

## SECTION 19 - ESCORT BOAT RULES

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Violations will result in disqualification, time penalties, and/or possible suspension from future HCC sponsored events.

1. All escort boats must have current registration and insurance and meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
2. All escort boats must complete and sign the event waiver.
3. All escort boats must have a contact that can help them if their boat becomes disabled and they need to repair or tow it before or during the race – Officials will not tow or repair escort boats and will only assist the affected crew and paddlers.
4. Escort boats must have at least one spotter in addition to the captain. A crew member does not meet this requirement.
5. It is recommended that escort boats are at least 23’.
6. Escorts must stay with their paddlers at all times unless otherwise instructed by Officials.
7. Any crew attempting to complete the race without an escort will be disqualified. (ONLY exemption is REGISTERED IRON CREWS)
8. All escort boats must have mounted ship-to-ship VHF radio communication. Handhelds are reserved for BACK UP ONLY.
9. All escort boats must check in with crew name and number on the event operations channel as designated between 7:00am-7:45am.
10. Race officials must be notified of any changes to the escort boat information at least 24 hours prior to the start. Any changes within 24 hours of the start will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be denied entry into the race.
11. Any crew whose escort boat has not checked in will not be allowed to start the race. (ONLY exemption is REGISTERED IRON CREWS)
12. Escort boats must remain outside of the racing pack for at least 30 minutes after the start.
13. Escort boats are able to make the first change 30 minutes after the start.
14. Escort boats must load equipment and supplies prior to arriving on site. Beach loading will not be allowed. Beach loading will result in a disqualification or penalty to the crew.
15. Escort boats must remain in the escort holding area as indicated on the event map.
16. Escort boats must heed official’s instructions if selected for random inspection.
17. Escort boats must always maintain a safe distance from all canoes and other boats.
18. Escort boats will at no time block or cause wake to a canoe.
19. Escort boats must keep a record of injuries and immediately report any injuries requiring medical attention to the Race Director and/or Safety Official.
20. Escort boats must meet all State, Federal and USCG requirements.

Any violation of the above rules may result in a disqualification or time penalty to the crew or possible escort suspension from future HCC sponsored events.