

# Trinity River Challenge Official Rules

## 1. Definitions

### a. Recreational Division (6 Mile Race)

The Recreation race will be 6 miles. Starting at McInnish Park, continuing 3 miles up river to the IH 35 Bridge and back to McInnish Park.

## Kayaks

**Small Recreational Kayak:** any single kayak, sit on top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 12' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 22".

**Recreational Kayak:** any single kayak over 12' with a maximum overall length of 18' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 18".

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

### Additional rules for both single and double kayaks

Flip up rudders not included in the length.

Recreational Kayak may be made of any material.

No hull modifications.

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

## Canoes

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

## SUP

**SUP:** any solo SUP of any length with any paddle is allowed.

### Additional rules for both Canoes

Rudders of any kind are not allowed.

No hull modifications.

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

## **b. Unlimited (12 Mile Race)**

The 12 Mile race will be starting at McInnish Park, continuing 6 miles up river to the Hebron Parkway Canoe launch and back to McInnish Park.

### **Any Canoe or Kayak that does not fit the descriptions above**

The canoe may be made of any material.

The canoe may have a rudder of any kind.

Any Canoe or kayak from the Recreational that wants to compete in the 12 mile race.

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

## **c. Boat/ Award Class Breakdown**

### **Recreational Classes (6 Mile Race)**

**Small Recreation Kayak** – Any Recreational Kayak as described in section a, with a maximum length of 12’.

**Recreational Kayak** - Any Recreational Kayak as described above with a Minimum length of 12’ 1” and a Maximum length of 18’.

**Solo Canoe** – Any canoe as described in section a which is paddled by one person, including aluminum canoes.

**Tandem Canoe / Kayak** – Any canoe as described in section a, which is paddled by two persons OR Tandem Kayak as described in section a.

**SUP-** As described in boat definitions.

## **Pro Class (12 Mile Race)**

**Unlimited Solo** - As described in boat definitions.

**Unlimited Tandem** - As described in boat definitions.

**SUP**- As described in boat definitions.

## **Recreational Age Classifications**

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

**Junior** - All persons under 18 years of age.

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

**Adult** - All persons 18 to 49 years of age.

**Senior** - All persons 50 years of age and up.

## **Race Divisions**

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

## **Special Awards**

**The Brian O. Lisle Trophy** - Given for the fastest time in the Pro (12 mile Race).

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

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

**Age Group Awards** - The recreation class boat turning in the fastest time in Junior, Junior/Adult, and Senior age classes, win a trophy.

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

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

A crew with a 51 year old (senior) and a 40 year old (master) crew, races as Master.

## 2. Official Race Rules

### Registration

Early Registration for TRC opens on 6/30/2023 and closes on 8/16/2023. Registration form will be on the DDRC Website Event Page

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Pre Race Rules/Safety Meeting**

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

## **Racecourse**

The Trinity River Challenge start / finish is the concrete boat ramp at McInnish Park in Carrollton. The recreational race course is 3 miles upstream to turn around a buoy at IH 35. The Pro race course is 5.9 miles upstream to turn around aq bouy at the Hebron Parkway Canoe Launch and return to the start / finish line at McInnish Park.

## **Cancellation of Race**

The race will be cancelled if:

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

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

## **Starting the Race**

### **Start Order**

The race will be started in one group.

### **Warm Ups**

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

## **Start Time**

Racers in the first group should be prepared to go to the boat ramp by approximately 9:40am.

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

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

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

## **During The Race**

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

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

The turnaround checkpoint for the race 6 Mile race is the IH 35 bridge. The 12 Mile turning is at the Hebron Parkway overpass. Race judges and the sweep team will be stationed here to verify that all boats reach this point before turning around.

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

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

If the flow of the river is 150cfs or less all boats must turn around at the Hebron Parkway bridge checkpoint within 1 hour and 30 minutes of their start or be disqualified. At that time, the sweep team boats will launch from Hebron Parkway Bridge to collect racers, who did not reach the turn around buoy. That way, everyone will be back at start / finish in time for lunch and awards ceremony.

If the flow of the river is above 150cfs, but less than 600cfs, the 1 hour 30 minute rule is waived automatically.

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

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

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

## **Finishing the Race**

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

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

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

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

## **Awards**

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

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