

- 11.3.8 **White Flag:** When the white flag is displayed riders have entered their last lap.
- 11.3.9 **Checkered Flag:** Signifies the completion of the race or event. As a rider passes the checkered flag, he/she has completed the last lap of the race. Riders must return to the pit area in a cautious and responsible manner. Racers may first be required to report to post-race technical inspection.

11.4 COURSE MARKINGS

Huge colorful buoys are used to indicate turns on the racecourse. While some event promoters use other colors, the following is the basic description of buoy colors and their meaning at the majority of races. Every boat must go fairly around the course without destroying, 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.