

2017 Osage Howler Rules

1. All racers must register at their designated registration times. Failure to register will be counted as a no show, and that racer/boat will not be considered to be a part of the event.
2. In the event a racer is unable to race, a rain check for the next year's event will be given. In the event the race is not held in the following year a refund will not be made.
3. No racer will be allowed to register for the race until registration fee is paid in full.
4. All paddlers must attend the mandatory safety meeting for their respective races.
5. **All paddlers in all races** must wear a CG approved PFD while on the water, carry a cell phone in a waterproof container, must have a whistle attached to their vest or somewhere within immediate reach to warn an oncoming vessel of your presence and must carry a first aid kit.
6. All boats must have race numbers prominently displayed on both sides of the hull. If you do not already have a number on your boat, we will supply removable stickers to place on your boat.
7. No fixed oars, sails, or motors are allowed. Single and double blade paddles only.
8. No trash of any kind will be intentionally thrown overboard. Teams or individuals who litter will be disqualified.
9. All paddlers will properly stow loose items during the race.
10. If a race official deems a racer unfit to continue, or conditions unfit for the safety of the race to continue, and asks a racer to pull out. The racer **MUST** then pull-out of the race. If a racer feels they were pulled from the race unduly, they must then follow Rule #26. If a race is stopped and racers pulled out due to unsafe conditions, racers pull out times will be noted and once race resumes, racers times, avg. speed, and race length will be adjusted to allow for the race to continue.
11. Racers must maintain self-sufficiency. Racers must carry their own materials for fixing leaks or problems with their vessel or be able to acquire such at a checkpoint from their support crew. There is no penalty for accepting help from an official safety boat and also from other paddlers in case of an emergency such as a flip, running out of fluids or medical emergency.
12. Support crews are permitted and may be shared by multiple teams, to allow assistance.
13. Racers may stop for the use of public restrooms.
14. Alcohol will not be consumed by racers or their support vehicle operators during the race.
15. It is the responsibility of each race craft to pass and receive acknowledgement at all checkpoints. Racers do not have to exit their craft, but must be close enough to the Race Official at the Check Point to be **acknowledged verbally using either name or boat number (the checkpoint volunteer will repeat your boat number or name to you after you tell them your number or name for acknowledgement)** (Please note some checkpoints have homes located next to them, shouting during the night could harm potential chances for future race permits). Race officials will use the upmost care to ensure checkpoints are staffed throughout the race.
16. If you decide to quit the race at a Check Point a racer must notify the race official managing the roster. If you quit the race between Check Points, racers must make an immediate effort to contact a race official and notify them of your decision. Race Officials will continue to look and watch for all racers until all are located.

17. All racers agree to sign the USCA Waiver and Release of Liability prior to the start of the race, failing to do so means you will not be a part of the event in any fashion.
18. Participants are prohibited from dumping human waste into the lake. If you are unable to make it to the next available facility, stow your spent fluids in a water tight container and take it to the next Check Point where it can be deposited.
19. All participants agree to appear in event related media coverage without compensation.
20. All aquatic activity has inherent risks, as a participant it is understood those risks are accepted by racers and their support crews.
21. Unsportsmanlike conduct is grounds for disqualification. All participants in this event are representatives of the paddling community and are expected to behave accordingly.
22. In the event of an immediate racer/team emergency, fellow participants within close proximity are expected to render aid. No penalty will be assessed for the team/individual providing assistance, the honor system, as well as eyewitness accounts, will be relied upon for compensation of the time spent rendering aid.
23. Any dispute must be formally stated with the race director within two hours of the finish. The dispute will be subject to review by the race director and two appointed senior race officials. The final decision and any action regarding a dispute will be reserved by the race director and two appointed senior race officials. All decisions are final, no appeal process will be granted.
24. Racers must remain in same class but can exchange boats under the following conditions: 1.) Boat is damaged. 2.) Must keep same boat number. 3.) A race officials is notified.
25. The minimum age of all racers is 14 years old at the start time of the race, unless otherwise approved before the beginning of the race.
26. **NAVIGATION LIGHTS:** Missouri Law stipulates:
 - a. Lights required for unpowered vessels less than 23 feet when underway:
“If practical, exhibit the same lights as required for unpowered vessels less than 65.6 feet in length”
“If not practical, have on hand at least one lantern or flashlight, shining a white light”
 - b. Lights required for unpowered vessels less than 65.6 feet when underway:
“Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least two miles away (or if less than 39.4 feet long, at least one mile away) on a dark, clear night.
“A sternlight visible from a distance of at least two miles away”
27. All applicable local, state, and federal laws apply to racers, and their support crews. It is the racers responsibility to know these laws and guidelines. The Osage Howler officials will not be held responsible in any way for racers or their support crews lack of knowledge on applicable laws and guidelines in any case resulting in fines, injury, or detainment due to not following said laws and guidelines.
28. All racers must acknowledge they have received, read, and understand all rules prior to the start of the race

These rules are valid as of this date and are anticipated as remaining so up to the start and end of the 2017 Osage Howler Paddle Event but are subject to modification at any time.