

Classique internationale de canots de la Mauricie

Competition Rules

R9 (Rabaska) Category — Specific Rules (Annex B)

2026 Season

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RABASKA-SPECIFIC PROVISIONS (R9)

R9 BOAT DIMENSIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Technical specifications — Rabaska

Measurements are taken on the outside of the hull. The gunwales are not included in the measurement. The unit of measurement is the inch (in).

- Maximum length: 302 in.
- Minimum length: 298 in.
- Minimum width at the centre, at the top (at the gunwales): 48 in.
- Minimum width at the centre, 6 in from the bottom: 38 in.
- Minimum height: 24 in at the bow, 18 in at the centre, 22 in at the stern.

LIABILITY

The Classique internationale de canots de la Mauricie cannot be held responsible for any material damage that may occur, during a race or competition, to property belonging to a competitor or a team.

Every team is responsible for the GPS transponder entrusted to it for tracking on an interactive map. In the event of loss, breakage or theft, the team will be charged the replacement cost (\$200).

WITHDRAWAL

A team or competitor that withdraws from the course before completing it will be disqualified and must notify the Classique internationale de canots de la Mauricie team as soon as possible.

In the event that a boat breaks, teams will be allowed to resume with a new boat, provided it meets the standards and has been measured and approved beforehand by the officials.

FEEDING AND CREW SUBSTITUTIONS

*** Passing through the feed zones is mandatory.*

- Rabaska teams are allowed to take on supplies and to substitute crew members.
- No feeding or crew substitution may take place outside the zones designated by the organization.
- Feeding is permitted during the portages.
- A rabaska team may have a maximum of 5 different support people for a given stage.
- Feeding on the water from another boat is prohibited.
- Only team members and support people are allowed to touch the rabaska during feeding.
- Support people may at no time help the team carry or move the rabaska forward during portages, launches or exits from the water. They are, however, permitted to touch or push the rabaska during feeding that takes place in the water. At no time during feeding may a team's members or support people interfere with another team.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD)

Requirement

- The personal flotation devices used by competitors must be accessible at all times and in good condition. They must be worn and fastened correctly when required.

- Inflatable, self-inflating and belt-worn PFDs are not approved by Transport Canada for whitewater. They therefore may not be worn when required in the rapids. You must wear PFDs approved for whitewater, made of an inherently buoyant material.

Wearing PFDs approved for whitewater is mandatory at the following two (2) locations:

- Stage 2: before the electrical pylons located upstream of the rapide des Hêtres and until downstream of that rapid.
- Stage 3: before the iron bridge located before the La Gabelle dam and until the end of the rapide des Forges. Paddlers who put in from the La Gabelle dam must wear their PFD before boarding.

PORTAGES (RABASKA)

After a portage, each team is responsible for managing its transport cart (the buggy).

Grand-Mère Portage (Stage 2)

- Only one (1) team member is allowed to go down to the landing site with the transport cart (the buggy).
- The other team members must wait at the top of the hill, on the other side of the guardrail or at any other point along the portage route.
- During this portage, passing is permitted only up to the start of the final descent.
- If a team is being followed, it must move to one side or the other of the path to allow the other team to pass.

La Belgo Portage (Shawinigan, Stage 3)

- If the downstream dock (on the left, toward Trois-Rivières) is free, every team must use it as a priority to leave the way clear for another rabaska behind them.
- A team is prohibited from passing another from the railway (before the descent), and this until past the fence at the bottom of the hill.
- Be careful: the descent is very steep and slippery.
- A minimum distance of one (1) rabaska must be kept between your rabaska and that of the team ahead.

La Gabelle Portage (Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, Stage 3)

- Only one (1) team member is allowed to go down to the landing site with the transport cart (the buggy).
- The other team members must wait at the top of the hill, on the other side of the fence or at any other point along the portage route.
- On the descent, passing is permitted but must be done safely. The team that is ahead upon reaching the gate before the launch site will have priority to launch.
- No passing is permitted past this gate.

GENERAL R9 RULES

COURSE, TURNS AND BUOY ROUNDING

- Teams must follow the course established by the competition organizers.
- Teams must cover the entire distance of the competition using their own equipment and may not leave the waterway, except at the sites designated for portages.
- Where the course includes buoys, boats must round the buoys located along the course.
- A team that does not fully clear a buoy must go back and round that buoy completely.
- A team that does not round the buoy will receive a five (5) minute penalty. The team can avoid this penalty by immediately turning around (or backing up) to round the buoy completely.
- Any team that does not follow the course (buoy or route) will be relegated to last place in the competition with a time penalty (minimum 10 minutes), or may be disqualified if it is a serious breach (at the judgment of the officials or the Sanctions Committee).
- Disqualification of a team removes its right to receive prize money for the race, and there is no refund of the registration fee.

PORTAGES

- Portages are permitted at the locations identified by the competition organizers.
- All members of a team must complete the portage on foot, starting from the point where their team's boat leaves the water.
- No assistance is permitted.
- Any team that does not comply with this provision will be disqualified.

ASSISTANCE TO COMPETITORS

At all times

If a competitor drops a paddle or any other object, anyone may retrieve it and hand it back to them immediately.

On the water

- Only team members may move the boat on the water, by human physical force.
- A team may not receive any assistance, except in the event of a capsize or swamping.
- In the event of a capsize, a team assisted by another boat must resume the course at the point where it capsized.
- Any team that does not comply with this provision will be disqualified.

START PROCEDURE

- Stages 1 and 3: all teams must be lined up on the start cable. The stern paddler must be in contact with the cable at all times (holding it with their hand).
- Stage 2: the start procedure will be explained at the pre-race meeting.
- A competitor who attempts to gain an unfair advantage at the start will be penalized two (2) minutes. After a first warning, a second offence results in disqualification.

- Officials may interrupt the start procedure if the alignment compromises a fair start for everyone. Any team that is not on the start line at the signal may not take part in the stage and will be disqualified.

FINISH LINE

- No object or obstacle may be placed between the two (2) physical points of the finish line.
- A boat is considered to have crossed the finish line when its bow touches the imaginary line connecting the two (2) physical points marking the finish line.

BAD WEATHER — “CHARETTE” CLAUSE

STORMS AND SEVERE WEATHER — SAFETY AND INSTRUCTIONS

Safety / instructions

Should weather conditions endanger the safety of the athletes, the safety team will communicate to the athletes still racing the instructions for reaching a safe place as quickly as possible.

Intermediate time / standings

If activating this safety measure ends the race for the day, a ranking will be established based on the intermediate times calculated for each team as they passed the various identified checkpoints.

Checkpoints — first stage

- Cowboy
- Rivière-aux-Rats
- Grande-Anse
- Mattawin

Checkpoints — second stage

- Grande-Piles federal wharf
- Grand-Mère portage

Checkpoints — third stage

- Espace Shawinigan (railway)
- La Gabelle portage

Standings

Timekeepers will be present at each checkpoint to record the teams' times. If the race is stopped for safety reasons, the intermediate times recorded at the checkpoints will be used to establish the final standings for the stage. For a checkpoint to be considered valid for establishing a stage ranking, a minimum of 12 teams must have crossed it before the race was stopped. If a checkpoint was crossed by fewer than 12 teams, the previous checkpoint will serve as the reference for the stage standings. Teams that were unable to safely cross a checkpoint before the race was stopped will be given the same time as the last team whose time was recorded.