the Marathon website.

## USEFUL INFORMATION [CONTINUED]

### CHECK-IN PACKET AND BRIEFING PACKET CONTENTS

The following are lists of items that are typically included in each packet for the paddlers. These contents are subject to change.

**Check-In (Registration) Packet** — Given out at Contestant Check-in during the Spike's Challenge sprints or during Race Week:

- ◆ One set of canoe numbers
- ◆ A Competitors shirt for each paddler
- ◆ List of Mandatory Marathon Events
- ◆ List of Important Information
- ◆ C-1 Express Registration Form
- ◆ ARCM Scholarship Information
- ◆ List of Competition Committee members

**Briefing Packet** — Given out at the Pre-Race Briefing:

- ◆ Starting Position Card (to assist the line-up for the Introduction of Paddlers)
- ◆ Six (6) Feeder Wristbands
- ◆ Two (2) Feeder Parking Passes
- ◆ Parking Pass information
- ◆ Portage Information
- ◆ ARCM Cut-Off times
- ◆ Memo to teams/feeders (if needed)

### CANOE NUMBERS

In an effort to assist race officials and spectators in identifying teams, especially during night paddling, a uniform system of canoe numbers was established in 2002. The numbers consist of a single decal sheet applied to each side of the canoe on the bow. The design of the decals include the title sponsor's logo, and will be applied directly over any canoe number currently on your canoe. The material will be designed for easy removal after the Marathon. Any alteration to the canoe number decals without permission from the Competition Committee will result in a penalty (see Race Rules).

All teams are to have a clear space at the bow [approx. 20" long] from the gunwale to the waterline on both sides of the canoe. This space is for the canoe number decals, the inspection decal, and other promotional stickers as required by the Race Committee. To ensure that the canoe number decals properly adhere to the canoe, please do not apply a waterproofing wax, polish, or other coating to that area of the bow. See Race Rules Section 4.

Teams entering by the Early Entry Deadline may request a specific canoe number. Every effort will be made to accommodate such requests, however, assignment of the requested number cannot be guaranteed. Only the numbers from 00—125 will be assigned (unless the total number of teams exceeds that number).

Active members of the Michigan Canoe Racing Association (MCRA) are generally given first priority for use of their MCRA number in the Marathon. Marathon paddlers who have used a specific canoe number in recent years are generally given second priority. However, there are exceptions to these general guidelines and the ARCM Race Committee has the final say regarding canoe number assignments.

Teams should not print shirts or other fan support items until their canoe number has been assigned and verified by the Marathon committee, and posted on the Official Entry List on the ARCM Website.

The canoe number decals are to remain on the canoe until the completion of the race. If a canoe number decal begins to peel off the canoe during the race, the Support Team Captain should contact a race official or Competition Committee member as soon as possible for instructions. Intentionally removing a canoe number without notifying a race official or Competition Committee may result in a penalty.

## USEFUL INFORMATION [CONTINUED]

### LODGING

Camping facilities are available in the Grayling and Oscoda areas. Motel/hotel facilities are strictly limited; reservations should be made well in advance.

Contact the local Visitors Bureau for more information:

**Oscoda:** 1-877-8-OSCODA    www.oscoda.com  
**Grayling:** 1-800-YES-8837    www.grayling-mi.com  
**Mio:** 1-989-826-3331    www.oscodacountymi.org

### UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE RECREATION FEE ALERT!!

A USGS Recreation Pass is required on all vehicles entering the following river access sites: 4001 Bridge, Whirlpool River Access, AuSable Loop Campground, and Gabions Campground.

Recreation Day Passes are available at the self-service fee stations at each site where required, and at Alcona Canoe Rental during regular business hours.

Passes are also available at all Forest Service Offices, including the Mio Ranger Station, the Huron Shores Ranger Station in Oscoda, and Lumberman's Monument. USFS Recreation Passes are \$5.00 (daily), \$15.00 (weekly), and \$30.00 (annually).

### LOCATION ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Grayling Race Office</b> Phone: (989) 214-1991 100 South James St. Grayling, MI 49738 (In the Nature Center, next to the American Legion building)	<b>Grayling Middle School</b> 500 Spruce St. Grayling, MI 49738  (Official Canoe Sequestration Location)	<b>Kirtland Community College</b> 4800 W. 4 Mile Rd Grayling, MI 49738  (Pre-Race Briefing Location)	<b>Penrod's Canoe Rental</b> 100 Maple St. Grayling, MI 49738
<b>Old AuSable Fly Shop</b> 200 Ingham St. Grayling, MI 49738	<b>Grayling City Park</b> 213 N. James St. Grayling, MI 49738		<b>Richardson Elementary &amp;            Middle School</b> 3630 E. River Road Oscoda, MI 48750 (Next to the Oscoda High School Football Field)
<b>Oscoda Race Office</b> Phone: (989) 569-3421 5123 US-23, Unit B Oscoda, MI 48750 (Located Between Subway & Profiles Hair Design)	<b>AuSable Inn</b> 600 S. State St. (US-23) Oscoda, MI 48750	<b>Finish Line Park</b> 500 S. State St. (US-23) Oscoda, MI 48750 (Next to AuSable Inn & the Mill Street Bridge)	<b>Oscoda High School</b> 3550 E. River Rd. Oscoda, MI 48750

## USEFUL INFORMATION [CONTINUED]

### SHARE YOUR #ARCM STORY — SOCIAL MEDIA

Welcome, AuSable Marathon competitors! We're excited to have you join us for the Consumers Energy 78th AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

Our small but dedicated ARCM Media Team works very passionately to promote The Marathon and the sport of canoe racing across traditional and social media platforms. One of the most powerful ways to showcase what makes this race - and canoe racing - so special, is through your perspective as competitors - and people truly enjoy seeing it.

#### How you can help

##### **Share your journey**

Post photos and videos of training, race preparation, and race days, not just for the ARCM! Whether it's in-season or off-season, every piece of your story adds to the bigger picture. Instagram and Facebook posts, reels, and stories are all great.

##### **Tag us**

Be sure to live tag your FB and IG posts:

- @AuSableMarathon
- @TripleCrownofCanoeRacing

##### **Use hashtags**

Help others discover your content by including some or all of the following hashtags:

#HupAllNight #ARCM #ARCM78 #RoadToTheTripleCrown #marathoncanoeracing  
#puremichigan #ultraendurance #marathontraining

##### **Enable sharing**

Check your settings: If your posts are public, we can reshare them on Marathon platforms - something we love to do.

##### **Participate in media opportunities**

We may invite you to take part in a short interview or video. This is optional, of course, but we'd love your participation. We promise to keep it easy and comfortable. Even better? Let us know that you want to do one and what you want to chat about - we'll tailor the questions.

#### Get in touch

Questions or suggestions? Reach out anytime:

- [media@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:media@ausablecanoemarathon.org)
- Message us on Facebook or Instagram
- Or find us in person (look for ARCM Media Team shirts)



Thank you for helping us tell the story of The Marathon - we couldn't do it without you.

**Thank you and see you on the river! – Your ARCM Media Team**

## CLEAN SPORT INITIATIVE

### CLEAN SPORT INITIATIVE AND ANTI-DOPING TESTING PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

To help ensure the health and well-being of our athletes—and to help protect the integrity of our event and the sport of marathon canoe racing—the AuSable River Canoe Marathon is pleased to announce a new partnership with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

Beginning in 2026, this collaboration will introduce a pioneering Clean Sport Initiative for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon (ARCM) and the sport of marathon canoe racing.

USADA is the national anti-doping organization for Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, and Parapan American sports in the United States. Widely regarded as the gold standard in the global anti-doping movement, USADA leads efforts to protect clean competition through athlete education, scientific research, testing, and results management.

As the administrators of our new anti-doping initiative, USADA will provide education, resources, testing, and results management for the 78th AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

### CLEAN SPORT AND THE TRIPLE CROWN OF CANOE RACING

Beginning in 2026, all race organizations that make up the Triple Crown of Canoe Racing have committed to reciprocally recognizing and enforcing across all three events any sanctions imposed by USADA:

- General Clinton Canoe Regatta
- AuSable River Canoe Marathon
- Classique internationale de canots de la Mauricie

### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLEAN SPORT INITIATIVE & ANTI-DOPING TESTING

Clean Sport Initiative and USADA anti-doping testing information, including an extensive FAQ is available on the ARCM website at: <https://www.ausablecanoemarathon.org/paddlers/clean-sport/>

ARCM Clean Sport Email: [cleansport@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:cleansport@ausablecanoemarathon.org)

As USADA is an independent entity, all athlete questions or concerns regarding details of the anti-doping program should be directed to USADA. USADA manages an athlete hotline which may be used to find answers to drug reference questions.

- USADA Hotline: (719) 785-2000
- Toll-free: (866) 601-2632
- Email: [athleteconnect@usada.org](mailto:athleteconnect@usada.org)

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**ATTENTION MARATHON CONTESTANTS:** Be sure to carefully review the Race Rules.

For any questions regarding Registration, please contact [registration@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:registration@ausablecanoemarathon.org) and/or call (989) 214-1991. For any issues that arise pertaining to the race, please email [urgent@ausablecanoemarathon.org](mailto:urgent@ausablecanoemarathon.org) and/or call (989) 214-1991.

### Section 1. Contestants & Team Entry

- 1.1. Teams will comprise of two contestants per canoe.
- 1.2. The minimum age for a contestant to participate in the AuSable River Canoe Marathon is 15 years of age.
- 1.3. Contestants under 18 years of age must have written parental/guardian consent on their entry form.
- 1.4. Amateur contestants may paddle in the Marathon and decline their prize money.
- 1.5. Teams are required to race as indicated on their entry form. No contestant substitutions are allowed.
- 1.6. The two contestants must continue together as a team for the duration of the race in the same canoe that they start with.
- 1.7. Any changes in the team entry (e.g. a partner change due to injury) will require a newly completed and signed entry application and will be subject to a new entry fee, based on the date the new entry is received by the Race Committee. This is considered a Team Change Entry. No Team Change Entries will be accepted after the Final Deadline.
- 1.8. There will be no refund of entry fees for entry changes or for withdrawal from the race.
- 1.9. If a team withdraws prior to the Final Deadline and one of the team members re-enters with a new partner, a credit equal to 50% of the original entry fee will be applied to the new entry. The entry fee credit pertaining to partner changes is limited to one change per person.
- 1.10. No Initial Team Entries will be accepted after the Late Entry Deadline. An Initial Team Entry consists of two paddlers who were both not previously registered for the current year's Marathon.

### Section 2. Contestant Check-In

- 2.1. All contestants must check-in before their Time Trial at the Grayling Race Office, or at the Grayling City Park Pavilion the Saturday before the race, as listed on the Event Schedule.
- 2.2. For teams with a scheduled Time Trial on Wednesday or Thursday of Race Week, the check-in deadline is 2:00 P.M. on the day of their Time Trial.
- 2.3. Any teams in which one or both contestants fail to check-in by their respective Wednesday or Thursday 2:00 P.M. deadline will be assessed a \$200 penalty, and granted a two hour extension (to 4:00 P.M.) to check-in at the Grayling Race Office. The \$200 fee must be paid at the time of check-in. Such teams will be re-assigned a new Time Trial sprint slot.
- 2.4. Any team in which one or both contestants fail to check-in by their respective extended Wednesday or Thursday deadline of 4:00 P.M. will be disqualified from the Marathon.
- 2.5. For teams with a scheduled Time Trial on Friday of Race Week (or any other Marathon contestants), the check-in deadline is 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on Friday.
- 2.6. Any team in which one or both contestants fail to check-in by their respective Friday 12:00 P.M. (Noon) deadline will be assessed a \$200 penalty, and granted a two hour extension (to 2:00 P.M.) to check in at the Grayling Race Office. The \$200 fee must be paid at the time of check-in. Such teams will be re-assigned a new Time Trial sprint slot at the end of Friday's regular Time Trial schedule.
- 2.7. Any team in which one or both contestants fail to check-in by their respective extended Friday deadline of 2:00 P.M. will be disqualified from the Marathon.

### Section 3. Mandatory Events

- 3.1. All Marathon participants must report for the Pre-Race Briefing (at the day & time specified in the Event Schedule) and must remain in attendance in the designated area for the entire Briefing.
- 3.2. The Pre-Race Briefing officially begins with the calling of the first name in the Roll Call of Participants and ends with the dismissal by the Briefing Coordinator.
- 3.3. In the event a Participant arrives after the start of the Briefing but before completion of the Roll Call, his/her Team will be assessed a fifty dollar (\$50.00 USD) penalty.
- 3.4. In the event a Participant arrives after completion of the roll call, his/her Team will be assessed a one hundred dollar (\$100.00 USD) penalty.
- 3.5. In the event a Participant misses the entire Briefing, his/her Team will be assessed a two hundred dollar (\$200.00 USD) penalty, plus a ten (10) minute time penalty, added to the Team's finish time.
- 3.6. Dollar penalties assessed under this Section must be paid to a Marathon Committee member by 3:00 P.M. of Race Day. Failure to pay the penalty by this deadline will result in disqualification from the Marathon.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 3. Mandatory Events [Continued]

- 3.7. Teams (both contestants, together) which are not present when the team's names are called for the Introduction of Paddlers at the Pre-Race Program Saturday night will be penalized their Marathon starting position by being moved behind the back row for the race start.

### Section 4. Canoe Specifications & Canoe Numbers

- 4.1. Participants may utilize either a 3x27 Pro (a.k.a. Expert) or a 4x32 Competition Cruiser (a.k.a. Amateur) canoe.
- 4.2. Recreational canoes are not acceptable. Canoes used by all contestants must be a commonly recognized type C-2 racing shell, and must meet the official Marathon specifications (see tables below).
- 4.3. Spray decks and splash covers are permitted for 3x27 and 4x32 canoes.
- 4.4. Teams are required to use the canoe number stickers supplied by the Race Committee during Race Week. The stickers will be similar in size, material, and design as those used since the 2002 Marathon. The stickers are to remain on the canoes until the completion of the race.
- 4.5. Teams must use a two-digit or three-digit number from 00 to 125 as provided by the committee. This rule may be modified if more than 125 teams enter.
- 4.6. The assigned canoe number stickers are printed to a size that is visible to race timers and spectators from a distance. The stickers also include the name and/or logo of the Marathon's Title Sponsor. Any alteration to these stickers without permission from the Competition Committee will result in a ten (10) minute time penalty.
- 4.7. The canoe number stickers must be adhered near the bow of the canoe. All teams are to have a clear space at the bow [approx. 20" long] from the gunwale to the waterline on both sides of the canoe. This space is for the canoe number stickers, the inspection decal, and other promotional stickers as required by the Race Committee.
- 4.8. **If the canoe number decal unintentionally comes off the canoe during the race, the Feed Team Captain must report it to the Competition Committee or a Race Official at the nearest timing location.**
- 4.9. Only the officially issued Marathon number is to be visible. Any other canoe number is to be removed or covered.
- 4.10. Teams are responsible for the cost of any replacement canoe number stickers.
- 4.11. Commercial advertising is allowed on canoes.

#### NORTH AMERICAN MARATHON RACING CANOE SPECIFICATIONS

##### EXPERT/PRO 3x27 C-2

- Maximum length of the hull shall be 18'6" (eighteen feet, six inches).
- Minimum heights, measured from the 0" waterline:
  - 15" bow – 10" center – 10" stern
  - The minimum-height gunwale line shall conform a continuous, smooth arch-curve.
- Minimum width:
  - 33" on the top, at the gunwale line
  - 27" wide at the 3" waterline or 3" draft
- The points at which the 33" minimum top-width measurement and the 27" minimum waterline-width measurement are taken may be divided up to 14" maximum.
- The 33" minimum top-width and the 27" minimum waterline width may be measured a maximum of 14" fore or aft of the center of the canoe.
- The cross-section(s) of the hull at the location(s) of the 33" minimum top-width and the 27" minimum waterline-width shall have no more than 1/4" concavity between the 3" waterline and the gunwale line of the hull.
- No concave curve(s) are allowed under the 3" waterline. The imperfections from repairs will be tolerated but will have to be very minimal to conform to the regulations.
- All of the measurements will be verified on the exterior of the hull. Gunwales, sponsons, and keels shall not be included in the measurement whether added to the hull or built into the hull.
- A manual (non-electric) foot pump may be used as a bailing device.

##### COMPETITION CRUISER 4x32 C-2

- Cruising canoes of maximum length 18'-6" (eighteen feet, six inches).
- Width not less than 0.14375 times the length of the canoe in inches, measured at a 4" waterline.
  - Minimum bow height = 15-1/2".
  - Minimum** stern height = 11-1/2".
  - Minimum depth = 11-1/2" inside.
- A manual (non-electric) foot pump may be used as a bailing device.

Reference USCA Competition Rules Chapter V. "Canoe Specifications and Method of Measurement" Section A. for full Competition Cruiser (4x32) C-2 specs ([www.uscanoe.com](http://www.uscanoe.com))

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 5. Canoe Measuring, Inspection, & Sequestration

- 5.1. Official measuring of the canoes will be available at the Time Trials on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- 5.2. All teams must have their initial canoe measurement completed before the Official Canoe Measuring Deadline on Friday. If a team's canoe fails to meet all required specifications when measured at the Time Trials, a Race Official will be in contact with that team to schedule a time for re-measuring before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on Race Day Saturday (case-by-case basis). Any team that does not have their canoe initially measured before the Official Canoe Measuring Deadline on Friday will be disqualified.
- 5.3. All canoes must be presented for inspection during either of the Official Canoe Inspection and Sequestration periods listed on the Event Schedule, or during other times announced at the Pre-Race Briefing.
- 5.4. All canoes must be presented for Official Canoe Inspection and Sequestration in "race ready" condition (with lifejackets, whistles, and any other required safety equipment).
- 5.5. Once canoes pass inspection, they will be sequestered, and will remain in the designated location until the official sequestration release time on Race Day Saturday. The "Official Canoe Sequestration" location, and the "Canoes Released from Sequestration" time are listed on the Event Schedule.
- 5.6. All canoes must be in race ready condition, pass inspection, and be sequestered by 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on Race Day Saturday. Any team whose canoe does not pass inspection at the Official Canoe Inspection before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) the day of the Marathon will be disqualified.
- 5.7. During sequestration, absolutely no admittance will be permitted.
- 5.8. Prior to the race, no contestant nor member of their support crew shall touch another contestant's canoe or equipment without permission.
- 5.9. A decal will be placed on the canoe by the Marathon Committee if the canoe meets all the required specifications outlined in the Race Rules and entry information. Intentional removal of the Inspection Decal will result in disqualification.
- 5.10. Canoes will also be inspected at the finish line area.
- 5.11. The Marathon Committee reserves the right to measure or re-measure any canoe prior to the start of the race, or at the finish line area, as part of the Official Canoe Inspection.

### Section 6. Required Safety Equipment

- 6.1. Each contestant shall have at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III inherently buoyant lifejacket/PFD and sound signaling device (pea-less type whistle) in the canoe at all times, that are easily accessible. The whistle may be either attached to the lifejacket or to the contestant. Lifejackets/PFD's may not be taped-in or otherwise permanently secured, and will be inspected. Lifejackets/PFD's shall be the correct size for the paddler, and not have holes in the material or holes covered with tape; properly made repairs to lifejackets/PFD's – stitched up rips or tears – are acceptable. **NOTE:** Paddlers may use a Type III or Type V inflatable or hybrid PFD, provided there is also an easily accessible USCG-approved (Type I, II, or III) inherently buoyant PFD for each paddler in the canoe.
- 6.2. Contestants should ensure they have all the required safety equipment when they present their canoe at the Official Canoe Inspection; this required safety equipment will not be available for purchase at the Canoe Inspection.
- 6.3. A Global Positioning System (GPS) device will be applied to each canoe prior to the race start. Once the GPS has been activated by the Committee, no contestant shall intentionally turn off the GPS device. If a GPS device is intentionally turned off by a contestant or a member of their team, the team will be assessed a minimum 60-minute penalty, up to and including disqualification.
- 6.4. In addition to the GPS device supplied by the race committee, the use of an additional GPS or similar device is permitted.
- 6.5. Contestants must convey the canoe, at least two (2) lifejackets, two (2) whistles, the Committee-supplied GPS device, and at least two (2) paddles for the entire race course, including through all portages. Failure to do so will result in a minimum 60-minute penalty, up to and including disqualification.

### Section 7. Accommodations

- 7.1. ARCM policy is to provide qualified paddlers / entrants a reasonable accommodation under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). A qualified paddler / entrant under the ADA is an individual who experiences a disability and requires an accommodation in order to compete in the ARCM. A reasonable accommodation is one that will not fundamentally alter the competitive nature of the ARCM.
- 7.2. Requests for an ADA reasonable accommodation must be in writing and submitted by the race entry deadline. Accommodation requests must disclose the paddler / entrant's disability, how the accommodation(s) requested relate to their disability, and a description of the reasonable accommodation requested.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 7. Accommodations [Continued]

- 7.3. Accommodation requests will be reviewed by the Accommodations Sub-Committee. Reasonable accommodations in accordance with the law will be granted. When a paddler/entrant's preferred accommodation is not reasonable, the Accommodations Sub-Committee and paddler/entrant shall agree on a reasonable alternative that does not afford the paddler/entrant a competitive advantage over other teams or alter the competitive spirit of the ARCM.

### Section 8. Race & Race Course

- 8.1. A single blade canoe paddle of any width, length, or material is the only means of propulsion each contestant may use.
- 8.2. Except for the six (6) hydroelectric dam portages, canoes must remain in the riverbed. **It is the contestant's responsibility to know the race course. Contestants must cover the prescribed race course in its entirety. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**
- 8.3. Portages for the hydroelectric dams must be done in the direction as described during the Pre-Race Briefing.
- 8.4. Leaving the riverbed to advance the canoe constitutes an illegal portage.
- 8.5. To remain in the "riverbed", contestants must be in the water, shoes wet.
- 8.6. Race officials will be posted at unspecified points along the race course.
- 8.7. Canoes may be removed from the river by the contestants for repairs or due to illness or injury, but must re-enter the river at the point of exit before continuing.
- 8.8. All repairs must be performed by the contestants.
- 8.9. It is illegal to use any "cuts" (flowing shortcuts) identified during the Pre-Race Briefing as "closed."
- 8.10. Cut-off times have been established at the following timing checkpoints along the race course. Teams that require more than the specified time to reach any of the listed locations will be disqualified and must leave the race course at that point.

Timing Location	Race Time	Time of Day	Timing Location	Race Time	Time of Day
Burton's Landing	None	N/A	McKinley Bridge	9:30:00	6:30 A.M.
Stephan Bridge	2:00:00	11:00 P.M.	4001 Bridge	None	N/A
Wakeley Bridge	None	N/A	Alcona Dam	11:30:00	8:30 A.M.
McMasters Bridge	4:00:00	1:00 A.M.	Loud Dam	13:45:00	10:45 A.M.
Parmalee Bridge	None	N/A	Five Channels Dam	14:15:00	11:15 A.M.
Camp Ten Bridge	6:30:00	3:30 A.M.	Cooke Dam	15:45:00	12:45 P.M.
Mio Dam	7:00:00	4:00 A.M.	Foote Dam	17:15:00	2:15 P.M.

- 8.11. The official start of the Marathon occurs with the sounding of the official starting signal, as defined during the Pre-Race Briefing. The official starting signal is the only signal given to begin the sprint to the river.
- 8.12. A false start, defined as any team moving their canoe prior the official starting signal, will result in an automatic two (2) minute penalty added to their race time.
- 8.13. Any team, including members of a team's support crew, who instigates a false start will be subject to a two (2) minute penalty added to their team's race time.
- 8.14. The Marathon officially concludes nineteen (19) hours after the start (4:00 P.M.). The Race Committee ceases all race course functions at that time.
- 8.15. Teams which do not finish within nineteen (19) hours do not qualify for awards.

### Section 9. Non-Competing Watercraft

- 9.1. A competing canoe shall not benefit by means of a tow or pull, wake riding, pacing, leading, or feeding from a non-competing watercraft.
- 9.2. In the event a competing canoe capsizes, (or incurs significant damage such as a hole or bailer problem which threatens its ability to stay afloat), the contestants may receive assistance from a designated safety patrol boat or other watercraft. This activity is limited to returning the canoe to an upright position, assisting the contestants to get back into their canoe, or bringing the canoe safely to shore.
- 9.3. In the event a paddler requires medical attention, the contestants may seek such assistance from a designated safety patrol boat or other watercraft.
- 9.4. If, as the result of one of these procedures the canoe has moved forward, it should be returned to the previous spot before the team continues the race.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 10. Provisions, Support Crews, & Littering

- 10.1. Contestants are responsible for their own food and water. Contestants may receive food, water, and extra paddles during the race.
- 10.2. Contestants may receive assistance from their support crew to change apparel items, to add or remove flashlights or batteries, to receive spare paddles, to remove or replace food, jugs, cups etc., or to apply lotion-type items such as sunscreen or pain relief cream. However, contestants may not receive assistance in conveying the canoe or any required equipment.
- 10.3. Each team must designate a Support Crew Captain to the Grayling Race Office no later than the mandatory Contestant Check-in deadline on Friday of Race Week. It is encouraged that each team's Support Crew Captain attend the Pre-Race Briefing.
- 10.4. The Support Crew Captain is responsible for the actions of his/her support crew members. The Captain should brief all support team members regarding the race rules.
- 10.5. Anyone wearing a feeder wristband or possessing a Marathon parking pass is considered to be part of the support crew, **and their conduct will be subject to Section 11, and any other applicable Race Rules.**
- 10.6. Contestants must carry the canoe, at least two (2) lifejackets, two (2) whistles, **the Committee-supplied GPS device**, and at least two (2) paddles through all portages (See Section 6). No one is allowed to help convey or advance a contestant, canoe, and/or the specified required equipment. Feeders may stabilize a canoe during a pit stop. However, a "push-off" after feeds or portages, and/or aiding the forward motion of the canoe at any time is not allowed. **Feeders may convey spare paddles, provided at least two (2) paddles are conveyed by the contestants.**
- 10.7. Per U.S. Coast Guard & Michigan DNR Regulations, contestants are not to throw trash such as jugs, cups, plastic bags, etc. into the river. The support team is responsible for all clean-up during and after each pit stop at non-portage locations. At portages (dams), teams may empty their boat of accumulated trash, to be picked up by a crew provided through a special sponsorship. Teams will not be penalized for any trash left behind AT PORTAGES ONLY.
- 10.8. The Marathon Committee will establish a specific list of persons who will act as a monitoring group for littering. They will include but are not limited to: all Marathon Committee Members, all law enforcement personnel, plus designated volunteer spotters. Enforcement and penalty assessment shall be the responsibility of the Competition Committee.
- 10.9. Contestants who litter the river or surrounding land areas, or whose support crew does not clean up during or after a non-portage pit stop are subject to a penalty. The first violation by a team (this includes contestants and/or their support crew), witnessed by a member of the monitoring committee will result in a time penalty of ten (10) minutes. The second violation by the same team will result in an additional twenty (20) minute time penalty. The third violation by the same team will result in disqualification. Any violation not witnessed by a member of the monitoring committee will result in a verbal warning to the team at the next official timing location.

### Section 11. Sportsmanship & Rule Enforcement

- 11.1. Commonly accepted rules of sportsmanship will prevail.
- 11.2. Intentional capsizing or damaging an opponent's canoe, or other flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, will result in disqualification.
- 11.3. All protests by a contestant must be made to the Competition Committee in writing within 30 minutes of the Protesting team's race finish or withdrawal from the race, accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable protest fee.

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#### AuSable River Canoe Marathon Athlete Code of Conduct

- 11.4. The ARCM has adopted the following Code of Conduct (Code). Any contestant or support crew member who commits one of the following infractions of the Code may see their team penalized as provided for by the following rules.
- 11.5. **Responsibility for support crew:** the contestants are responsible for their support crew. Support crew members shall not use abusive language, use or threaten physical violence to any person or property or towards other contestants, volunteers, or race organizers. Choose your support crew carefully.
- 11.6. **Respect for competitors:** contestants must always respect other contestants, volunteers or race organizers. Contestants shall not use abusive language, use or threaten physical violence to any person or property or towards other contestants, volunteers, or race organizers.
- 11.7. **Respect for competition venues:** contestants and their support crew must respect the competition venues, ensuring cleanliness both on and off the water. They must respect the facilities and equipment provided for the canoeists. Each contestant, team, and support crew are fully responsible for their equipment and waste.
- 11.8. The Competition Committee pursuant to Section 13 of these rules will have responsibility for enforcement of this Code of Conduct. Contestants are referred to Section 14 for a description of infractions and penalties.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 12. Drop From Race

#### Withdrawals During the Race

- 12.1. If a team drops out of the race, one team member or their feeder/support Captain must report to the nearest timing location to sign out of the race. Teams must call **or contact a Race Official** to report that they are leaving the race, and they **MUST** still report to a timing location as soon as possible to officially sign out of the race.
- 12.2. Contestants/team members who leave the race and fail to officially sign-out of the race are subject to potential disqualification from the following year's Marathon.

#### Pre-Race Withdrawals

- 12.3. **If a team needs to withdrawal from competing in the Marathon before the Official Start of the race, at least one of the contestants must notify the Race Committee in writing.**

### Section 13. Competition Committee

- 13.1. The Competition Committee will be comprised of five (5) primary members and one (1) or more alternate members designated by the AuSable Marathon Organizing Committee.
- 13.2. Designation of the Competition Committee will be accomplished prior to the Pre-Race Briefing.
- 13.3. A minimum of three (3) members of the Competition Committee are required in order to meet for consideration of potential infractions, penalties, protests, etc.
- 13.4. A majority of the competition committee [and/or alternates standing in for primary members] - three (3) votes - shall be required for a decision.
- 13.5. If three [or four] members meet and there are not three (3) votes for a decision [a majority-vote of the 5-member Competition Committee], consideration of the matter will be tabled until other member(s) or alternates can be brought into the process in order to achieve a three-vote decision.
- 13.6. Imposition of any sanction or penalties is the responsibility of the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee reserves the right at all times to modify, amend or abbreviate the rules and to impose, modify, or waive any penalty or sanction.
- 13.7. Prize money will be withheld from the affected team(s) until the Competition Committee reaches a decision. Marathon results will be identified as "preliminary" or "unofficial" until the penalty/protest process is complete. Prize money will be distributed to the other teams, pending outcome of the penalty process. Supplemental prize checks will be distributed if the outcome of the race is changed by the penalty/protest.

### Section 14. Infraction/Penalty Information

- 14.1. Infractions and penalties will fall into one of two categories; Unsportsmanlike Conduct or Disqualification.

#### Unsportsmanlike Conduct (USLC)

- 14.2. The penalty may be a time penalty or range up to and including disqualification. Consideration is given to whether the infraction was unintentional or intentional, and also to the degree of advantage gained by the infraction.
- 14.3. All USLC infractions and penalties will be considered as to how they would potentially affect EVERY team in the race if that team were to receive the same penalty, so that the Competition Committee can attempt to ensure that the assessment of penalties will be consistent and precedent-setting whenever they are imposed.

#### Disqualification (DQ)

- 14.4. Contestants who are disqualified while the race is in progress, will be asked to leave the race course.
- 14.5. Disqualified teams are not eligible for payouts, bonuses, or finisher prizes.
- 14.6. Depending on the severity of the infraction, contestants may be subject to penalties and/or impositions for future events.

### Section 15. Inclement Weather

- 15.1. Decisions about inclement weather will be at the discretion of the **Race Committee**.
- 15.2. **The Competition Committee can mandate the use of Lifejackets/PFD's before and/or during the race.**

### Section 16. Prizes

- 16.1. Contestants have **90 days after the issue date of the check** to cash checks for prizes and bonus awards earned from the current year's race.
- 16.2. The cost of stop payment and re-issue of a lost or damaged prize or bonus check will be subtracted from the team's prize or bonus amount.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 17. Clean Sport Initiative

#### Event Participant Notification of USADA Drug Testing

17.1. The AuSable River Canoe Marathon is pleased to support integrity in competition, and to announce it has contracted with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”) to provide anti-doping services during The AuSable River Canoe Marathon (the “Event”), to be held from Grayling, MI to Oscoda, MI on the dates listed in the Event Schedule. USADA is the independent national anti-doping organization in the United States, and runs the U.S. anti-doping program for Olympic, Paralympic, Pan-American and Parapan American movement sports, in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code (“Code”). USADA collects, uses, and stores your Personal Information, which may be uploaded into the informational databases of WADA, USADA (stored in the U.S.), other anti-doping organizations, and third parties (as applicable) in accordance with USADA’s privacy policy (<https://www.usada.org/privacy-statement/>) and/or the privacy policy of the relevant authority.

The AuSable River Canoe Marathon has contracted with USADA to demonstrate a commitment to fair, drug-free, and safe competition. Doping, as defined in the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy is against the rules of the Event, and will not be tolerated. The anti-doping rules for the Event are set forth in the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy and are fully applicable to each competitor, each member of the competitor’s team, and all athlete support personnel involved in the Event. Any violation of the anti-doping rules may result in disqualification and loss of results achieved during the Event, in addition to all consequences that arise in accordance with the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy.

Athletes competing in the Event are subject to blood and/or urine and/or other WADA-approved sample matrices testing for any substance or method on the PFL Prohibited List (<https://www.usada.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-04-PFL-Prohibited-List.pdf>), which is incorporated in the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy. In addition to testing, USADA is a resource for educational information and will have jurisdiction to handle the results management process of any potential anti-doping rule violation.

All Event participants (including competitors, each member of the competitor’s team, and all athlete support personnel involved in the Event) acknowledge and agree that they are subject to the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy, and that they are required to abide by all such rules. Anti-doping rule violations will be adjudicated in accordance with the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy, and each participant agrees that their sole, exclusive, final and binding remedy in relation to any potential anti-doping rule violation alleged by USADA and/or in response to any matter relating to anti-doping, sample collection, drug testing, doping control, results management and/or USADA shall be arbitration in accordance with the USADA Premier Sports Anti-Doping Policy.

As USADA is an independent entity, all athlete questions or concerns regarding details of the anti-doping program should be directed to USADA. In an effort to aid athletes, as well as all support team members such as parents, coaches, managers and paramedical personnel, in understanding the rules applicable to them, USADA provides comprehensive information on its website regarding the testing process and prohibited substances, how to obtain permission to use a necessary medication, and the risks and dangers of taking supplements as well as performance-enhancing and recreational drugs.

Athletes looking for information about the testing process can start at [www.usada.org/athletes](http://www.usada.org/athletes). In addition, USADA manages an athlete hotline which may be used to find answers to drug reference questions at (719) 785-2000, toll-free at (866) 601-2632, and by email at [athleteconnect@usada.org](mailto:athleteconnect@usada.org). Athletes may also access this information online at [www.GlobalDRO.com](http://www.GlobalDRO.com). For information about dietary supplements, please visit USADA’s Supplement Connect resource at <https://www.usada.org/athletes/substances/supplement-connect/>. For more general anti-doping program information, please visit [www.usada.org](http://www.usada.org)

Clean Sport Initiative and USADA anti-doping testing information, including an extensive FAQ is available on the ARCM website at: <https://www.ausablecanoemarathon.org/paddlers/clean-sport/>

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 17. Clean Sport Initiative [Continued]

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#### General

- 17.2. Race Times and Results will not be declared Official (final) until all clean sport procedures and testing results are finalized by USADA.
  - 17.3. The ARCM along with the other Triple Crown races – the General Clinton Canoe Regatta, and the Classique Internationale de Canots de la Mauricie – have agreed that any USADA penalties assessed will be reciprocally enforced by all three races.
  - 17.4. For teams in which one or both paddlers are selected for testing, ALL prize and bonus money is to be withheld from those teams until the final report is received from USADA.
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#### In the event of Team Disqualification

- 17.5. In the event of any team disqualification due to USADA testing, all teams in the field will advance the appropriate number of places in the Official (final) standings.
- 17.6. Any team that is moved into the Top Three finishers based on a team disqualification will have their prize money adjusted when results are made Official (finalized). The prize amounts for the Top Three positions (podium teams) after results are made Official will be paid fully.
- 17.7. There will be no prize money adjustment for any teams moving up to fourth place or lower. Prize money will be adjusted only for the Top Three finishing teams.
- 17.8. Any prize or bonus money for teams fourth place or lower that are Disqualified will be forfeited to the ARICM Clean Sport Initiative.
- 17.9. If any team with a Leader's Bonus and/or Point-to-Point Bonus is disqualified, the bonus will be paid to the next fastest team(s) for the applicable checkpoint locations.
- 17.10. If any team with a Division Bonus is disqualified, no bonus money adjustment will be made except the team moving into the third place Division position will receive third place Division bonus money for the applicable Division Bonuses.

### Section 18. [Reserved for Future Use]

### Section 19. [Reserved for Future Use]

### Section 20. Time Trials (Sprints) & Starting Positions

- 20.1. The Time Trials determine the starting positions for the LeMans-style run to the river on Marathon night.
  - 20.2. Teams do not have to use their Marathon canoe in the Time Trials; however all canoes must meet specifications per Section 4, and may be measured prior to the Time Trial.
  - 20.3. Any team not ready to paddle at its assigned sprint slot will be assessed a two (2) minute Time Trial penalty, and will be assigned a new sprint slot to be determined by the committee.
  - 20.4. Teams which do not participate in the Time Trials will be penalized for their Marathon starting position by being moved behind the back row for the race start. If multiple teams do not participate in the Time Trials, such teams will be lined up behind the back row in Marathon Entry List order.
  - 20.5. If a team participates in the Time Trials but withdraws from the Marathon before the start of the race, their designated starting location for the run to the river will be vacated (leaving a gap in the starting grid). Teams with starting positions after the vacated spot may NOT move their canoe to fill the vacated spot. Any teams that move from of their designated starting position will be subject to a false start penalty (Refer to Section 8).
  - 20.6. In the event of a tie in sprint times amongst two teams, a coin flip will be used as a tiebreaker. The team with the earliest scheduled Time Trial slot gets to choose heads or tails. If more than two teams are tied, the tiebreaker method will be at the discretion of the Competition Committee.
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#### Time Trial Course

- 20.7. The Time Trials are conducted on a predetermined looped course. Contestants are required to paddle upstream to a set turnaround buoy, where they are to execute a counter-clockwise turn around the buoy, and return downstream to the start/finish line.
- 20.8. One canoe will be released onto the Time Trial course at designated intervals.
- 20.9. Running in the river with the canoe is permitted, provided the canoe and both contestants stay in the riverbed (shoes wet) at all times.
- 20.10. Both contestants must be in the canoe for the last ten (10) yards of the Time Trial course to the finish line.

## RACE RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES [CONTINUED]

### Section 20. Time Trials (Sprints) [Continued]

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#### Time Trial Course [Continued]

- 20.11. No ropes or other towing devices may be used at any time.
  - 20.12. The Time Trial course buoys will be in place at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the Time Trials each day for practice runs.
  - 20.13. Warm-up paddling will be permitted downstream of the start/finish line as long as it does not interfere with any other special events such as the Business Relays on Thursday or the Special Olympics race on Friday.
  - 20.14. The Time Trial course will be closed 15 minutes prior to the first scheduled time trial each day, and will remain closed to ALL competitors for practice during the Time Trials. No contestants will be allowed on the course Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during each scheduled Time Trials period (as listed on the Event Schedule), except during their assigned sprint slot. Teams that violate this course closure will be subject to a two (2) minute Time Trial penalty.
  - 20.15. Breaks have been set up during the Time Trial schedule to allow livery canoes to pass through. No Marathon contestants are allowed on the Time Trial course during these breaks. Teams that violate this course closure will be subject to a two (2) minute Time Trial penalty.
  - 20.16. Individuals, whether spectators or race team members, are NOT allowed in the riverbed during the Time Trials for any reason without permission from the Competition Committee. If a person associated with a team is found to be in the river during the Time Trials, that team will be subject to a two (2) minute Time Trial penalty.
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#### Turnaround Buoy

- 20.17. The canoe and both paddlers must completely turn the buoy on the upstream side in a counter-clockwise direction. A representative from the Marathon Committee will observe the buoy turn for each team.
  - 20.18. Unintentional failure to successfully complete the buoy turn will result in the assessment of a thirty (30) second Time Trial penalty.
  - 20.19. Intentional failure to successfully complete the buoy turn will result in disqualification from the Time Trials, and the team will be penalized for their Marathon starting position by being moved behind the back row for the race start.
  - 20.20. The Buoy Turnaround Time is taken when the bow of the canoe crosses the buoy after making the turn, AND after the canoe begins making downstream progress on the Time Trials course. If the bow crosses the buoy while still making the turn, the time is not recorded until the canoe begins making downstream progress. The representative from the Marathon Committee observing the buoy turn will make the assessment of downstream progress.
  - 20.21. The upstream segment plus the buoy turn are known as the Power Phase of the Time Trial. The downstream segment is known as the Speed Phase of the Time Trial.
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#### Lane Marker Buoys

- 20.22. Immediately upstream of the start/finish line, above the State Street Bridge and canoe liveries, are four (4) orange buoys. Contestants paddling upstream or returning downstream are required to pass all the buoys on the left.
  - 20.23. Unintentional failure to pass the buoys on the left will result in a thirty (30) second Time Trial penalty for each missed buoy.
  - 20.24. Intentional failure to pass the buoys on the left will result in disqualification from the Time Trials, and the team will be penalized for their Marathon starting position by being moved behind the back row for the race start.
  - 20.25. If failure to stay to the left results in interference with another team, a further sanction may be imposed, and the team affected by the interference will be afforded the option of re-sprinting at a time to be determined by the Competition Committee.
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## COURSE MAPS

### TIME TRIALS COURSE

- Stay left of the Lane Marker Buoys going upstream.
- Make a counter-clockwise turn around the Turnaround Buoy.
- Stay left of the Lane Marker Buoys going downstream.

**NOTE:** The Lane Marker and Turnaround Buoy locations shown below are for illustrative purposes. Actual locations may vary from this map.

