

## ESCORT BOAT SKIPPERS INFORMATION

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### 1. SCORA Rules As They Apply to Escort Boats:

- 13.7.1: Each escort boat must follow behind its assigned canoe throughout the race. It can, at no time, come alongside closer than 45 feet or ahead of seat five (5) except during the transfer of relief paddlers or in case of emergency.
- 13.7.2: Unsafe conditions due to an escort boat being overcrowded with spectators or helpers may cause the boat to be declared unfit as an escort boat by the race committee. For safety purposes, all U.S. Coast Guard rules apply." {see Part 6 -Required Equipment)
- 13.7.3: On all starts, escort boats will be prohibited from entering the field of racing canoes for a minimum of ten (10) minutes or as specified otherwise by the Race Chairperson(s). The field of racing canoes will be defined as an imaginary rectangle whose sides are defined by the lead canoe, the hindmost canoe, the first canoe on the farthest left, and the first canoe on the farthest right. (See Diagram 'B?.)
  - **Note: Most races do not allow boats to enter the field until twenty (20) minutes or more after the start of the race. Permission to enter is broadcast by Race Officials over VHF radio on the specified race frequency.**
- 13.6.2: 'Relief paddlers on an escort boat may assist in righting and/or bailing out a swamped canoe.
- 9.1: Any violation of the Race-Rules may result in the disqualification of the crew or crews involved at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 9.4: The penalty assessed for interference, finishing in the wrong lane, turning on the wrong flag, false start, or violations called by a Race Official shall be the addition of seconds according to the length of the race as follows:
  - Long Distance Races:1 Minute for every 5 miles of the race (or any portion thereof)
- 9.5: A disqualification may be called by a Race Official with the approval of the Race Committee Chairperson(s).
  - 9.5.1: In the event a Race Official witnesses a gross and/or willful violation of these rule, and/or unsportsmanlike conduct, then that Official may exercise his or her sole and absolute discretion and disqualify the offending crew or individual.
- 9.6.1: The penalty for an escort boat entering the field of racing canoes without permission of the Race Chairperson(s) and/or Race Committee shall be the addition of 15 minutes to the canoe that the boat is escorting.
- 9.6.2: The second warning by a Race Official or the Race Chairperson(s) to an escort boat to keep away from a canoe or any other infraction may cause the disqualification of the canoe the boat is escorting.

- 9.6.3: No escort or spectator boat identified with a racing team can assist the team by proceeding to flatten the water, or follow closely enough to create a wake to push the canoes.
- 9.6.4: No escort/spectator boat shall impede the progress of any other canoe in the racing field. Failure to adhere shall cause disqualification of the team the boat is escorting.

## 2. Basic Safety Considerations

- **Your FIRST priority is SAFETY**
- Review safety rules for your boat with your team before the race.
- NEVER LEAVE A PADDLER IN THE WATER UNATTENDED.
- Escort Boats are NOT in the race and do NOT need to get to their canoe first! Take your time - BE SAFE.
- KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR PEOPLE IN THE WATER, CANOES, AND OTHER BOATS!
- Inland and International Rules of Navigation apply at all times
- YOU MUST SLOW TO 5 MPH WHEN WITHIN 100 FEET OF A PERSON IN THE WATER.
- WATCH YOUR WAKE! The canoes are easily capsized or swamped by boat wakes.
  - If your wake swamps or capsizes another canoe, your team may be disqualified
- EXERCISE COURTESY AND PATIENCE AT ALL TIMES.
- DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DISTRACTED.
- NO CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL DURING THE RACE.
- LIMIT RADIO USE TO WHAT IS NECESSARY.
  - Unnecessary radio traffic is a distraction and can prevent SCORA officials from communicating important information to you and others. Please keep off the radio except when necessary to communicate with event officials or other participating vessels.
- OPERATE DEFENSIVELY
  - Don't assume the other guy is paying attention or going to follow the rules.
  - Protect your paddlers by keeping near them so that other boats know they are there.
  - Report other vessels that are operating unsafely to SCORA Officials. Include a description of the boat, CF number, team they are escorting, and the problem you observed.

## 3. Launching

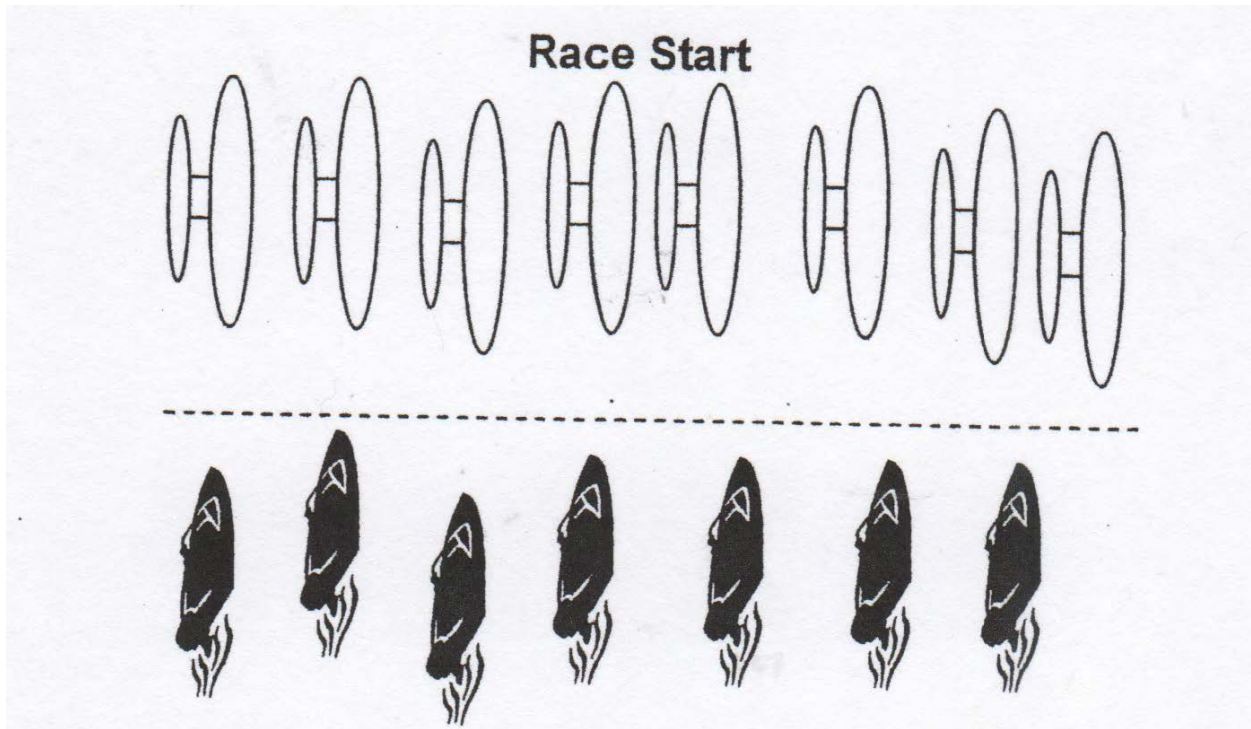
The launch ramp is going to be a very busy place. Dock space is limited and cannot accommodate all the Escort boats at once. Please Review Venue Specific Information for

launch procedures at that venue to make this as smooth as possible an evolution for everyone involved.

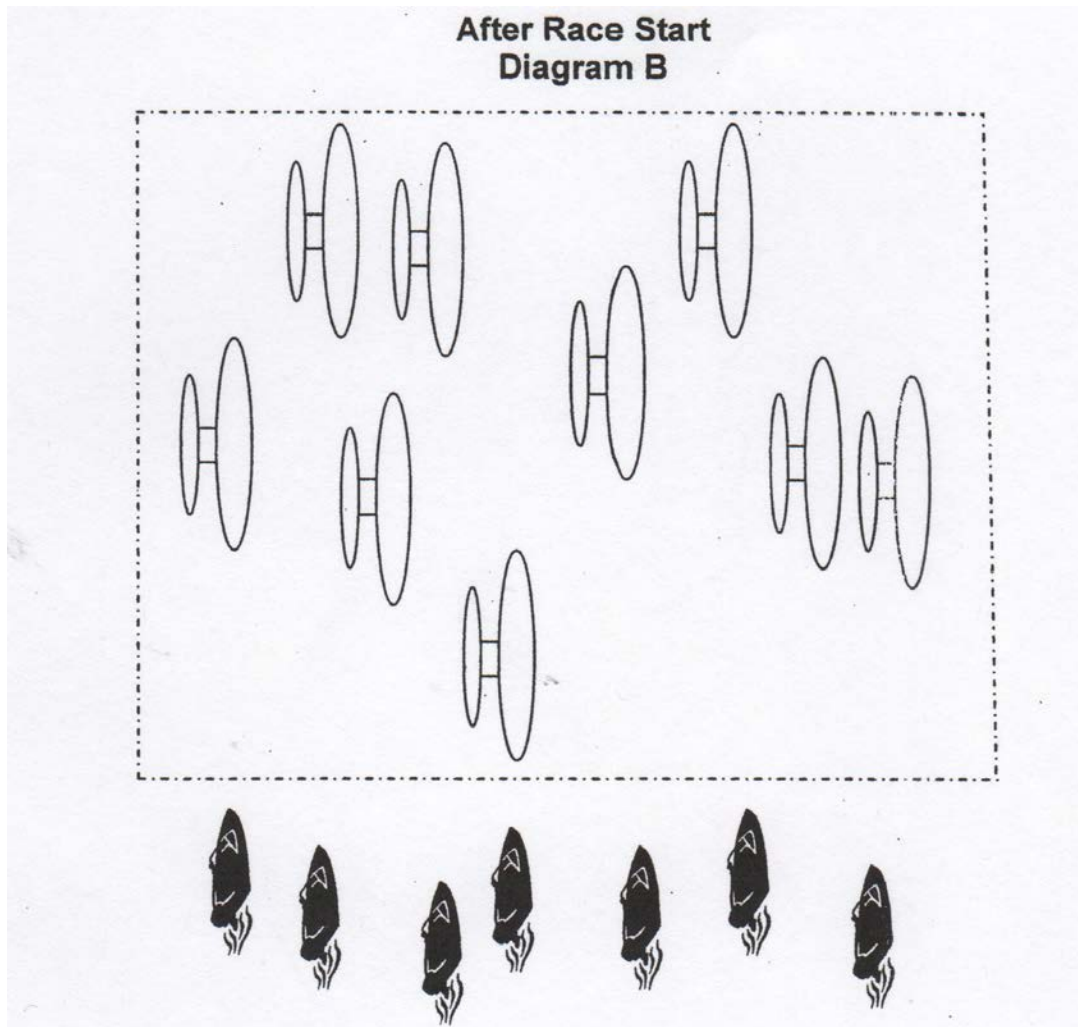
- Limited dock space will require that you allow other boats to side tie with you in order for the paddlers to all board their respective escort boats in time for the race start.
- Do NOT try to stay with your canoe as you proceed out of or into the harbor. They will be moving faster than no wake speed.
  - Speed and wake violations will be cited by the Harbor Patrol.
  - Watch your wake while inside the harbor. The harbor patrol judges your speed by your wake

#### 4. Race Start

- Prior to the start, locate and stay in the vicinity of your canoe
  - It is typical that your canoe will make a crew change prior to the start of the race if time permits
- Listen carefully to SCORA Official communications on the radio
  - Typically, you will be notified when you are within 5-10 minutes of the race start. At that time, you should advise your team of the time until start, move away from your canoe and line up **NO FURTHER FORWARD THAN THE LAST CANOE**



**ONCE THE RACE HAS STARTED, YOU MUST REMAIN BEHIND THE LAST CANOE UNTIL THE SCORA OFFICIAL BOAT HAS GIVEN CLEARANCE FOR CHANGES. THIS WILL OCCUR APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES AFTER THE START AND WILL BE BROADCAST OVER VHF RADIO.**



## 5. How to do water changes:

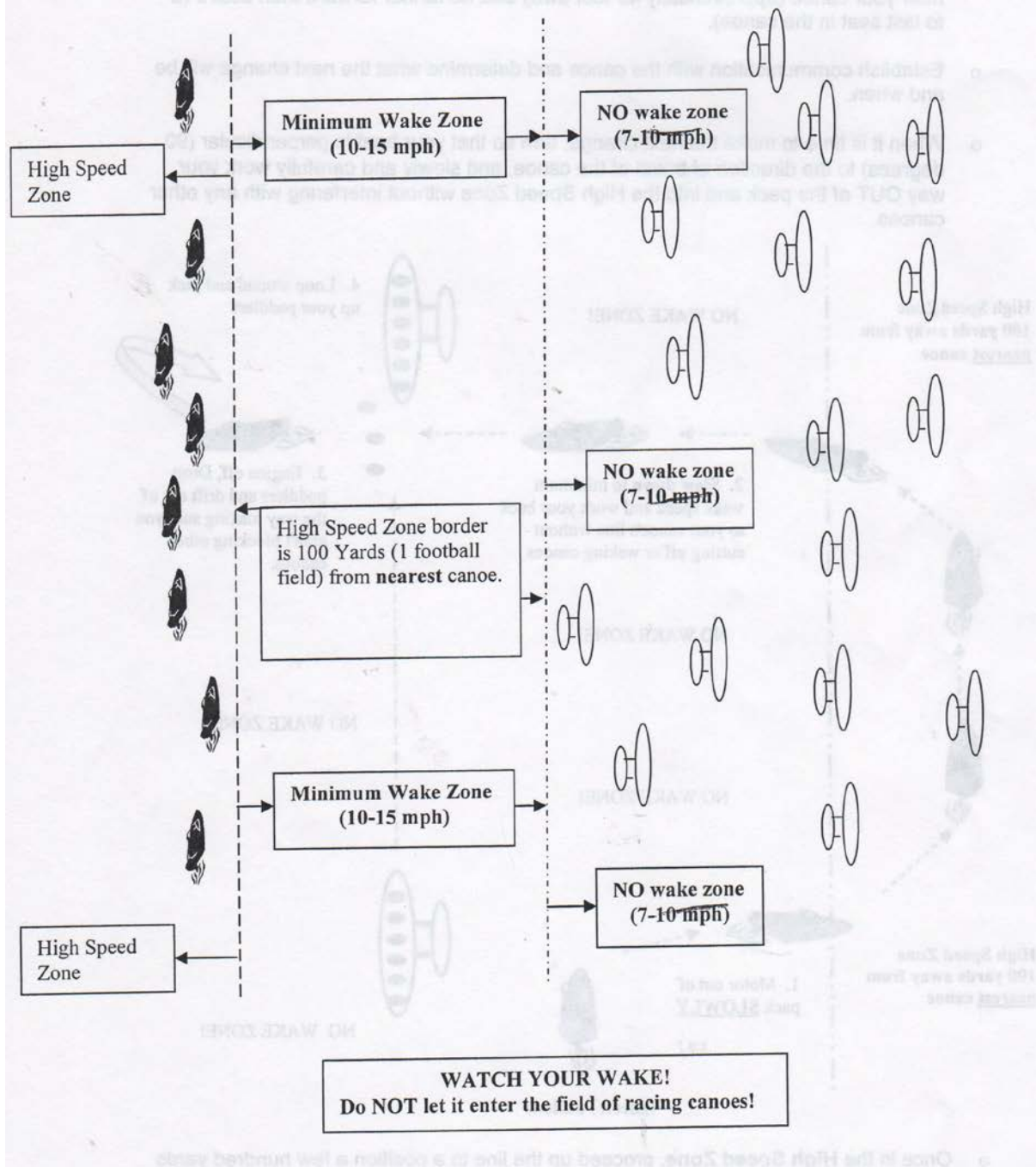
As you can see in the diagram on the next page, there are three operating zones for escort boats. These are:

1. High Speed Zone - Greater than 100 yards away out from the perimeter of the field of racing canoes as defined above. Speed is unlimited.
2. Minimum Wake Zone - Reduce speed in this area so that your wake is significantly reduced and does not enter the field of racing canoes. (10-15 mph)
3. No Wake Zone - Reduce speed to match canoe, or slightly higher as required to intercept it without producing a wake that interferes with other canoes. (7-10 mph).

Speeds that are given above are for basic reference only. Some boats will produce different wake characteristics that will require slower speeds and/or more lead time. The guiding principle is to not produce a wake that interferes with the racing canoes.

Once clearance to move up has been given by the Race Officials, move to a position that is 100 yards (minimum) to the OUTSIDE of the field of racing canoes

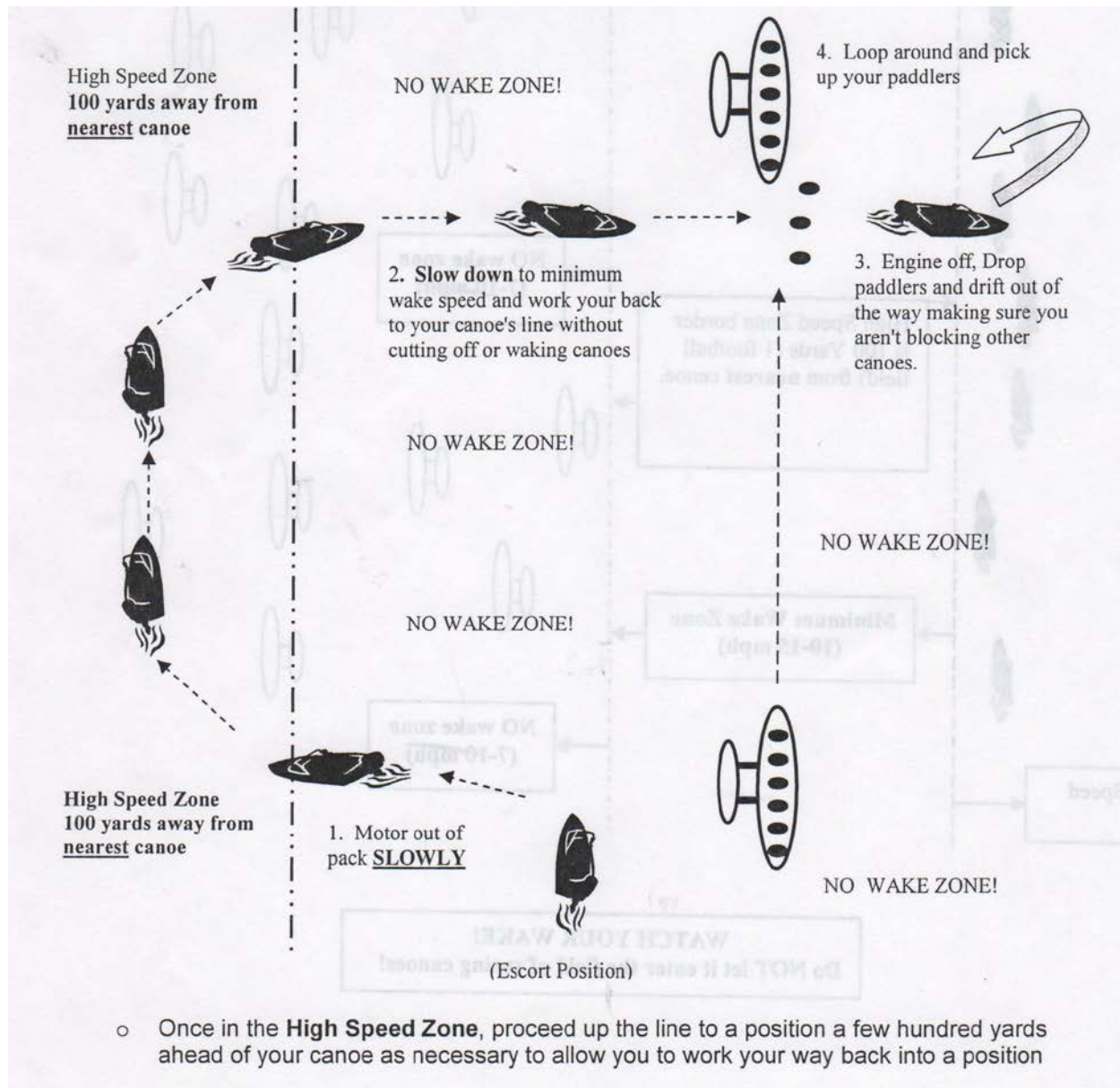
- You MUST be AT LEAST 100 YARDS away from the nearest canoe at all times when operating at wake producing speeds.



- Move up along the outside of the pack in the High-Speed Zone until you are a few hundred yards ahead of your canoe.
- Once you are a few hundred yards ahead of your canoe, SLOW DOWN and work your way slowly and carefully through the pack until you are in the Escort Position near your canoe (approximately 45 feet away and no farther forward than seat 5 (2nd to last seat in the canoe)).
- Establish communication with the canoe and determine what the next change will be and when.



- When it is time to make the next change, turn so that your boat is perpendicular (90 degrees) to the direction of travel of the canoe, and slowly and carefully work your way OUT of the pack and into the High-Speed Zone without interfering with any other canoes.



- 100 yards ahead of your canoe without producing a wake that interferes with other canoes.
- As you approach your canoe's line of travel, shift to neutral and allow the boat to drift across the line of travel, dropping the relief paddlers in the water as you cross the line
- After the relief paddlers are well clear of your stern, re-engage your engine and reposition the boat so that you are clear of your canoe's line, but close enough that you are both protecting the people in the water from other boats, and ready to pick up the paddlers that will be getting out of the canoe. If another canoe is approaching, you may need to move slightly to clear it's line so that you are not interfering with it. **NEVER BACK UP TOWARDS PADDLERS THAT ARE IN THE WATER!**
- After the paddlers have gotten out of the canoe, and the canoe has cleared away, slowly and carefully move the boat to pick up the paddlers, making sure the helmsman can clearly see them the entire time.
- Once within 20-30 feet of the paddlers in the water, shift to neutral and allow them to swim to the boat

and board before re-engaging your engine.

**It is common for the paddlers to take a "relief" break before boarding the boat. If the pack is still tight, it is usually safer to have them board and move to a position away from the race course for this. In any case, MAKE SURE ALL PADDLERS ARE SAFELY BACK ON BOARD BEFORE RE-ENGAGING YOUR ENGINE!**

## **6. Arrival at harbor at end of race**

- Prior to arriving at the harbor and after the last change, have the paddlers aboard your boat gather up their gear in preparation for unloading.
- Due to limited dock space at all of our venues, please be prepared to have other boats side-tied with you at the dock. Additional fenders (at least four, and preferably six) are highly recommended.
- Because paddlers may need to cross from one boat to another, it's also recommended that you have a towel, door mat, or other items to help reduce the amount of "dock crude" that accumulates on your boat. It's also a good idea to have a clear path for them to cross in.
- If you are supporting an additional race, please get your paddlers loaded and clear the dock as quickly as possible, particularly if you are the outermost boat on the dock. Other boats are waiting to load and /or clear the dock.
- PLEASE OBSERVE RAMP/DOCK COURTESY AND EXERCISE PATIENCE. This will make the process faster and easier for everyone.
- Enjoy the party!

## **7. Dana Point Race Venue – Specific Information**

- Please check in at the table near the head of the launch ramp. This is where you will receive your checks, t-shirts, and lunch.
- The launch fee is \$10 for day use. If staying overnight, please let the attendant know. If no attendant is present, visit the Embarcadero Marina office to the left of the launch ramp entrance.
- Arrive extra early to get a parking spot. Between the canoes, regular boaters, and escort boats, the parking lot fills up rapidly and there is no alternate parking available.
- After launching, please move your boat to the Jolly Roger dock just to the south of the launch ramp if possible. Be careful that you DO NOT tie your boat up on the Catalina express boat dock. It WILL be necessary for you to side tie with other boats due to extremely limited dock space.
- If you MUST dock on the launch ramp dock because the other dock is full, please dock as far towards the end of the dock as possible and side tie with other participating vessels. Side ties should never consist of more than 4 vessels and are preferably limited to 3.
- Absolutely DO NOT dock at the Embarcadero Marina docks (near hoist). These are private docks. They don't mind if you load/unload passengers here as long as you are not interfering with their renters and operations, but you are not allowed to tie up and wait. Never dock near or under the hoist.
- There will be a skippers meeting at the same time as the steersmen's meeting at the head of the launch ramp. PLEASE attend this meeting to receive important updated information about this race.

## **8. Oceanside Race Venue – Specific Information**

- Please check in at the table near the head of the launch ramp. This is where you will receive your checks, t-shirts, and lunch.
- As with Dana Point, there is limited (even more so than Dana Point) parking in the area of the launch ramp. There is however an alternate (and free) lot a short walk from the docks. There is usually a

shuttle provided by SCORA to take you back to the dock area. After launching, go back out of the launch area the way you came in. Turn left at the stop sign and continue around until you are on the main entry road. To your right you will see a tunnel that runs under the railroad tracks. This tunnel leads to the overflow parking area.

- If parking at the launch ramp, please be sure you go to the machine near the Coast Guard Auxiliary office and purchase a ticket.
- Dock space is considerably less limited than at Dana Point, however you must leave someone with the boat at all times UNLESS you sign in with the Harbor Master and pay the fee. Do not leave boats unattended at the dock or they might be towed!
- As with Dana Point, expect to have to side tie with either vessels. Once you have your team on board, please get away from the docks as soon as possible so that other teams can get on their boats.
- When returning to harbor after the first race, escort boats and canoes will be vying for the available dock space. It is generally better to let the canoes change teams first. When a canoe clears away, proceed to an open space, disembark the paddlers on board, and load the next team.

## 9. Newport to Avalon

### Escort Skippers Meeting

- There will be a meeting at the Newport Dunes on the Friday evening before the race. **ALL ESCORT SKIPPERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** This meeting will go over last minute details and schedule of the race. This is also the time to make contact with your team's steersman and official to coordinate meeting times and locations for Saturday Morning.
- Advise the guard at the gate that you are here for this meeting. They will give you a two-hour visitor pass at no charge

### Leaving Newport

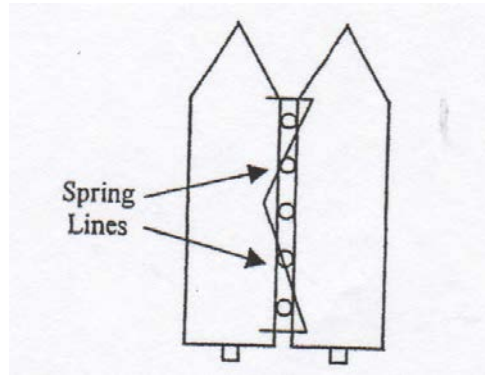
- As with the other venues, the launch ramp at Newport Dunes has limited dock space available. This is made worse by the fact that this is the most attended race. Abiding by the following will make the process of loading and launching faster and smoother for everyone.
- Please load all paddler gear BEFORE launching
- Make sure that the paddlers and officials that will on your boat at the start of the race are to ready to board BEFORE launching
- Once you have launched, please boards all paddlers and officials and clear the dock as quickly as possible
- After departing the docks, head directly for the red buoy outside of the harbor unless your team has made arrangements to meet elsewhere

### Arriving in Avalon

- On arrival at Avalon, disembark your passengers at the Pleaseure Pier (Green Pier) as quickly as possible. You may also disembark passengers at the fuel dock IF you are purchasing fuel only
- After disembarking your paddlers, proceed to Lovers Cove just outside and south of the harbor entrance. Look for the flagged SCORA official boat and check in with them.
  - **Do NOT approach the Harbor Master boats. All mooring assignments are coordinated with the Harbor Master THROUGH the SCORA official boat. The Harbor Master will come to you when ready.**



- Follow all instructions of the SCORA official boat.
- Due to the large number of participating vessels, and limited number of moorings available, you may be asked to raft up with another vessel. Please be prepared for this eventuality by bringing additional fenders and dock lines that may be needed. The use of spring lines will improve comfort while side tied with another vessel on a mooring (see diagram).



- After you have received your mooring assignment, proceed to the fuel dock to top off your tanks as necessary. It is not recommended that you NOT wait until morning due to the limited amount of time between when the race starts and the fuel dock opens.

## 10. Avalon to Newport

- Pick up your paddlers at the pre-arranged meeting location. Generally, this will be at the Green Pier.
- Get away from the Pier or other meeting location as quickly as possible to allow others to embark their teams
- Proceed to the start line area in Lover's Cove, just outside and south of the harbor entrance

### Arrival in Newport

- Do NOT attempt to stay with the canoe as it proceeds through the harbor. You will be cited by the Harbor Patrol for excessive speed and the organization may lose the use of this venue for future events
- When you reach the dock, disembark your paddlers and immediately proceed to recover your vehicle. Do not unload paddler gear on the dock if you will be putting your boat on its trailer. Have them wait until you get your boat out of the water. This helps in two ways:
  1. It clears the dock for the next boat that much quicker
  2. Paddlers will not have to carry their gear as far