

Lower Merion Township Cardboard Boat Regatta Rules and Regulations

I. Boat Design and Construction.

1. Design is left to builder(s)—let your imagination be your limit!
2. Boats must be constructed before the event.
3. The ENTIRE boat must be built with cardboard and duct tape. (Corrugated cardboard, carpet tubes, cardboard blocks can be found at recycling centers, appliance stores, department stores, discount clubs, and electronic stores.)
4. Pre-treated cardboard, such as waxed cardboard, is NOT allowed.
5. Hull wrapping in duct tape is allowed.
6. All fastening material is to be duct tape only.
7. No paint or varnish is allowed on the day of the event, all paint and varnished cardboard must be cured prior to boat launch. Paints and varnish are intended to be used as decorative elements only – not waterproofing.
8. Boats may be a maximum width of 60” (5 ft) and a maximum length of 84” (7 ft). There is no maximum height requirement.
9. Paddles/oars may NOT be made out of anything other than cardboard and duct tape.
10. Decorations are allowed and encouraged but are NOT to be used as structural or floatation elements.
11. Crew costumes are encouraged.
12. NO wood, plastic, rubber, inflatable devices, Styrofoam, fiberglass, or plastic.
13. NO caulking compounds, two-part/mixed adhesives, glues or epoxy mixtures or coatings are allowed.
14. NO electrical, gasoline, benzene, propane or other chemical or electrical propulsion systems are permitted.
15. The crew compartment CANNOT be enclosed so as to interfere with escape.
16. Judges decide interpretation and implementation of these rules.

II. Participant Rules.

1. You must pre-register for the event in person or on-line. Registration deadline is the Thursday before the event.
2. No pets allowed.
3. No throwing water on another boat.
4. Contestants are expected to maintain the decorum and dignity expected of a yachtsmen.
5. Sunken and/or discarded boats must be disposed of in designated area.
6. THIS IS A FUN EVENT!!! ANY BEHAVIOR THAT IS DEEMED TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE FUN OF THE EVENT OR THE FUN OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE EVENT ARE HAVING WILL RESULT IN TEAM DISQUALIFICATION.

III. Boat Classifications.

1. Guppies—For parents who desire to compete with their kids. (Parents can be in the boat or swimming next to it – No pushing or pulling, unless it sinks.)
2. Dolphins—For kids 17 and under. No parents allowed! (Crew CANNOT pull the boat, push it, propel with legs or swim next to it, unless it sinks.)
3. Whales— For all individuals of any age. (Crew CANNOT pull the boat, push it, propel with legs or swim next to it, unless it sinks.)

IV. Racing Format.

1. Boats shall be designed to race with a maximum of a two person crew.
2. The race must begin and end with the crew intact.
3. Crew members may help push the boat away from the pool deck at the beginning of the race.
4. Each boat will travel 2 lengths of the pool.
5. Heats will consist of a maximum of 5 boats.
6. Winners from heats will determine the placement for finals; the first place finishers from each heat will race for the *Fastest Boat* overall (each division ran separately).

V. Boat Judging.

1. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Finish for each Division.
2. Spirit Award. Will be awarded to the boat and crew. Boats will be judged on their design and creativity.
3. The Titanic Award. Will be awarded to the team of the boat that sinks in the most spectacular fashion.

ANY RULE NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED HEREIN WILL BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGES.