Regatta Volunteers

One of the great and distinguishing features of our sport is that it is an all-volunteer sport. Everyone who is working in a regatta is doing so on their own time. In order for the race organizers (club, division, province & nationally) to conduct a safe & fair competition – we are totally reliant on volunteers.

Your kids work & train hard for weeks & months to prepare for these competitions – and it is important for all parents to be prepared to support your kids by participating in regatta's.

A qualifying regatta (ie WOD Trials) requires upwards of 25 volunteers (of which 9 are boat drivers), plus up to 12 officials, per shift. That works out to 150+ volunteer slots per WOD Trials weekend

This info sheet is designed to help parents understand the roles involved – so that you can feel comfortable about your ability to do the required duties.

Note: as a regatta volunteer in any capacity, you are expected to be neutral! You should not be cheering on any crews while at your station.

Regatta Roles

Officials:.....2

Boat Drivers.....2

- Safety Boats.....2
- Referee Boats.....2
- Starter's Boat.....2

Spotters:.....2

Finish Line Judges.....2

Timekeepers.....3

Results Management.....3

Announcers.....3

Assistant Starter.....3

Video Operators.....3

Awards Co-Ordinator.....3

Results Runners (a great job for younger kids!).....3

Finish Lynx video capture: (aka Plunger Person).....3

Boat Control Assistant.....4

Info tent host (if assigned).....4

Officials:

There are a number of specialized roles that require certification; We encourage all parents to achieve a basic certification – which will enable you to participate in key support roles in a competition (Starters assistant, Boat control assistants, timers, Announcer, Results management, finish line judges, video operator etc);

Interested persons can then seek additional certification in the following positions: Chief Official, Chief Finish Line Judge, Competition Secretary, Finish Line Judges, Timer, Boat Controller, Starter, Referees

Boat Drivers

(Note: boat operators *must* have a Boat Operators permit)

Safety Boats

- Operate boats on the fringe of the course; when a boat tips, drive the boat to the paddlers for rescue; maneuver boat to pick up paddlers, and secure equipment (boat, paddles, blocks, seat pads etc).

Referee Boats

- Follow down the lanes behind the racers to allow the Referees to monitor each race.

Starter's Boat

- operate the boat so the Starter can get the racers lined up properly for the start of each race.

Spotters:

(1 per safety boat)

- Keep an eye on the racers - and alert driver to paddlers who have fallen out of their boats.
- Assist paddler to board safety boat.
- Pick up paddles and blocks as necessary.
- Secure race boat for return trip to shore.

Finish Line Judges

- Responsible for writing down the finish order of the racers. The racers each have a lane number marker on their boats. As they cross the finish line, the judges simply write down the lane number in the order of the finish. The finish line judges must agree on the finish order. In the event of a disagreement, the judges refer to the video replay.

Timekeepers

- Time keepers operate the manual timing device. The timekeepers will get the start of the race from the Starter and then mark the race times as the racers come across the finish line. The timing device will print out a list of the race times which the timekeepers hand to the Chief Official.

Results Management

- Must be comfortable working with Microsoft Excel. The results officials get the race times from the Chief Official and enter the times into a spreadsheet provided.
- Second person to calculate Burgee points.

Announcers

- Responsible for using the PA system to inform spectators of the race on the course plus the names and lanes of the racers.
- Will make general announcements such as calling coaches to the judges stand, lost & found, food services etc

Assistant Starter

- Provide assistance to the Starter as requested
- Identify the boats for upcoming races
- Communicate any scratches etc. to tower
- Hold 2-way radio for starter

Video Operators

- Responsible for operating the video replay computer. The computer is connected to a tripod video camera, and has recording/playback capabilities via the installed software.

Awards Co-Ordinator

- This person(s) would be responsible for ensuring the awards (medals, snowballs) are available for the presenters during the awards ceremony, or distributing directly to the winning crew.

Results Runners (a great job for younger kids!)

- Responsible to obtain results and advancements from the Results official, and post them on the designated results boards.

Finish Lynx video capture: (aka Plunger Person)

- As the racers approach the finish line, this person activates F-L camera (by pressing & holding the plunger button), until the last racer has finished

Boat Control Assistant

- Working with the boat control official, this person assists as required: placing numbers on magnetic board, marshalling the paddlers into the B/C tent, holding deck #'s, providing water to athlete's etc