

## **The Rules of the New Bedford Independence Day Whaleboat Race 2010:**

- 1) **Registration Form:** All teams must submit a completed and signed registration form including your team name, sponsor name if any, your race category, and the names of your team members.
- 2) **Race Fee:** No team may begin practicing until the race registration form is properly completed and submitted along with the race fee. The race fee is determined by the Race Committee each year and is non-refundable.
- 3) **WCR Teams / Visiting Teams:** Race teams consisting entirely of current WCR members may practice during any month of the year as per their member privileges. Race teams with one or more non-members or members not in good standing will be considered visiting teams.
- 4) **Race Practice Season:** Visiting teams may not begin practices until the official start of race practice season. Race practices begin on the Saturday six weeks prior to the race for teams whose boatsteerers are new and in need of training and certification. For visiting teams with already certified boatsteerers, race practices begin on the Saturday four weeks prior to the race. During the two weeks designated for novice teams the training of new boatsteerers will take precedence over already scheduled rows, and member teams may be asked to give up their scheduled row in order to accommodate the training sessions.
- 5) **Practice Times:** Each team is allowed three hours each week to practice. Only two of those three hours can be during Prime practice times. Prime practice times will be determined by the Race Committee each year and will be based on the periods of heavy use as determined by the boat schedule.
- 6) **Boatsteerer Certification:** No team may practice until their boatsteerer has been certified by the WCR at the *Race Boatsteerer* level at minimum.
- 7) **Race Boatsteerers:** *Race Boatsteerers* must keep the boat within the Inner Harbor. They may not go outside the Hurricane Barrier or north of the Route 6 bridges. They may only take their registered team out; no substitutions of rowers or boatsteerers are allowed.
- 8) **Insurance Waivers:** Every person in the boat must have a signed insurance waiver on file. Blank waivers are available in the shed in the red file box, in a folder marked "Blank Waivers". They are printed on the reverse side of the WCR Membership Applications.
- 9) **Scheduled Practices:** All teams must contact Liz Labelle at [imelabelle@gmail.com](mailto:imelabelle@gmail.com) 24-hours in advance to schedule practices. Teams may only go out during their specified practice times and must take the boat they are assigned.
- 10) **Equipment:** The equipment must be cared for as outlined in the Boatsteerer Training Manual. The equipment may not be altered in any way. No adhesives are to be applied to any part of the boat or oars. The oar sleeves and collar are not to be moved.
- 11) **Vices:** Smoking and/or consuming alcoholic beverages while in the boats is strictly forbidden.
- 12) **Race Times:** Race times and lane assignments will be drawn at the Captains & Boatsteerers meeting approximately one week prior to the races. Boat assignments are to be randomly drawn immediately before each heat. In the instance of a heat consisting of only two teams, teams are not allowed to opt out of a random boat choice.
- 13) **Classifications:** Each team must choose their classification (see the definitions below) upon registering. Each team is allowed to compete in only one classification and will race during the times assigned to that classification. If a classification has only one entry the race committee may require the single team to race simultaneously in any other classification having only two

teams in a given heat. The race results will be applied only to the classification in which the team had originally applied.

- 14) **Incomplete Paperwork:** Teams with incomplete paperwork or fees owed, including membership dues, will not be allowed to participate in the race.
- 15) **Collisions & Turns:** A boat that causes a collision with another boat or a buoy will have 40 seconds added to their race time. In the case of two boats colliding on a straight run, the aft boat will be considered at fault. In the case of two boats colliding on a turn, the boat judged to be out of their lane will be considered at fault. A boat that turns the wrong way around a buoy will have 20 seconds added to their race time. The first turn is port, the second turn is starboard.
- 16) **Infractions:** If you break the rules your team may be disqualified from the race.

*Tying in with rope, buckles, use of seat cushions is permissible.*

#### **Classifications:**

There shall be three main categories of competition, **Open**, **Masters** and **Youth**, each divided into three divisions, **Men's**, **Women's** and **Co-Ed**, for a total of nine separate and distinct classes of competition:

#### **Race classifications:**

1. Co-ed Youth
2. Women's Youth
3. Men's Youth
4. Co-ed Masters
5. Women's Masters
6. Men's Masters
7. Co-ed Open
8. Women's Open
9. Men's Open

#### **Competitor Specifications:** (each rower's age is "at most recent birthday, as of 3 July 2010")

Open:	Everyone is allowed to compete in this category
Masters:	Each rower must be at least 50 years, boatsteerer of any age
Youth:	All rowers under the age of 18, boatsteerer at least 15 years of age or older
Men's:	At least 4 male rowers, boatsteerer of either sex
Women's:	Female rowers only, boatsteerer of either sex
Co-ed:	At least two female rowers and at least one male rower
Boatsteerers:	Must be WCRC-certified, at least 100 lbs., at least 15 years of age, and in the boat for the entire race; may be of either sex