



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POWERBOAT ASSOCIATION **GREAT RACE – RACING RULES 2023**

Citation

These rules shall be cited as the "Great Race Rules 2023".

Operation and Cessation

These rules shall come into operation at 6am on Monday 1st August 2023 and shall cease at 6pm on Sunday 20th August 2023.

Application

These rules shall apply to all drivers and their crews taking part in the "Great Race" hereinafter referred to as the "Race" and all persons responsible for the conduct of the race.

The Executive Committee

1. The Committee shall have overall discretion for the conduct of the Race, the competing boats, and their crews.
2. The Committee shall decide the course and time over which the race is to be driven.
3. All powerboats, their drivers, and crews taking part in the race shall be under the control of the Committee.
4. Drivers of competing boats shall be responsible for the conduct of their crews and shall ensure that they comply with these Rules.
5. The Committee shall appoint a Racing Jury who shall adjudicate on all matters referred to it in connection with the race.
6. The Racing Jury shall receive reports of the Race from the GPS Tracking site, from persons in charge of Patrol/Marker Boats and other officials.
7. The Committee shall appoint a suitable person to be Chief Inspector and he shall appoint such other Inspectors as he deems necessary to inspect all crafts entered in the race to ensure that all drivers, their crew's boats, and their equipment comply with these rules.
8. The Committee shall appoint suitable Medical Practitioners to carry our Medical Examinations of all drivers and their crews at such times and places designated by the Committee. No persons shall be allowed to race unless he is found fit by the Medical Practitioner examining him.

Entries

Each team shall submit an entry form to the Committee with the prescribed entry fee by the 17th August, 2023.

TTPBA Annual Membership Dues

See separate Rate Sheet

Race Entry Fees per Team

See separate Rate Sheet

Annual Hull Registration Fee (To Be Completed by Team Captain)

See separate Rate Sheet

Late entries

See separate Rate Sheet

Any entries accepted after August 17th may incur additional fees TBD by the Race Committee

*Note: - A competitor who makes a false/misleading or deceptive statement on an entry form will incur a penalty as shown in para.21 of the rules.

Classification

All entries shall be classified by the Committee whose decision shall be final.

Start of Race

The Start Times for the respective classes will be provided at the Racers Briefing that will be held on Thursday 17th August, 2023.

Following are Respective Classes of entry for the Great Race 2023:

CLASS LETTER	MAXIMUM SPEED
Cruiser 1	50 mph
Cruiser 2	50 mph
Bowen Class (S)	Not Applicable
G-Class	50 mph
F-Class	70 mph
E-Class	80 mph
D-Class	95 mph
C-Class	110 mph
B-Class	120 mph
A-Class	130 mph

Milling Area

Once in the milling area before the start, competing boats will move "OFF PLANE" in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction as designated in the briefing. Drivers who are found in breach, as determined by the starter will incur a Penalty of TEN (10) minutes added to their time. This penalty will be imposed by the starter who will advise the Race Jury.

STARTING PROCEDURE

- a) The milling area shall be designated in the pre-race briefing.
- b) In the milling area all boats must be off plane (bow down, no wake) only and must turn in the direction designated in the briefing.
- c) The start boat shall be closest to one side or the other of the start chute, as per briefing information.
- d) At two minutes to the start the starter will raise the appropriate flag and ALL boats designated to start MUST be in the milling area.
- e) At one minute to the start the starter will raise the appropriate flag and then the start boat will cross in front of the fleet to bring the boats out of rotation. Every boat must come out of rotation with the milling marker on the side designated in the briefing. The start boat will then proceed down the start chute. Boats must remain 100ft astern of the start boat transom. At the designated Start Time for the starting class, the flag will be dropped, and the race officially started.
- f) The starter is not authorized to wait for any boat.
- g) Racing may only begin when the starter drops the flag.
- h) Should a boat fail to start when its respective class has started, a delayed start is allowed provided the boat crosses the start line within half an hour (30 min.) of the Main start, and **ONLY** after permission is received from the Official Race Starter.
- i) A new Driver/s (rookie) must start a minimum of 100 ft. behind their class.
- j) NOTE: The term Driver applies to the position of Wheelman or Throttleman**
- k) A rookie is any driver/throttleman that has never participated in and official TTPBA event and starting procedure.
- l) Any two flags raised and crossed designates a delayed start.
- m) The **RED** flag will be raised if an **EMERGENCY** arises on the course. If at any time during the start procedure a **RED** flag is raised, the start has been aborted and all boats must return off plane to the milling area for restart. The Start Boat and/or Race control will broadcast via VHF radio on the designated Race Channel the reason for the Emergency and any expected delay.
- n) A **BLACK** flag will be raised if the race has been aborted. Boats should then proceed to the holder of the flag for instructions.

- o) Starting Rules infractions:
 - i) Jumping the start
 - ii) Milling in the wrong direction
 - iii) Starting on the wrong side of the start boat
 - iv) On plane in the milling area
 - v) Not being in the milling area after the two-minute flag is raised.

All the above infractions are subject to penalties (see penalties section).

Late starts

Late starting will be allowed up to 30 minutes after the Main start. IE: Main Start is 8:00 am, late starters can start up to 8:30 am, but ONLY with the permission of the Start Boat who will give the all clear and record the Start Time of the late starter

Late starters must pass the starting line only after prior approval of the starter.

Crew

A competing boat must start and finish with the same crew and under its own power.

Race Finish Time

The Great Race will officially finish at 12 noon on Saturday 19th August 2023.

Age Requirements and Competence

The minimum age for a driver or crew member shall be 17 years unless such person, upon recommendation of at least two other experienced crew members, has been accepted by the Race Committee as a person competent to be a member of a racing crew. The Committee must be satisfied with the competence of all drivers and their crews before such persons are allowed to drive or act as crew.

Drinking and Taking Drugs

The imbibing of intoxicating liquor or the taking of Narcotic drugs within eight (8) hours before or during the race shall be strictly prohibited. Any person found in breach of this rule shall be disqualified from racing.

Course

All competing boats are required to follow the Course laid down.

Patrol and Marker Boats

Race Boats will pass Marker Boats as stipulated on the Official Course Map as defined at the Briefing and will pass Marker Boats and Patrol Boats within 100 feet to be properly identified.

Boats out of the Race

The driver of a competing boat which drops out of the race must report this to Race Control or to the nearest Marker or Patrol Boat for the information of Race Control. Reporting can be done using VHF Radio or Cell Phone.

See penalty section for noncompliance.

Cessation of Race

In the event of a cancellation of the Race, a black flag will be flown by each Marker Boat, any of which will give information to any competing boat requiring it.

Racing Jury

The Racing Jury shall be appointed by the Executive Committee no later than 7 days prior to race day and comprise a Chairman and at least 3 other members. All protests on any matter concerning the Race shall be referred to at least one member of the Race Jury.

The Jury Member will then communicate the protest to the other members of the Jury for deliberation.

Deliberation and decision by the Jury may be immediate, or if necessary, recorded for further investigation with the decision then made available after such investigation has been completed.

Any person who feels aggrieved by the Jury's decision shall appeal within one (1) hour after such decision is given, in writing, to the TTPBA EXCO. Review of the Race Jury decision will be reviewed by TTPBA EXCO whose decision shall be final.

Racing Jury Powers

The Racing Jury shall have the power to discipline any owner, driver or crew member who shall violate any of these rules whether competing in the race or not.

The TTPBA EXCO in its appellate jurisdiction shall have the power to confirm, vary or increase any penalty that has been imposed or shall reverse any decision given by the Jury or any other person charged with enforcing these rules.

Protests

All technical protests regarding a challenge to another entrant's racing equipment shall be in writing accompanied by a fee of \$1,000.00. All protests shall be forwarded to the any member of the Racing Jury and must be submitted and confirmed as received, no later than one hour after cessation of the race.

If the protest is proven to be valid, the fee shall be returned to the protesting party.

Should the protest be found invalid, the protest fee shall be paid to the owner of the boat protested to defray cost of teardown etc.

Protests regarding course deviation or outside assistance, or any other perceived race day infraction witnessed by any entrant or Race Official, Patrol, Marker Boat Captain or Coast Guard by any other entrant must be reported to the persons in charge of Tobago or Port of Spain Race Control with one hour of the cessation of the race. There is no fee necessary to report such an infraction.

Upon proof of an allegation of breach of any rule or infraction made by any race entrant, Patrol, Marker Boat Captain, or Coast Guard Personnel, the Racing Jury shall have the power to admonish, fine, disqualify or suspend the guilty party from future racing for such period as it may deem fit, but not exceeding 1 year.

Penalties

Unless otherwise specially provided for in these rules, the following penalties will be incurred by any racing driver, or his crew found in breach as follows; -

- Late arrival to race briefing – DQ until briefed. When briefed, 10-minute penalty added to finish time
- Late inspection of boats - \$500.00
- False or inaccurate information/declaration on Entry Form: from 10 minutes added to racing time to disqualification.
- Improper conduct: Abusive or Obscene language to a Race Official (From 10 minutes added to racing time of the competing Boat to disqualification.
- Improper start: TEN (10) Minutes added to finish time.
- Improper milling: TEN (10) minutes added to finish time.
- Non completion of racecourse, i.e. (Passing on incorrect side of Marker Boats and or Marker Buoys. Missing Marker Buoys): From TEN (10) minutes to disqualification
- Absence from briefing: DQ until briefed and FIFTEEN (15) minutes added to finish time.
- Failure to report breakdown or 'out of race' - \$5,000 applied to crew and/or boat.
- Any conduct prejudicial to the good order of the race from TEN (10) minutes added to finish time to disqualification.
- **Breaking out of speed bracket:**
 - **ONE (1) minute added to racing time for every breakout reading.**
 - **More than 10 breakouts – Disqualification.**
 - **Breakout by more than 5mph above bracket – Disqualification.**
- Any other offence committed by a driver or his crew member under these rules for which no specific penalty is provided, the penalty shall be a fine not exceeding \$500.00, or a time penalty of TEN (10) added to finish time, or possible Disqualification, to be determined by the Race Jury

Broken Down Crafts

Accepting any outside assistance to effect repairs, a tow, or any assistance that would enable a disabled race boat to continue the race or using any facility except its own power shall result in disqualification. However, tools & parts may be passed but competing boats may not be towed, held with boat hooks or other means. Boats accepting assistance may be disqualified.

Accidents

The first race boat on the scene of an accident shall render all possible assistance to any vessel or person in peril, and if in the judgment of the Racing Jury the race boat rendering assistance shall impair its chance of winning or placing, the Racing Jury shall allocate a finish position consistent with the boat's position at the time of the rescue assistance. Any

participant thrown overboard and not injured shall clasp both hands above his head as a signal that he is unharmed.

Overtaking

At all times during the execution of a racecourse, the "Rules of the Road" shall apply. When two boats are on the same course the overtaking boat shall keep clear of the boat being overtaken and in passing shall allow at least 50 feet of clear water between them. The overtaken boats shall not alter course to compel the overtaking boats to pass within the 50 feet limit.

Finish Boat and Timekeeper

At the Race Day Briefing the name of the "Finish Boat" will be disclosed. The official timekeeper will be located on that Boat. Finish time will be taken when the race boat crosses the finish line between the finish gate. Racers must pass between the two finish markers known as the finish gate for finish times to be taken.

Compulsory Safety Equipment

Each competing craft must pass inspection carried out by the Inspector appointed for the purpose at such place and time designated by the Inspector. Late inspections will be done under penalty as shown in Penalties section of these rules.

All competing boats must have the following equipment on board while racing: -

- i) All Life Jackets and Helmets must be inspected and approved by the Safety Committee at the safety and inspection briefing prior to the race on the date as announced by the TTPBA. Life Jacket and helmet of an approved type for each occupant of the boat. Helmets must be orange/red in color, or a suitably bright enough color to be seen by rescue craft in the air or sea and from distance. Color must be acceptable and passed by the inspecting official at the pre-race Jacket and Helmet test. Helmet must have the name of the competitor and his blood type painted thereon. Jackets shall be the Lifeline Brand, or an equivalent substitute of the same standard, or of another make approved by the Inspector. The helmet shall be SNELL manufacture, or such other type as may be approved by the Inspector. The helmet must be open faced or enclosed type.
- ii) Jackets approved and have passed inspection by the TTPBA Safety Committee, Lifeline jackets or canopy style jackets.
- iii) Fire Extinguisher Co 2 or dry powder type minimum (5-7lbs) capacity or Halon Extinguisher.
 - a. Inboards –
 - i. must be fixed.
 - ii. must have additional handheld for electrical/ under deck fires etc, – not just for engine. Must be assessable in cockpit area.
 - b. Outboard - access to handheld and minimum on one per engine
- iv) Hand Bilge pump or bailer and electrical bilge pump.

- v) Anchor or grapnel and a minimum of 50 meters (160 ft.) of rope, at least 5/8" diameter and 19 meters (60ft) of nylon rope 5/8" diameter for towing.
- vi) One Flashlight - water proof with minimum of 2 D cells
- vii) Compass - a recent certificate of Deviation from the Coast Guard or other approved authority is strongly encouraged.
- viii) Reflective mirror.
- ix) Knife
- x) Towing Cleat, Sampson post or bow ring.
- xi) Motorist type First Aid Kit.
- xii) Adequate fuel.
- xiii) Identification of boat, that is Names and numbers painted on the port and starboard sides, and numbers on top decks to be clearly visible from the sides and above.
- xiv) Non-canopied boats - Kill switch installed in such a way to stop engine/engines in event that any crew member is thrown overboard. Each boat must be equipped with an override mechanism.
- xv) One gallon drinking water for each person on boat.
- xvi) VHF Radio with Channel 6 and 16 and be prepared to do Radio checks on inspection of the boat, and prior to start of race. Radio must be fixed base with International select button and frequencies must include 6/16. A single handheld will not be accepted but encouraged as an additional safety item.

All boats finishing are subject to safety equipment check. In the event safety equipment listed cannot be accounted for, such boats may be penalized or disqualified.

Dress of crew

Any boat while racing seen with its driver or a Crew member without his helmet or life jacket shall be disqualified.

Savings

Where the rules are silent on any matter, and any driver/crew member needs clarification or a decision on any matter affecting the Race, within one hour before the start of the Race, the matter shall be referred to the Race Chairman whose decision shall be final.

Made this day of 1st August 2023 by the Executive of The Trinidad and Tobago Powerboat Association.

C. Mowser
Rules Committee

Explanatory Notes.

These notes do not form part of the Rules but are intended only to indicate their general purpose.

1. The main purpose of these rules is to create comprehensive and functional guidelines for offshore racing and consolidate some already existing practices which relate to Power Boating and the use of our seas.
2. The rules are designed to make racing safer by their observance and have given penal consequences of contravening their provisions.
3. Recent events in racing have shown the need for greater awareness of Safety rules on the part of all concerned with offshore racing.
4. The rules set out the minimum items of safety equipment which must be carried when racing.
5. The rules are designed to update and bring them into harmony with International Standards.
6. When read, understood, and indeed, complied with, these rules are a guide to help insulate competitors from accidents and distress, consequent upon carelessness or negligence.
7. Although not specifically stated, distress signals for boats in distress still apply, and must be done in accordance with the Shipping distress signals and prevention of Collision Regulations of 1990.
8. To be safe one's boat must be seaworthy, equipment serviceable, in good condition and the driver and his crew must be mentally alert and physically fit.

Good luck and Great racing.