



Kauai Outrigger Association

KOA Race Rules 2026

Amended November 01, 2025

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KAUAI OUTRIGGER ASSOCIATION

RACE RULES

PURPOSE

The purpose of KOA Race Rules is to: Set guidelines to promote, encourage participation in, and provide education for the purpose of promoting Hawaiian culture through Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Paddling. By promoting competitive inter-club, inter-island, and international Hawaiian canoe racing, KOA will honor, preserve and perpetuate the combined culture and science of authentic Hawaiian canoe racing in the State of Hawaii. In its pursuit of this purpose, KOA may sponsor and/or conduct canoe regattas, and races as may be decided upon its membership. KOA shall also develop or assist in the development of; Uniform Race Rules, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Membership Criteria, and such other materials as it deems necessary for the use and guidance of its members.

We are all responsible to promote good sportsmanship and fair play in the activities we engage in. This means observance of these Race Rules as well as accepted rules of behavior and all governmental laws.

Paddlers are to avoid situations where a canoe is deliberately rammed, where there is deliberate interference with another crew, where assaults and/or abusive language are used.

Coaches are required to support and enforce these Race Rules and to avoid any circumvention of these rules.

Officials and Officers are required to do their best to be fair and not biased in their decisions and in carrying out their duties.

Violation of the Code of Ethics shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action (i.e. fines, suspensions, etc.).

GENERAL STATEMENT OF RULES

Rules cannot be made to cover every situation. These rules cover the major areas of past problems. Whenever situations come up that are to be covered, in the course of deliberating, consideration should be given to the following:

- What are we trying to avoid or promote?
- Does the proposed penalty match the seriousness of the violation?
- Would most people agree the rule is fair?
- Does the rule apply equally to large and small clubs?
- Is the rule clear and easily understood?
- Do the rules generally help or hinder what we are about? Which is, the racing of canoes and the rights of the paddler.

Race Rules can be amended at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Clubs. Once any Race Rule has been amended, the changes shall be in effect for one (1) year before the rule can be amended again. Recommendations for changes or additions to these Race Rules must be submitted to the Race Rules Committee in writing no later than August 31st . These recommendations may be made by any active member of KOA. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to all member clubs no later than October 31st . Exception: If it is deemed advisable by the Executive Board, after HCRA Race Rules are known, amendments to the KOA Race Rules may be made at a Council of Clubs meeting.

I. OFFICIAL REGATTAS

A) Scoring of Events

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. First | 12 Points |
| 2. Second | 10 Points |
| 3. Third | 09 Points |
| 4. Fourth | 08 Points |
| 5. Fifth | 07 Points |
| 6. Sixth | 06 Points |
| 7. Seventh | 05 Points |
| 8. Eighth | 04 Points |
| 9. Ninth | 03 Points |
| 10. Tenth | 02 Points |
| 11. Eleventh | 01 Point |

B) Official Order and Distance

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Girls | 10 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 2. Boys | 10 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 3. Mixed Boys & Girls | 10 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 4. Girls | 12 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 5. Boys | 12 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 6. Mixed Boys & Girls | 12 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 7. Girls | 13 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 8. Boys | 13 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 9. Girls | 14 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 10. Boys | 14 years & under | ¼ mile |
| 11. Girls | 15 years & under | ½ mile |
| 12. Boys | 15 years & under | ½ mile |
| 13. Girls | 16 years & under | ½ mile |
| 14. Boys | 16 years & under | ½ mile |
| 15. Girls | 18 years & under | ½ mile |
| 16. Boys | 18 years & under | ½ mile |
| 17. Mixed | Boys & Girls 18 years & under | ½ mile |
| 18. Women | Novice "B" | ¼ mile |

19. Mixed	Novice "B"	¼ mile
20. Men	Novice "B"	¼ mile
21. Women	Novice "A"	½ mile
22. Men	Novice "A"	½ mile
23. Women	Freshmen	½ mile
24. Men	Freshmen	½ mile
25. Women	Sophomore	½ mile
26. Men	Sophomore	½ mile
27. Women	Junior	1 mile
28. Men	Junior	1 mile
29. Women	Senior	1½ mile
30. Men	Senior	1½ mile
31. Women	(70 years+)	½ mile
32. Men	(70 years+)	½ mile
33. Women	(65 years+)	½ mile
34. Men	(65 years+)	½ mile
35. Women	(60 years+)	½ mile
36. Men	(60 years+)	½ mile
37. Women	(55 years+)	½ mile
38. Men	(55 years+)	½ mile
39. Women	(50 years+)	½ mile
40. Men	(50 years+)	½ mile
41. Women	Open Four	½ mile
42. Men	Open Four	½ mile
43. Mixed Men & Women	(55 years+)	½ mile
44. Mixed Men & Women	(40 years+)	½ mile
45. Mixed Men & Women	Open	½ mile
46. Women	(40 years+)	½ mile
47. Men	(40 years+)	½ mile

C) Regatta Race Entries

1. Additional special events may be added by the Host Club or Race Director but will not count for any points. A special event for Na Opio 10 and under only, may be added to KOA Championship. Participation shall not count towards a participant's ability to paddle in two official events during KOA championship, nor will it count for any points. This event must be slated 2 weeks in advance of the KOA Championship and may not be done the morning of. Member clubs must request event to be slated prior to the 2-week deadline with Race Director who will then notify coaches so that they may plan accordingly.
2. An event with no entries will be canceled.
3. An event with only unofficial entries will be canceled. If the event has one official entry, with all others as unofficial, the event may be canceled or run at the Race Director's discretion.

4. An event with only one entry will automatically be awarded to that entrant. The crew has the option of paddling the race or not, if time permits or at the discretion of the Race Director.
5. At the Race Committee discretion, race divisions can be combined to streamline the regatta.
6. An event may be canceled on race day, but no events may be added to count in the team points.

D) Awards for Regattas

1. Individual awards shall be given to crews placing first, second and third in the Na Opio and Novice events. Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the clubs; dependent upon the number of entries and the financial condition of the clubs.
2. Division awards shall be given to the clubs at the KOA Championship.
3. All other regatta first, second, third, for Na Opio, and first, second, third overall.

II. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KOA Championship race and HCRA State Lane Eligibility: The winning crew at the KOA Championship earns the right to represent KOA at the HCRA State Championship race. If they choose not to attend the State Championship the second-place crew may choose to accept the lane. If the second-place crew declines it goes to third, fourth, and so on. Immediately following the last race of the day of the KOA Championship regatta, there will be a mandatory meeting for each club's coach, or designated official representative, to indicate which lanes they will be taking for State Championships. If the lane is not claimed during this meeting it is officially open for subsequently placed crews to claim.

III. DEFINITION OF PADDLER

A) Definitions

1. Senior: Open to any male or female who is not paddling in any classified event in the same regatta, except as provided up "Step Ups".
2. Junior: Same as Senior classification.
3. Sophomore: Same as Junior classification.
4. Freshman: Same as Sophomore classification.
5. Boys and Girls 18 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 19th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
6. Boys and Girls 16 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 17th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
7. Boys and Girls 15 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 16th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
8. Boys and Girls 14 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 15th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.

9. Boys and Girls 13 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 14th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
10. Boys and Girls 12 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 13th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
11. Mixed Boys and Girls 12 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 13th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
12. Boys and Girls 10 Yrs. & Under: Open to any boy or girl, who has not reached his/her 11th birthday by the first (1st) day of the calendar year.
13. Novice "A" Men & Women: Open to any first (1st), second (2nd) or third (3rd) year paddler. A person may compete in "A" classification for two (2) years and then must move to a higher classification.
14. Novice "B" Men & Women: Open to any first (1st) year paddler male or female who has no previous competitive paddling experience and who has never paddled in any higher classification. A person may compete in "B" classification for only one year.
15. Mixed Novice "B" Men & Women: Open to any first (1st) year paddler male or female who has not paddled in any sanctioned regatta or distance race prior to the start of the current racing season, and has never paddled in any Novice A, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior event. The crew is to be made up of three (3) men and three (3) women.
16. Men & Women Open Four: Open to any male or female. The crew shall be four (4) men or four (4) women.
17. Mixed Men & Women Open: Open to any male or female. The crew shall be three (3) men and three (3) women.
18. Men & Women Master: Open to any male or female who has reached his or her 40th birthday on the day of the regatta.
19. Mixed Men & Women Masters: Open to any male or female who has reached his or her 40th birthday on the day of the regatta. The crew shall consist of three (3) men and three (3) women.
20. Men & Women Senior Masters: Open to any male or female who reached his or her 50th birthday on the day of the regatta.
21. Men & Women Golden Masters: Open to any male or female who has reached his or her 55th birthday on the day of the regatta.
22. Men & Women Grand Masters: Open to any male or female, who has reached his or her 60th birthday on the day of the regatta.
23. Men & Women Masters: Open to any male or female, who has reached his or her 65th birthday on the day of the regatta.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF PADDLERS

Paddlers must use the classification that they hold in KOA in all regattas. A paddler may step up to another level at any time. KOA will mirror HCRA rules for Step-up rules at all official regattas. For example, a Novice B paddler may paddle both the Novice B race and a Mixed Novice B race. However, once a Novice B paddler has raced in a Novice A or higher

classified race, he or she may not be reclassified back to Novice B. A paddler who has been on sabbatical for at least five (5) years and has not competed in a regatta or long-distance race may return to the lowest classification of Novice A.

A) Conditions of Classification

1. *Step-ups*:

- a) Paddlers in classification Novice B must move to classification Novice A or higher classification the following year.
- b) A person may remain in Novice A classification for two (2) years, after which they must move to a higher classification.
- c) Official Regattas: Paddlers in age classification may move to higher classifications and back to lower classification the following year, provided they meet the KOA age limit requirements.
- d) For the HCRA State Championship Race, the HCRA Rules are to be followed – See HCRA Rules on Step-up Rules and Classification of Events (i.e. Mixed Novice B Race is 5 Unclassified meaning the crew may only enter ONE (1) race during the State Championship Race).

2. *Paddlers* can only race two (2) events at KOA Championship.

B) Eligibility

1. *Clubs*: Any member club of the Kauai Outrigger Association(KOA), who is in good standing and has complied with the Registration Rules, shall be eligible to compete in regattas sponsored by this Association.
2. *Paddlers*: Any paddler who is a member of a recognized Kauai Outrigger Association club is eligible to participate, subject to the Classification and Registration Rules.

C) Illegal Paddler

1. *Illegal Paddler*: A paddler identified as one that is paddling out of his/her classification, or under another person's name.
2. *Ineligible Paddler*: A paddler that is an obvious paperwork error on the part of the club representative, such as incomplete registration (database & paper), transfers, releases, misspelled names, etc.
3. *Penalty*: The penalty for a club using an illegal paddler shall be fined \$50.00 and the crew shall be disqualified. The fine must be paid by the canoe club. Until paid, the club may not enter any further events of the regatta or any future regatta race. The regatta or race shall not be interrupted or stopped because of this disqualification and fine. The Race Committee may accept a promissory note in lieu of the \$50.00 fine. An officer from the club, KOA delegate, or the Coach from the club in violation must sign the promissory note. The fine must be paid by the next lane drawing or the next KOA meeting or the club will be ineligible to draw lanes, vote, and race. The penalty for the second offense of using an illegal/ineligible paddler during the same calendar year shall be the same procedure as the first except that the fine shall be \$150.00.

4. *Entrance:*

- a) Regatta: There shall be an entrance fee of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per participating crew per regatta entry. KOA Championship: There shall be an entrance fee of thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) per participating crew per regatta entry.

V. REGISTRATION

A) Registration Procedures

1. At the beginning of each season, each Club Secretary will enter all new paddlers in the HCRA database and process to re-submit to validate previous season paddlers (instruction is available).
2. Each Club Secretary must submit a photocopy of every registered paddler's waiver via internet upload or hand delivery to the Race Secretary for ALL registered paddlers two (2) weeks prior to the first (1st) [regatta] Long Distance of the season and by Wednesday 10pm of each race thereafter.
3. Member clubs need only provide a copy of their roster on Race Day and the event sheet (This will eliminate the need to sign waivers for each long-distance race).
4. Each Club Secretary will submit all paddlers for verification by the Race Secretary in the HCRA database – ID type, card request, check off receipt of the waiver , and upload the registrant's picture and birth date.
5. For final validation, each Club Secretary must see four (4) green check marks for each paddler in the "secretary" view. This validates that the paddler is eligible to paddle.
6. A photocopy of every paddler's ID must be submitted to the Race Secretary ONE TIME only for a permanent digital record of each paddler's age verification (Driver's license, Birth Certificate, etc.). All waivers and age verification will be available at the official stand, in a digital format, at all regattas for safety and HCRA requirements.
7. **STATES Exception:** Any club attending States will have to make their Race Book (as per HCRA Race Rules) with only the racers that will attend; as KOA's procedure does not match HCRA's requirement of a Club Race Book.

- B) Registration Cards: For purposes of eligibility, all paddlers shall be listed as having registered as of January 1, regardless of the date of their registration in the HCRA paddler's database. All participants in the KOA Championship Race shall provide HCRA KOA certified photo ID's and current valid HCRA insurance waiver, which are submitted by each Member Associated Club of KOA. All paddlers shall be entered into the HCRA database by Thursday prior to a regatta or long distance. HCRA cards, once issued, shall serve as proof of identification and age verification and may be renewed by the payment of the replacement card fee alone.

- C) Late Registration: The deadline for registration shall be ten 10pm Wednesday prior to the regatta. There will be a fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) assessed per paddler for late registration.
- D) Age and Gender Verification: Age and gender verification shall be conducted by KOA which may be required by the Race Committee when deemed necessary. Verification of age and gender will be confirmed by any publicly recognized document such as, but not limited to, driver's license, school certified document, passport, birth certificate, military identification, resident alien card, etc.
- E) Club Rosters: Each club must submit a printed roster from the HCRA website and drop it off to the official station by 8 am for Na Opio, the day of the race, and prior to the Novice B race for adults.

VI. TRANSFERS AND RELEASES

- A) Paddlers Ineligibility: Paddlers registered with one club are ineligible to paddle for another club unless the Race Committee grants approval of transfer and release, after compliance with the procedure set forth herein.
- B) Transfer Of Paddlers: A paddler transferring from one club to another must have his/her transfer approved by his/her Member Association, 7 Director/Secretary and this approval must be submitted to the KOA Race Director/Secretary the Thursday prior to race day to be eligible to race. KOA Form 600 shall be used for this purpose. Comparable form would be HCRA Form 600. A paddler who paddles in a KOA sanctioned regatta race with a member club is ineligible to paddle competitively for another club in the same regatta racing season. The Race Committee has the prerogative to approve such transfers in special cases such as hardship due to a switch in geographical location. A paddler may transfer only once during a regatta racing season. A paddler transferring from one Member Association to another must retain the same classification he/she last paddled in.
- C) Submission of Transfer and Release: Any paddler wishing to transfer must submit to the Race Chairman a written statement of such intent. The statement is to be signed by himself, the coach he/she is leaving and the coach he/she is joining. The coach of the club from which the paddler will be leaving may not withhold his signature but may submit a statement as to why he/she feels the paddler should not be allowed to transfer.

VII. STANDARD EQUIPMENT

- A) Canoe Specifications:
 - 1. The canoe may be made of any wood or fiberglass. The canoe shall weigh no less than 400 pounds. For the purpose of weight determination, the word canoe shall not include i'ako or tying cord, but shall include hull and permanent fixtures such

as Manu, gunwales, wae, seat ribs, patches, fiberglass and lead weights required to bring the total canoe weight to at least 400 pounds. Lead weights shall be permanently affixed to the canoe at such location or locations to allow for ease of inspection by the race officials at any time during the course of a race.

2. No covering on the top of a canoe to prevent swamping shall be permitted, except in ocean races.
3. New canoes shall be weighed by the Race Committee before the canoe is eligible to participate in a KOA sanctioned regatta or long-distance race. To maintain eligibility, all racing canoes shall be weighed every five years beginning in 2025.
4. Prior to the first weighing of canoes (1st sanctioned race), member clubs must notify the Board of Directors and Race Committee of any and all structural changes made to a club canoe. Notice must be in writing and must be accompanied by a diagram indicating changes.
5. **Penalty Clause:** Disapproved structural changes to a canoe shall be classified as nonstandard equipment. Equipment violations of the preceding "Canoe Specifications" shall result in disqualification and a fine, to be determined by the Race Committee, by the next KOA meeting, dependent on the violation. All canoes must be weighed and measured prior pursuant to #3 above; any clubs not in compliance will not be eligible to participate in any KOA sanctioned races.

B) Weight: All canoes shall weigh no less than 400 pounds. For purposes of weight determination, the word "canoe" shall not include the ama, i'ako, and tying cord, but shall include the hull and permanent fixtures such as the many, gunwales, wae, seats, ribs, pepeau's and patches. For canoes produced *prior* to August 1988, the minimum weight of the hull without weights must be no less than 350 pounds. All added weights in excess of 15 pounds must be equally distributed between seats #2 and #5. For canoes produced *after* August 1, 1988, the minimum weight of the hull without weights must be no less than 385 pounds. All added weights in excess of 5 pounds must be equally distributed between seats #2 and #5. All added weights must be permanently fixed under the seats by screws or bolts to allow ease of inspection by race officials at any time during a race or regatta.

C) Paddle Specifications: Paddles must be single-bladed and shaped of wood only. However, the paddle used for racing may have a protective or supportive (strengthening) covering which may be fibrous, Kevlar, carbon fiber, etc. The paddle may have an edging or prosthesis for protection on the bottom or sides. The paddle may have laminated (horizontally or vertically) synthetic materials (Kevlar, etc.) for strength and support. Extra paddles may be carried in each canoe during the race and are subject to the same rules.

D) Miscellaneous:

1. Any crew using non-standard equipment during a race shall be disqualified.
2. The Race Director may conduct weighing or inspection of equipment at any time.

3. Identifying numbers or letters are required. If not, a “sock”, with the identifying club’s number will be given to each club at the Coaches Meeting and must be on the canoe used during each regatta race. The “sock” will be turned returned to the official tent at the end of each race day.
4. During a scheduled or sponsored race each club is responsible for its own property.

VIII. OFFICIALS

A) Race Committee

1. This committee shall consist of the Race Director and Head Coach of each KOA active club.
2. It shall be the duty of the Race Director and his/her committee to supervise all canoe races scheduled and/or Race Committee on matters under their cognizance shall be binding and final.

B) Regatta Officials

The Race Director shall be in charge of appointing the officials as required for each race.

C) Official Uniform

The Race Director shall designate the attire to be worn by all officials in order to distinguish them from others.

D) Official Equipment

There shall be a minimum of two (2) suitable power boats to carry officials for any regatta conducting the start and/or inspection of a race. A host club who does not provide minimum official boats shall be assessed a fine of \$300.00 payable to KOA.

E) Entries And Assignment Of Lanes

1. Race entries shall be submitted via the Race Day Live online system by 10pm on the Wednesday before the scheduled regatta.
2. Lanes shall be automatically assigned via the Race Day Live online system for each event entry timely submitted.
3. Entries submitted after the deadline shall be manually assigned to remaining lanes by the Race Director.
4. The lanes to be used shall be at the discretion of the Host Club and approved by the Race Director and/or Race Committee.
5. Lanes run from left to right or from shore out to sea.

F) Entries

1. The final entry list shall be submitted on the date of regatta FIVE (5) events prior to each race upon the call of the Race Secretary.

2. The names on the entry list shall at all times correspond with the names on the club roster, which shall be kept current, particularly as to married names of women paddlers.
3. Any last minute changes in the entry list must be approved by the Race Director/Race Secretary.
4. The entry list for any crew that is scratched should be submitted with the top portion completed with the word "SCRATCH" written across the form and should be signed by the coach.

G) Flat Course Rules

Course – The official Kauai Outrigger Association course shall be one-quarter mile in length and shall be laid out in equal lanes, with a minimum width of 80 feet. Flags shall be easily visible, shall be made of lightweight quick-drying material and as far as practicable, shall be constructed so that no two (2) lanes shall have the same colored flags. All flags on each lane shall be, as nearly as practicable, in a straight line.

H) Starting

1. All starts shall be in accordance with the instructions from the starter.
2. When the five (5) minutes flag is displayed, all canoes are to go immediately to their assigned lane and shall stay behind their respective flags. A yellow flag will be displayed from the official boat for a maximum of five (5) minutes before the start of a race or as soon as the last canoe from the previous race reaches shore. Then, the yellow flag will be waived for approximately five (5) seconds. Next, the yellow flag will be brought down, and the red flag will be raised. The official start shall be within the five (5) second period and shall be signified by the raising of the green flag and the lowering of the red flag simultaneously. A blast from the air horn, pistol or other device is optional. A lagging canoe shall have no right to protest on the grounds of an unfair start in the event the race is started.
3. Disqualification on Starting - at the start of a race. A youth racing crew (defined as 18 and younger) found to be over the line from the nose to the front point of the splash guard will be penalized by having 6 seconds added to their finish time. A youth racing crew (defined as 18 and younger) found to be over the start line past the front point of the splash guard will be disqualified. Any encroachment on the starting line by an adult racing crew will result in disqualification; Including Novice A and B crews. Any canoe in the wrong lane shall be disqualified. A disqualified canoe may continue to race, unless for some specific reason the Race Committee decides otherwise. The coach or representative of the canoe club will be notified before the public announcement.
4. After crossing the finish line, a canoe re-entering the racecourse or passing between the official stand and the start/finish line while the race is still in progress will be disqualified.
5. There shall be no recalls.

I) Turns

All turns shall be left turns around assigned lane flags. If the flag bends over and touches the water, the crew will be disqualified. Where canoes assigned to adjoining lanes occupying the same lane during a turning maneuver, each canoe shall maneuver in such a way as to occupy as nearly as possible the one-half (1/2) width of the lane nearest its own line of flags so that the canoes will pass each other hull to hull.

J) Lanes

All canoes must remain in their own lanes. Canoes shall keep in their respective lanes and in no way interfere with other participating canoes. Where two (2) canoes approach each other from opposite directions within the same lane, each canoe should occupy as nearly as possible the one-half (1/2) width of the lane nearest its own line of flags so that the canoes will pass each other between adjoining flags. If interference is claimed, the canoe not in its assigned lane will be disqualified.

K) Swamping

A canoe that swamps during a race may be bailed out by its crew and proceed in the race. There shall be a ten (10) minute time limit to do so. At the end of the ten (10) minutes, the water officials shall declare the crew disqualified and shall provide assistance to return the canoe to shore.

L) Boat Holders

No more than two (2) boat holders will be allowed. No assisting in forward motion of a canoe at the start. The penalty for violations of this paragraph will be a fine of \$100.00. However, the crew and club will not be disqualified. The fine of \$100.00 must be paid by the canoe club and until paid, the club may not enter any further event of a regatta on a race day, nor any future regatta or race. The regatta or race shall not be interrupted or stopped because of this fine.

M) Warmup Runs

No warmup runs allowed. Canoes shall proceed directly to the starting line prior to the race. A canoe that ignores a warning from any official boat to proceed directly to the starting line shall be disqualified. Further, the official starter may start the race without waiting for any canoe that ignores a warning from the official boat to proceed directly to the line. No canoe may practice on the racecourse after 7:30 a.m. on race day.

IX. PENALTIES

Any violation of the foregoing paragraphs may result in disqualification and/or other penalties. Interference, finishing in the wrong lane, turning on the wrong flag or violations called by an official shall result in the disqualification of the crew.

X. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Should weather conditions be determined to be adverse by the Race Director/Race Committee, Council of Clubs or Host Club, the regatta/race will be canceled.

XI. SURF COURSE RULES

- A) When scheduled or sponsored races are held in the surf, it will be deemed an unofficial race. The following rules shall apply in addition to the foregoing:
1. COURSE—The course shall be laid out by the Race Director and Race Committee to meet existing conditions. The length of the races shall be the same as for the flat course.
 2. STEERSMAN—Open steersmen may be used at the discretion of the Race Director and Race Committee. Said open steersman must be a bona fide member of the participating member club and his/her name must appear on the club roster. He/She may only steer, not paddle, except during surfing regattas.
 3. SURFING—Surfing on waves shall be permitted. No canoe shall block the normal course or in any way interfere with another canoe in an attempt to pick up or surf on a wave.

XII. LONG DISTANCE RULES

- A) Purpose: Encourage and be responsive to the Safety, Development, Refinement and Expansion of Competitive Long-Distance Open Ocean Outrigger Canoe Racing.
- B) Passing Another Canoe: In races that do not require the canoes to maintain their respective lanes, a canoe that is attempting to pass another shall keep clear at all times.
- C) Rounding Markers: Only inflatable or plastic floats shall be used as turn buoys in distance races. In races that do not require canoes to maintain their respective lanes and a turn buoy is to be rounded, the following rules apply:
1. If an overlap occurs when two (2) canoes are approaching a marker to be rounded, the outer canoe shall give way to allow the canoe closest to the marker to round the marker. The leading canoe is under no obligation to give way before an overlap is established.
 2. An overlap is defined as a condition existing when no open water can be seen between the stern of one canoe and the bow of another when viewed at right angle to their course.
- D) Registration And Eligibility:
1. For convenience, a standard Crew Sheet will be developed and used by all associate member clubs. E-mail registration will be acceptable, up to fourteen (14) hours before the race start.
 2. Each paddler must sign a waiver. Paddlers may be added to the Club Roster on the day of the event before events begin, providing a transfer form was

completed and proper signatures acquired and approved by 7pm Thursday prior to the race event.

3. It is agreed by all Association Members that there shall be no unregistered unofficial entries in long distance races. Nor shall a club schedule a practice over the same racecourse, on the same day as a Host Member Race.
4. Any unapproved or unofficial entry (VESSEL) will be fined a dollar amount equal to double the entry fee of the race payable to KOA. Such fees must be paid before members of that crew can participate in another KOA Outrigger Canoe Race on Kauai.
5. The recommended entry fee for distance races shall be \$180 per crew. The host club shall have the discretion to increase or decrease this fee.

E) Divisions: Standard HCRA Age Divisions will be adopted unless specifically voted otherwise by the Association. Divisions may be entered as club affiliations or as combined crews.

F) Racing

1. An air horn or other sound devices and the raising of the green flag will signal the start of the race, or other methods may be utilized as directed at the coaches meeting.
2. Host Race Director and/or Host Race Committee Official may recall and restart any race, which he or she judges should be recalled and restarted.
3. At the official start of the race, canoes passed or over the starting line and canoes not following course directions, shall have minutes added to their finish time. For races less than ten (10) miles, five (5) shall be added to the finish line.
4. The coach of the penalized crew shall be notified as soon as possible about the penalty being enacted.
5. Buoy or Flag Turns: unless otherwise specified at steers-person meeting, Long Distance turns will be enacted with the ama closest to the buoy or flag. If an overlap occurs, when two (2) or more canoes are approaching the turning point, the outer canoe shall give way to allow the canoe closest to the buoy to round the buoy. The leading canoe is under no obligation to give way before an overlap is established.
6. An overlap is defined as a condition existing when open water can be seen between the stern of one canoe and the bow of another if viewed at right angles to their course.
7. First, second and third place age division winners will be expected to provide proof of identification and age, when requested by any Host Club or KOA officer or official.

G) Escort Boats And Official Boats

1. Each crew entering in a Long Distance race for more than six (6) paddlers shall provide themselves with an escort boat. Relief paddler's changes must and shall be made during the race from the escort boat only. Crews of less than nine (9) or

- more paddlers must receive approval from the Host Race Director and or Race Committee Official.
2. The penalty for an escort boat entering the field of racing canoes without permission of the Race Commissioner and/or his/her Race Committee shall be the adding of 15 minutes to the canoe that the escort boat is escorting. Two warnings by a race official or the Race Committee to an escort boat to keep away from a canoe or any other infraction shall add a 15 minute penalty to the canoe club the boat is escorting.
 3. In "Iron Men/Women", six (6) paddler races, the use of an escort boat is prohibited in the racing field unless authorized for safety reasons by the Host Race Director and/or Host Race Committee Official.
 4. Once the race starts, escort boats shall be prohibited in the field of racing canoes for a minimum of five (5) minutes, or as specified otherwise by the Host Race Director and/or Host Race Committee Official during the steers persons meeting. The field will be defined as an imaginary square boundary from the lead canoe to the last canoe and the first canoe on the furthest left to the first canoe on the furthest right.
 5. Escort boats must be a minimum of 21 feet. Unsafe conditions by an escort boat being overcrowded may cause it to be declared unfit as an escort boat by the Host Race Director and/or Race Committee Official, until such time as the additional persons are removed from the escort boat. Escort boats must have communication equipment available.
 6. Escort boats must follow their canoe no closer than 40 feet to the stern of the canoe, except when dropping off or picking up relief paddlers. At no time shall the escort boat cause a wake in order to assist their canoe, or to hinder another canoe. A penalty for this activity, if observed by the Host Race Director and/or Host Race Committee Official shall be five minutes added to the overall time.
 7. The health and safety of the crew is the responsibility of their individual escort boat. In the event of an accident or emergency, the crew of the escort boat has the responsibility of providing assistance to the crew. If the accident or injury is deemed to be sufficient that it is necessary for the escort boat to leave the course to acquire medical assistance, it is the crew of the escort boat's responsibility to notify one of the official boats, who will then take over the responsibility for the remaining crew.
 8. If a canoe swamps, any means may be used to aid it except towing it in the direction of the finish line.
 9. Warnings issued by official(s) shall be adhered to. Failure to do so may cause a five (5) minute penalty to be added to the finish time or disqualification of the club and or crew involved.
 10. There will be a minimum of three (3) official boats; a host club, who does not provide the minimum official boats, shall be assessed a fine of \$300.00 payable to KOA immediately.
 11. During such Long Distance canoe race events, wherein a Change Window has been deemed necessary by the Race Director and/or Host Race Committee

Official, any intentional delay to maximize the length of time an individual crew remains paddling in the canoe will be seen as a violation of the spirit of the Change Window Requirements and a penalty of 10 minutes can be enacted on the spot by the Race Director and/or Host Race Committee Official.

12. The Race Director shall determine the number and size of safety boats needed in each regatta or long distance race.
13. Safety boats must not interfere with any crews.
14. The crew, officials, and guests on an Official Boat may not coach or provide racecourse information to improve the performance of or give advantage to any racing team. Such actions will result in 15 minutes added to the crew's time.

H) Illegal Paddler

1. The penalty for a club using an illegal paddler shall be disqualification of the crew and fine of \$50.00. The fine must be paid by the canoe club. Until paid the club may not enter any further events of the regatta or any future regatta or race. The regatta or race shall not be interrupted or stopped because of this disqualification and fine, which must be paid. The Race Committee may accept a promissory note in lieu of \$50.00. Two (2) persons from the club in violation must sign the promissory note. They must either be the Head Coach, an Officer of the club or the KOA delegate. The fine must be paid by the next lane drawing or the next KOA meeting whichever is first, otherwise the club will be ineligible to draw lanes, ineligible to vote and race.
2. The penalty for the second offense of using an illegal paddler during the same calendar year shall be the same as the first except that the fine shall be \$150.00. All other procedures shall remain the same as the above.

XIII. PROTEST

- A) A fee of \$60.00 will accompany any written protest filed and will be refundable if the protest is upheld. Protest forms shall be provided by KOA.
- B) All protests or complaints of rule violations shall be made in writing to the Race Director immediately following the end of the race in question. While the Race Committee is hearing and appraising itself of the facts surrounding the protest, only the Head Coach, club representatives and officials involved shall be present. All decisions made by the Race Committee on protests shall be final.

XIV. CANOE IDENTIFICATION ASSIGNMENTS

- A) 79 Hokualele Canoe Club
- B) 80 Niumalu Canoe Club
- C) 81 Hanalei Hawaiian Civic Canoe Club
- D) 82 Koloa Canoe Club
- E) 83 Kawaikini Canoe Club
- F) 84 Hui O Mana Ka Puuwai Canoe Club

- G) 85 Kaiola Canoe Club
- H) 86 Kilohana Canoe Club
- I) 87 Namolokama Canoe Club
- J) 88 Kukui'ula Outrigger Surf and Sailing Club
- K) 89 West Kaua'i Canoe Club

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretary of the Association does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of the Race Rules of the Association as adopted by the Executive Board as of this **1st** day of **November, 2025**.

Elle Miyake, KOA Secretary 2025

Race Rule Amendment Log

Current Amendment	11/01/2026
Amended	11/07/2025
Amended	11/07/2015