

# ALAFIA CHALLENGE

## Canoe & Kayak Race

Challenge the Alafia River in the Alafia Challenge Canoe & Kayak Race each November. The course runs through the pristine Alafia River State designated Canoe Trail, approximately 11 miles to the estuarine portion of the river.

The race starts at Lithia Springs Park and ends at the Riverview Civic Center. There are 15 categories of competition. Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each class. Registration includes T-Shirt, paddler gift bag, race refreshments, launching fee, transportation back to the start point, and post race picnic. Rental canoes and kayaks available for reduced rates with pre-registration. For questions or additional information e-mail (Alafia Challenge@msn.com) or call (813-684-7300). You can also register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

**Severe Weather Cancellation:** If there is a need to cancel the event, a notice will be posted on the website: [www.AlafiaChallenge.com](http://www.AlafiaChallenge.com) and the following phone number (813-684-7300) by 8:00 p.m. the evening before race morning. Should a rain out occur, **No Refunds** will be given. The Race Shirts will be mailed out to all registrants who did not attend on race day if you call and request they be mailed or picked up.

Check out our website for pictures, details and up-to-date information: [www.alafiachallenge.com](http://www.alafiachallenge.com)

### Rules & Regulations for Boats & Categories:

- Canoes must be considered recreational or standard. Length and width are determining factors. A single straight bladed paddle must be used, unless you are registered in the Elite Canoe Category.
- Kayaks (single person) must be considered a recreational kayak. This cannot exceed 17' in length. No Skegs or Rudders allowed in the recreational category. All other single kayaks must be registered in the Elite Category.
- Elite Kayak & Elite Tandem Categories, these are for the touring or unlimited kayaks. \* See National Standards for racing\*
- **Competition Style Canoes must be registered in the elite division. Complaints at race start on canoes or kayaks not complying with a recreational boat will be disqualified and no time will be given at the race end. Please ask prior to registering your boat if it is not a regular recreational canoe (metal, fiberglass, wood) or recreational kayak with the length specification listed.**

If there are any questions as to how to register your boat, contact us by e-mail [AlafiaChallenge@msn.com](mailto:AlafiaChallenge@msn.com) and we will make every effort to clarify the rules. We would like the race categories to be as fair as possible in consideration of the different styles of boats. If you have a race boat (canoe/kayak) and it would be create a large unfair advantage in the recreation division, please register in the elite division. You are required to provide the proper boating equipment with your own personal boat. All boats provided with your registration will have the proper equipment provided. Note: Persons 5 years of age or under and 49lbs or less cannot participate. No extra riders in boats. No alcohol.



## **SUMMARY OF SOME USCA RACING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Any questions please ask Karen Wagner at [AlafiaChallenge@msn.com](mailto:AlafiaChallenge@msn.com)

**FINISH-** THE FINISHING LINE IS REACHED WHEN THE BOW OF THE CANOE OR KAYAK WITH THE COMPETITOR/S IN IT HAS PASSED THE LINE BETWEEN THE FLAGS. IF TWO OR MORE BOATS REACH THE FINISHING LINE AT THE SAME TIME, THEY GET THE SAME CLASSIFICATION.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS-** ANY COMPETITOR WHO ATTEMPTS TO WIN A RACE BY ANY OTHER THAN HONORABLE MEANS, OR WHO BREAKS THE RACING REGULATIONS, OR WHO DISREGARDS THE HONORABLE NATURE OF THE RACING REGULATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

SHOULD A COMPETITOR HAVE COMPLETED A RACE IN A KAYAK OR CANOE WHICH IS SHOWN, UPON INSPECTION, NOT TO FULFILL THE CLASSIFICATIONS LISTED BELOW SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED.

IT IS FORBIDDEN, DURING THE EVENT TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER BOATS ALONG THE COURSE.

**MEASURING:** THE LENGTH OF A KAYAK OR CANOE SHALL BE MEASURED BETWEEN THE EXTREMES OF THE STEM AND STERN.  
NO FOREIGN SUBSTANCE MAY BE ADDED TO BOATS WHICH GIVE COMPETITORS AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE. THE USE OF HULL LUBRICANTS IS NOT PERMITTED.

### **KAYAKS:**

**RECREATIONAL DIVISION:** KAYAKS SHALL BE PROPELLED SOLELY BY MEANS OF DOUBLE BLADED STRAIGHT PADDLES IN THE RECREATIONAL DIVISIONS. THEY MUST NOT BE OVER 17' IN LENGTH IN THE RECREATIONAL DIVISION. NO RUDDERS OR SKEGS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO USE IN THIS DIVISION. PADDLES MAY NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE BOATS IN ANY WAY.

**ELITE DIVISION:** KAYAKS REGISTERED IN THE ELITE CATEGORIES MAY BE OVER THE 17' LENGTH AND DOUBLE ENDED CURVED PADDLES ARE ACCEPTABLE AS WELL AS SKEGS AND RUDDERS.

**TANDEM KAYAKS:** YOU MUST FOLLOW THE RECREATIONAL DIVISION REGULATIONS: NO CURVED PADDLES, SKEGS OR RUDDERS ARE ACCEPTABLE IN THIS DIVISION. THIS DIVISION ALLOWS AGES FROM 5 YEAR OLDS TO 15 YEAR OLDS WITH AN ADULT AS WELL AS JUNIOR AND ADULT MIXED AGES AND GENDERS. YOUR BOAT MUST BE CLASSIFIED AS A RECREATIONAL TANDEM.

**ELITE TANDEM KAYAKS:** YOU MUST FOLLOW AGE REGULATIONS REGARDING PARTICIPANTS 5 TO 15 YEAR OLDS WITH AN ADULT IN THE BOAT. ALL OTHERS WILL CAN BE MIXED AGE AND GENDER. YOU MAY USE DOUBLE ENDED CURVED OR LIGHTWEIGHT PADDLES AS WELL AS SKEGS AND RUDDERS. YOU BOAT MAY BE OF A LIGHTER WEIGHT AS WELL.

### **CANOES:**

**RECREATIONAL DIVISION:** YOU MUST FOLLOW THE AGE GROUP LIMITATIONS IN EACH CATEGORY. NO DEVIATIONS.

RUDDERS OR STEERING DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE RECREATIONAL CANOE CLASSES.

MAXIMUM LENGTH IS 18 FEET 6 INCHES (18'6"). WEIGHT 50LBS

CANOES MADE OF LIGHTWEIGHT MATERIALS THAT WOULD GIVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE ELITE DIVISION. DO NOT ASK TO CHECK YOUR BOAT ON RACE DAY THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN CATEGORIES AND YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND GIVEN NO TIME. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR BOAT IN THE ELITE CATEGORY IF THERE IS A DOUBT IT WILL BE CHALLENGED.

**ELITE CANOE DIVISION:** YOU MUST FOLLOW THE AGE GROUP LIMITATIONS REGARDING TO 5 TO 15 YEAR OLDS ONLY. THIS DIVISION MAY INCLUDE C1 OR C2 PADDLERS AND MAY USE RUDDERS OR STEERING DEVICES. YOU MAY ALSO USE LIGHTWEIGHT BOATS WITH CURVED SINGLE BLADED PADDLES OR LIGHTWEIGHT SINGLE BLADED PADDLES. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION IN THIS CATEGORY PLEASE E-MAIL THE RACE COORDINATORS PRIOR TO REGISTERING YOUR BOAT.

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