

damaging, or dislodging any buoy unless forced to do so by another boat. In that event, only the offending boat will be disqualified or penalized at the discretion of the Race Director.

- 11.4.1 **Red Buoy:** A red buoy indicates a left turn. Two or more red buoys may be put in a line to form a large sweeping left-hand turn.
- 11.4.2 **Yellow Buoy:** A yellow buoy indicates a right turn. Two or more yellow buoys may be put in a line to form a large sweeping right-hand turn.
- 11.4.3 **Checkered Buoys:** Checkered buoys indicate the Start/Finish line. A rider must pass through these buoys for a lap to be counted.
- 11.4.4 **White/Other Color Buoys:** White buoys are used to mark the outside lane of a racecourse utilizing a two-lane split start. White buoys are also used to mark turns on the Slalom event and to mark the merge lane in the case of a “split” type racecourse. Long “hot-dog” inflatables are also used to establish a merge lane on a split-type racecourse. Other Color buoys are often used on the outside of the racecourse to control boat traffic from entering the racecourse.

RULE 12 - COURSE/PIT REGULATIONS

12.1 COURSE REGULATIONS

- 12.1.1 **Riding Tune-Up/Practice Area:** If space allows, an area will be designated as a “Riding Tune-Up/Practice Area.” All riders must wear approved life jacket (PFD) and helmet while tuning/testing watercraft in this area. This includes all mechanics and pit crew members that may be testing a watercraft. Riders in this area must obey local boating laws and must ride in a safe manner.
- 12.1.2 **Riding on the Race Course:** Riding will not be allowed on the race course at any time without permission from the Race Director. This includes before, during and after a racing event.
- 12.1.3 **Reckless/Dangerous Riding:** Any reckless or dangerous riding, unnecessary bumping, crowding, chopping, blocking, deliberate striking or breaking of a course marker buoy, or unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the race course, may result in the rider being penalized. In the case of a team effort, the complete team may be penalized at the discretion of the Race Director.
- 12.1.4 **Blocking:** The deliberate blocking of a faster machine is cause for penalty at the discretion of the Race Director.
- 12.1.5 **Spin Outs:** It is expressly forbidden to ride in a direction opposite of that in which the event is being run. A rider whose boat has spun out is permitted to turn around to continue the event provided such action is taken only when the course is clear. The rider must give right of way to other racers on the course. Riders going in the wrong direction may be penalized.
- 12.1.6 **Obstruction:** If for any reason a rider is forced to stop on or near the course during an event, it is the rider’s first duty to remove his or her

boat from the course in a safe manner so as not to endanger or obstruct other riders.

- 12.1.7 **Passing:** A rider must always be prepared for another rider to pass and must therefore be aware of other riders approaching from behind. The overtaking rider must consider the safest route to pass and must do so without forcing the overtaken rider to suddenly alter course.
- 12.1.8 **Lapping:** A rider being lapped must move over to allow the most direct route for the overtaking rider, but can continue racing.
- 12.1.9 **Hand Signals:** A rider who has spun out, fallen or stalled must raise one or both hands overhead to indicate that he or she is not injured. Re-entry into the course must be done in a safe and careful manner with the right-of-way given to oncoming riders.
- 12.1.10 **On-Course Assistance:** Racers may not receive any on-course assistance from anyone other than course officials. If mechanical or other assistance is needed, the rider must safely pull completely off of the course. A rider receiving on-course assistance may be penalized one lap. Riders re-entering the course in an unsafe manner may be penalized.

12.2 PIT REGULATIONS

- 12.2.1 **Support Vehicles:** No motorized rider-support vehicle (e.g., pit bike, motorcycle, ATV, Mule, etc.) will be allowed in the pit area unless authorized as an official vehicle by the Race Director. Support vehicles must not be ridden in excess of 5 mph in the pit area. Pit vehicles are to be used to transport watercraft and equipment only. Helmets may be required. Participants abusing this privilege may be fined and/or have vehicles impounded. Minimum age rules may apply at some events for pit vehicles.
- 12.2.2 **Pit Passes/Wristbands:** All riders, mechanics, and other pit crew members must sign the APBA Waiver and Release and wear the appropriate pit pass at all times while participating in the event. Improper usage of pit passes will be grounds for discipline and/or fine.
- 12.2.3 **Animals:** No aggressive animals will be allowed at the race site. All animals must be on a leash. Some events sites may not allow animals on the site at all or on the beach area. If so, promoters should publish said rule on web sites and flyers and all riders must abide by the published rules.
- 12.2.4 **Fire Extinguishers:** At least one dry chemical fire extinguisher must be carried by each participant/crew and readily accessible in his/her respective pit area.
- 12.2.5 **Fuel Containers:** All fuel containers should be 1) red in color; 2) marked "Flammable" or "Gasoline" with 3 inch tall letters; and 3) be placed in a safe area at least 15 feet from any open flame.
- 12.2.6 **No Smoking:** There will be no smoking allowed around any fuel containers.

- 12.2.7 **Inspection of Fuel Containers:** Fuel containers will be subject to inspection by and approval of the Race Director and local fire marshal, if applicable.
- 12.2.8 **Fuel Disposal:** No disposal of fuel or lubricants is allowed. Any entrant disposing of fuels or lubricants in the pit area, on the racecourse or race site by pouring or spilling fuels or lubricants is subject to penalty and/or fine.

RULE 13 - CLOSED COURSE EVENTS

13.1 GENERAL START PROCEDURES

- 13.1.1 All riders must assemble in the “staging area” ready to race while the race prior to their race is in progress. It is the rider’s responsibility to know which heats and at which times they are scheduled to compete. If a rider is not on the line when their heat is called, the rider forfeits their opportunity to race.
- 13.1.2 The maximum number of watercraft per Closed Course heat should not exceed the following number of riders:

CLASS	SKI DIVISION	SPORT DIVISION	RUNABOUT DIVISION
BEGINNER/JUNIOR	12 (14*)	12 (14*)	10 (14*)
NOVICE/AMATEUR	14 (16*)	12 (16*)	12 (16*)
EXPERT	16 (18*)	14 (18*)	14 (18*)
PRO/PRO-AM	18 (20*)	16 (20*)	16 (20*)

* If a dual start first turn course design is used.

- 13.1.3 Due to varying shoreline and water conditions, the type of start utilized at an event will be explained at the Riders’ Meeting.
- 13.1.4 The method for determining starting lineup in a heat or qualifying race is by drawing for position. A computer may be used to determine the lineup for the first heat/moto. The number drawn will be the starting position, from the pole to the outside. (The pole position is always closest to the first turn buoy.) Starting-line positions for main events are determined by finish positions in heat or qualifying races. At the Race Director’s discretion, riders may be given their choice of starting-line position for main events based on their qualifying position.
- 13.1.5 No warm-up or practice starts will be allowed during staging or while getting positioned in the starting area.
- 13.1.6 The Race Director may penalize any rider whose method of start interferes with other participants.
- 13.1.7 A damaged watercraft may be prohibited from competition if, in the opinion of the Race Director, it presents a hazard to spectators, participants or the rider him/herself. The decision of the Race Director is final.