

## OFFICIAL ATHOL TO ORANGE RIVER RAT RACE RULES – 2024

1. Canoes must be of a conventional type open construction design with no coverings from front to rear and in good shape. No sculls, Kayaks or Olympic type racing canoes are allowed.

### Canoes cannot be over 18ft in length!

2. Front and back of the canoe must be higher than the middle. Canoes must be 18 ft in length, which shall equal the minimum width 4" above the keel at the canoe's maximum width. Center depth shall not be less than 11 1/2 inches.

3. **Life Jackets must be worn** (as designed) during actual race and practice runs. No Co2 vests or belts allowed.

4. Canoes must have sufficient (flotation and Safety lines (6 -8 feet long) Safety lines must be attached to and stored in **both bow and stern** to aid in recovery.

5. Canoes must be propelled by single blade paddles only, no motorized or battery-operated bailing devices allowed.

6. No portages allowed. Contestants must follow the natural flow of the river.

7. Old numbers from previous River Rat races must be removed or there will be disqualification.

8. The Official Judges reserve the right to make all final decisions in regard to any part of the race.

9. FOR ALL YOUTH PARTICIPATING, youth must be between the ages of 12-17. a parent or guardian who signs the required waiver is the preferred adult in the canoe with any minor under the age of 16. youth ages 16 and 17 may paddle together without an adult. a waiver must be signed by the parent or guardian for any minor under the age of 18. a youth waiver is downloadable by clicking on "FORM" on the registration page. the waiver should be signed in person at else where in Athol. ID may be required.

10. Post Position drawing will be held at **the Athol Town Hall**, Athol, MA, Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. All Contestants should be present to receive starting number and final instructions. If you cannot attend, you may pick up your number at Else Where, 1485 Main Street from 8 AM to 11AM Saturday, **April 13<sup>th</sup>** If you need someone to pick up your number, that person will be required to sign that they did pick it up on your behalf.

11. The Race starts at 1:00 P M Saturday , April 13<sup>th</sup> at the east bank of the Millers River just upstream from the South Main Street Bridge in Athol, and finishes 100 yards before the South Main St Bridge in Orange. The race has a LeMans type start where all canoes go at the same time. Contestants line up canoes at the river's edge according to post position numbers. The start is signaled by a single shot fired from a cannon. Assembly time starts at 11:30 AM.

**First 40 canoes out of the river will be jigged and measured. RECEIPT Required to receive any award.**

12. Trophies and cash awards will be presented at the Orange Riverfront Park at 5:00 following the race. Dual trophies will be awarded to the first 3 teams to reach the finish line. Trophies will also be awarded to the first 3 aluminum, mens, girls and mixed Pro, mens, girls, and mixed recreation, youth/adult and North Quabbin .. \*\*\*North Quabbin Towns include, Orange, Athol, Wendell, Warwick, Petersham, New Salem, Royalston, Phillipston, and Erving.

13. The number of entries determines cash awards..

14. There will be no refunds.

15. No switching of partners is allowed once positions are drawn or you will be placed at the back of the race.

16. Recreation Division Canoes must be manufactured (no custom canoes in this class) fiberglass canoes that weigh at least 50 pounds with no added weight. They must not exceed 18 feet in length.

17. NO ALCOHOL will be permitted in canoes at any time.