



**HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**  
**MOLOKA'I HOE**

Hosted by O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association

**2019 RACE RULES**

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## Code of Ethics

- 1
- 2 We are all responsible to promote good sportsmanship and fair play in the activities in which we engage.
- 3 This means observance of these race rules as well as generally accepted rules of behavior and all
- 4 governmental laws.
  
- 5 Paddlers are required to avoid situations where a canoe is deliberately rammed, where there is deliberate
- 6 interference with another crew, and situations where assaults and abusive language are used.
  
- 7 Coaches are required to support and help enforce these race rules and to avoid any circumvention of
- 8 these rules.
  
- 9 Officials and officers are required to do their best to be fair and not biased in their decisions and in
- 10 carrying out their duties.
  
- 11 Any club members that are found drinking at our events will result in the entire club being asked to leave
- 12 the event and will no longer be eligible to compete for that day's events. This included all paddlers,
- 13 friends and family.

2019

## 2019 Moloka'i Hoe Race Rules

### A. Introduction

Moloka'i Hoe is produced and administered by the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA) Moloka'i Hoe Committee. Moloka'i Hoe is the property of the title sponsor and OHCRA, which hereby reserves all rights of any nature whatsoever. Any use of the race, its name, equipment or material associated herewith without expressed written consent of the title sponsor and OHCRA is prohibited. Moloka'i Hoe Race Rules here in must be identical to the Race Rules on the Moloka'i Hoe website.

### B. Entry Eligibility

This race shall be open to all canoe clubs or organizations submitting an entry application and meeting the requirements of the Moloka'i Hoe Committee. OHCRA Race Rules will apply to this race unless herein modified. Merging of canoe clubs may be allowed. Each club or organization must submit a complete entry application on an official entry form provided by OHCRA. No entry will be accepted unless all the requirements herein are complied with. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

### C. Entry Requirements

1. Must submit completed **Entry Form Application** by the specified deadline date.
2. Must submit all **HCRA Waiver Forms** by the specified time on the deadline date.
3. Must attach **HCRA Canoe Weight Form #801**. This form must be received before canoes are shipped to Moloka'i.
4. Must pay shipping fee before canoe is shipped to Moloka'i. The Race Director will assign the canoe shipping date for each entry shipped from O'ahu.
5. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee may refuse to accept any entries received after the deadline date.
6. It is mandatory that the coaches of each participating crew attend the coaches meeting held the day before the race. The crew will be fined **\$500** if the coach does not attend the meeting as this is a safety issue.

### D. Paddlers Eligibility

#### 1. Adult Divisions

The final selected race crew will consist of nine (9) male paddlers in the Open, 40+, and 50+; and twelve (12) male paddlers in the 55+, 60+ and 65+ divisions. Minimum age must be not less than 18 years of age as of the day of the race for the adult divisions, there will be no exceptions. The Final Entry must be submitted no later than the specified time prior to the race date.

1           Juniors Division

- 2           a. An escort boat used for any Juniors division crew entry will need to be 22 feet or  
3           longer.  
4           b. A coach of a Juniors division will need to be at least 21 years of age.  
5           c. A helper will be required for all Juniors crews.  
6           d. A crew will consist of nine (9) paddlers.  
7           e. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any crew.  
8           f. A crew member must be at least sixteen (16) years of age on race day and be  
9           eligible (by age) for the sixteen's (16's) or eighteen's (18's) regatta crew of the same  
10          calendar year.  
11          g. A 16 or 17 year old paddler cannot participate in another adult crew. An 18 year old  
12          has the choice as a legal adult to participate in either the juniors or adult divisions.

- 13  
14          2. It is the entrant's responsibility to see that their paddlers are physically fit and capable of  
15          participating in a marathon canoe paddling event. If there is a question regarding a paddler's  
16          physical fitness, it shall be the entrant's responsibility to provide a medical clearance form  
17          and obtain the Moloka'i Hoe Committee's approval before the paddler enters the race.  
18  
19          3. All crew members must be able to swim.  
20  
21          4. Each paddler must sign designated liability and publicity waivers.  
22  
23          5. Merging clubs: Paddlers from different clubs may merge to form a crew.  
24  
25          6. All participants who are not a current member of an HCRA club will be charged an insurance  
26          assessment at the time of registration unless they can provide a Certificate of Insurance  
27          Letter (COI) from their affiliated association with the canoe clubs name and each of the  
28          paddlers names listed.  
29  
30          7. Anti-Doping Regulation  
31          a. OHCRA prohibits the use of performance enhancing or illegal drugs by athletes  
32          competing in and during preparation for the Molokai Hoe.

2019

34       **E. Canoe Hull, Rigging and Equipment**

- 35  
36          1. All canoes (including rigging, 'iako, ama, hull shape above waterline, at waterline, and below  
37          waterline) must meet current OHCRA Hawaiian design canoe specifications.  
38  
39          2. Only koa canoes that have been measured and certified under OHCRA Hawaiian design  
40          canoe specifications for koa canoes will be allowed to race in the Koa Division.  
41  
42          3. Only non-koa canoes that have been measured and certified under OHCRA Hawaiian design  
43          canoe specification for non-koa canoes will be allowed to race in the Non-Koa Division.  
44  
45          4. No fins or keels will be allowed on the canoe ama.  
46  
47          5. The minimum racing weight of any canoe, excluding the ama, 'iako, and tying cord is set at  
48          400lbs. Minimum weight of hulls constructed before August 1, 1998, shall be no less than

- 1 350lbs. Lead weights must be permanently affixed to the canoe to bring the weight to 400 lbs.  
2 The added weight(s) must be evenly distributed between seats 2 and 5 and must be  
3 permanently affixed to the bottom of the seats to bring the hull weight to 400lbs. Only certified  
4 weights must be used and permanently bolted or screwed to the seats of the canoes  
5 throughout the entire race. Weights must not be removed during the race and must remain  
6 secured until the Moloka'i Hoe Committee gives clearance. Adding weights to the canoe will  
7 be the responsibility of the entrant. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee must certify all added  
8 weights.  
9
- 10 6. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to weigh any canoe regardless of any other  
11 authorities' prior weight certification.  
12
- 13 7. Canvas or other covering on the canoe is MANDATORY during the race.  
14
- 15 8. No sails or other artificial means of propulsion are permitted on the canoe.  
16
- 17 9. No mechanical means of bailing water out of a canoe are allowed.  
18
- 19 10. No foot support or braces of any kind are permitted inside the canoe. Only non-skid materials  
20 are allowed.  
21
- 22 11. During the race, each entry shall have its assigned identification symbol permanently  
23 displayed on the front manu of its canoe. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee will assign this  
24 identification.  
25
- 26 12. An inspection of all equipment used in the race will be conducted at Hale O Lono Harbor prior  
27 to the race.  
28
- 29 13. At the discretion of the Moloka'i Hoe Committee, any equipment that substantially differs from  
30 the existing traditional Hawaiian design is subject to rejection of said equipment.  
31
- 32 14. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee shall have the final decision of approving or disapproving ANY  
33 entry, canoe or equipment.  
34
- 35 15. All canoes entered in any OHCRA sanctioned event during the regatta and distance season  
36 (excluding preseason and postseason) shall have their ama to 'iako and 'iako to hull attached  
37 (rigged) with multiple cord lashings and no "quick straps".  
38
- 39 16. Cameras can be used in or on the canoe during distance races.  
40

## 41 **F. Paddles**

- 42 Paddles must be single bladed and can be made from any material except that it must have  
43 visible wood in it which can be solid or veneer. OHCRA will consider bamboo as a wood. The  
44 paddles can be made by any construction method and can be solid or hollow. Extra paddles may  
45 be carried in each canoe during a race.  
46

## G. Water Safety

1. Each entry must provide U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (PFD) for each person that boards their escort / auxiliary boat and each paddler in the canoe.
2. Each entry is responsible for complying with all applicable State, Federal, and U.S. Coast Guard regulations and requirements.
3. Each entry is responsible for assuring that each paddler, coach, helper and / or guest are water safe.
4. Each entry is responsible for providing basic first-aid supplies.
5. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to place an official on any entrant's escort / auxiliary boat.
6. Each entry is responsible for providing adequate nourishment and liquids for all crew members in the canoe and each person, including the assigned official, on the escort / auxiliary boat.
7. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to disqualify any crew if the Race Director determines that the crew is not capable of participating in or finishing the race within a reasonable time.

## H. Sponsorship Signage

1. Any signage used by the entrant must be pre-approved by the Moloka'i Hoe Committee. The Moloka'i Hoe Committee reserves the right to remove any signage which is not in good taste or which sabotages the promotional rights of the title sponsors and the presenting sponsor. Use of conflicting sponsorship signage on canoes, escort / auxiliary boats, and the athletes themselves, shall be left to the discretion of the Moloka'i Hoe Committee.
2. Signage on a canoe must be between the two (2) 'iako of each canoe. Signage on the escort / auxiliary boat(s) may be any place except port side of the bow where the Moloka'i Hoe Committee requires placement of the assigned identification for each entry.
3. Any flags used by the entrant must be pre-approved by the Moloka'i Hoe Committee.
4. Race sponsor signage may be put on any canoe or escort / auxiliary boat used in the Moloka'i Hoe Race at the request of the Moloka'i Hoe Committee.
5. Final determination for use of sponsorship signage will be left to the discretion and judgement of the Moloka'i Hoe Committee.

## I. Course Rules

1. Start of the Race

- 1 a. All canoes shall be ready to start before the time set for the beginning of the race at  
2 Hale O Lono. The starting line of the race will be approximately 300 feet seaward to  
3 the entrance groin of Hale O Lono Harbor.  
4  
5 b. All canoes will assemble behind the buffer zone line until called by officials to move  
6 up to the start line.  
7  
8 c. The race will begin at approximately 8:00 a.m.  
9  
10 d. Any air horn or other sound device and the raising of the green flag will signal the  
11 start of the race, or other method as described at the coaches meeting.  
12  
13 e. Any canoe over the starting line at the start of the race will be penalized ten (10)  
14 minutes which will be added to their official finish time.  
15  
16 f. All crews must start and finish in the same racing jersey which can be same colored  
17 short sleeve, long sleeve or sleeveless.  
18

19 2. Course

- 20 a. The course shall be from the starting line at Hale O Lono Harbor, Moloka'i to the  
21 finish line at Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Kālia, Waikīkī Beach.  
22  
23 b. A crew may follow any course to the finish line provided that it rounds the orange-  
24 marker buoy at the channel entrance to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel before  
25 crossing the finish line.  
26  
27 c. Specific diagrams will be provided at the coaches meeting. Entries are encouraged to  
28 visit the finish line area before the race.  
29

30 3. Paddlers and Relief Paddlers

- 31 a. The final selected race crew will consist of nine (9) male paddlers in Junior, Open,  
32 40+, and 50+; and twelve (12) male paddlers in the 55+, 60+ and 65+ divisions.  
33 Minimum age must be not less than 18 years of age as of the day of the race for the  
34 adult divisions. These names shall be submitted to the assigned race official before  
35 11am the day before the race and must have come from the crew list form.  
36  
37 b. There may be no more than six (6) male paddlers in any canoe at any time during the  
38 race.  
39  
40 c. Starting and relief paddlers may be used at the discretion of the coach.  
41  
42 d. The first change of paddlers will take place, at the discretion of the Race Director, no  
43 earlier than La'au Point or thirty (30) minutes and not later than forty-five (45)  
44 minutes. An official boat will signal the first change as described at the coaches  
45 meeting.  
46  
47 e. All canoes must pass between La'au Point and a prescribed official boat that will be  
48 stationed at a set distance from La'au Point.  
49



- 1 f. The last change shall be before the orange-marker buoy leading to the channel off  
2 the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. It is strongly recommended that there is no change  
3 100 yards prior to the orange-marker buoy for safety reasons.  
4  
5 g. Each canoe must finish the race with six (6) male paddlers in the canoe to qualify for  
6 placement and awards.  
7  
8 h. All paddlers will be issued an official WRISTBAND which must be worn at all times  
9 during the course of the race. This is MANDATORY and will be issued when the final  
10 crew list is submitted.  
11

12 4. Swamping or Overturning of a canoe

- 13 a. If a canoe swamps or overturns after the start of the race, the canoe may be righted  
14 and bailed out and will be allowed to continue in the race. No mechanical devices will  
15 be allowed throughout the race to bail a canoe.  
16  
17 b. Relief paddlers and additional qualified persons on an escort boat may assist in  
18 righting and bailing out a swamped canoe.  
19  
20 c. The escort / auxiliary boat will standby and render any assistance to the swamped  
21 canoe but must not tow a swamped canoe in the direction of the finish line while the  
22 canoe is officially entered in the race.  
23  
24 d. The escort / auxiliary boats must be equipped with bridle straps in the event that a  
25 canoe needs to be towed. Failure to have bridle straps aboard the escort / auxiliary  
26 boat will result in a penalty.  
27

28 5. Escort Boat / Auxiliary Boat

- 29 a. Each entry must have one (1) escort powerboat to accompany them throughout the  
30 race.  
31  
32 b. Each entry may have one (1) auxiliary powerboat. The auxiliary boat assists in the  
33 retrieving of paddlers during the substitute changes. It is suggested that each entry  
34 have an auxiliary boat. However, auxiliary boats are optional.  
35  
36 c. All escort / auxiliary boats must have a Moloka'i Hoe ID number that has been issued  
37 by the Moloka'i Hoe Committee. If a powerboat does not have a Moloka'i Hoe ID  
38 number, they will be asked to leave the course.  
39  
40 d. All escort / auxiliary boats must have bridle straps to tow a canoe and a 3' X 5' red  
41 flag that can be flown from the escort boat in the event of an emergency.  
42  
43 e. All escort / auxiliary boats must provide a copy of the boats registration to the  
44 Moloka'i Hoe Committee no later than 11am on the Saturday before the race.  
45  
46 f. All escort / auxiliary boat(s) must meet the minimum U.S. Coast Guard requirements.  
47 For safety purposes, all escort boats must meet a minimum size of 22' in overall  
48 length as per Coast Guard form CG-5397 latest revision (Section II Vessel Data and  
49 Dimensions; Item #6 Overall Dimensions). If an auxiliary boat is used in conjunction

1 with an escort boat then each craft must meet a minimum size of 19' in overall length  
2 and be registered with a crew number. VHF radios must be installed in the escort /  
3 auxiliary boat(s) and no "hand-held" radios will be allowed.  
4

5 g. All escort / auxiliary boat(s) must be equipped with a two-way VHF radio. Only Marine  
6 Band (VHF) radio communication is acceptable. Any entry whose escort / auxiliary  
7 boat(s) does not have working two-way VHF radio will NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO  
8 PARTICIAPTE. All escort / auxiliary boats must pass through the radio  
9 communication checkpoint at Hale O Lono Harbor on race day.  
10

11 h. It is recommended that all escort / auxiliary boat(s) have a GPS on board.  
12

13 i. For safety purposes, all escort / auxiliary boat(s) must have a combined U.S Coast  
14 Guard approved carrying capacity to accommodate a minimum of nine (9) male  
15 paddlers, (1) race official, and any additional passengers along with the U.S. Coast  
16 Guard required equipment.  
17

18 j. There will be mandatory insurance for all escort / auxiliary boats. It is recommended  
19 that all escort / auxiliary boat(s) carry a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance  
20 coverage. Proof of insurance must be provided to the Moloka'i Hoe Committee no  
21 later than 11am on the Saturday before the race.  
22

23 k. Liability Waivers for escort / auxiliary Boat personnel – A form furnished by OHCRA  
24 must be completed by the escort / auxiliary boat skipper(s) with the information  
25 pertaining to his craft and turned over to the Moloka'i Hoe Committee. The deadline  
26 for submitting the name of an escort / auxiliary boat and its skipper will be no later  
27 than 11am on the Saturday before the race. Crews will not be entered without the  
28 completed forms. Escort / auxiliary boat skippers will be furnished with liability waiver  
29 forms to be signed by all personnel boarding their craft. Each boat skipper will turn in  
30 these liability waiver forms over to the race officials no later than 11am on the  
31 Saturday before the race. A copy of the escort / auxiliary boat registration must be  
32 provided at the time of registration.  
33

34 l. Each escort / auxiliary boat must follow behind its assigned canoe throughout the  
35 race, except for swamped and overturned canoes. It can at no time come along side  
36 or ahead of the canoe except for during the transfer of relief paddlers, supplies, or in  
37 the case of an emergency. The boat must make way without deliberately blocking, or  
38 causing interference, or wake to any approaching canoe.  
39

- 40 1. At no time will an escort / auxiliary boat deliberately cause a wake to assist  
41 their own canoe or interfere with another canoe.
- 42 2. At all times, escort / auxiliary boats must maintain a safe distance from canoes  
43 and other boats.
- 44 3. Canoes always have the right-of-way over escort / auxiliary boats.
- 45 4. Escort / auxiliary boats cannot block or cause wake to approaching canoes.  
46

47 m. An HCRA Adult Waiver and Release of Liability form must be signed in addition to  
48 the boat waiver.  
49

- 1 n. Coaching and direction from the escort / auxiliary boat is permitted.  
2  
3 o. Escort / auxiliary boat(s) cannot be used to transport any articles to the canoe.  
4 However, any qualified person may pass refreshments or other articles to a canoe  
5 from the water, this person need not be one of the registered paddlers.  
6  
7 p. Unsafe conditions due to an escort / auxiliary boat being overcrowded, or not meeting  
8 U.S Coast Guard requirements or Moloka'i Hoe requirements, can be declared unfit  
9 or unseaworthy as an escort / auxiliary boat by the Moloka'i Hoe Committee. Said  
10 entries will not be allowed to participate.  
11  
12 q. All boat drivers must provide a copy of their boat driver's certificate to the Moloka'i  
13 Hoe Committee no later than 11am on the Saturday before the race.  
14
- 15 6. Cancellation of race  
16 a. The race is subject to postponement or cancellation by the U.S. Coast Guard.  
17  
18 b. The race is subject to postponement or cancellation by the Moloka'i Hoe Committee  
19 upon receipt of information of weather conditions of such nature, which would in their  
20 opinion render the running of the race unsafe.  
21  
22 c. In case of the race being postponed or cancelled, the entries are responsible for  
23 returning all paddlers, personnel, and equipment to their island of origin.  
24  
25 d. All fees are non-refundable upon cancellation of any entry or cancellation of the race.  
26
- 27 7. Finish Line  
28 a. All escort / auxiliary boats must do a visual "End of Race" radio check on the  
29 designated radio channel with the lead official boat before departing the race course.  
30 No powerboats are allowed to enter the channel leading to the Hilton Pier without  
31 permission from the lead official.  
32  
33 b. Relief crew members and crew members on the escort / auxiliary boat should follow  
34 the instructions of the pier personnel while unloading gear off of the escort and  
35 auxiliary boats. Crews need to keep the pier clear and are asked to remove off  
36 loaded gear in a quick and timely manner to ensure everyone's safety.  
37  
38 c. The State of Hawai'i, City and County of Honolulu, and U.S. Army prohibit drinking of  
39 alcoholic beverages on the beach.  
40  
41 d. All crews must start and finish in the same racing jersey which can be same colored  
42 short sleeve, long sleeve or sleeveless.