

# Canoe Carnival Float Rules & Regulations

Revised May 2021

## General Participation

1. Eligible Participants – Any Colony Member in good standing.
2. Float groups may have non-Medford Lakes residents participate in the float design and construction and the Canoe Carnival Parade. The names of the non-resident participants **MUST** be submitted to the Colony before the July Directors meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in July), or they will not be allowed to participate.
3. Float Groups must submit the completed entry forms to the Colony Office by the designated date. Floats with entry forms submitted after the deadline may not appear in the Carnival Program.
4. All floats must pass the safety inspection prior to the float parade.
5. All float participants must familiarize themselves with the non-emergency towing protocol.

## Float Categories

For the purpose of judging, each float group shall select their entry's category from the following:

- 1) Junior Float:
  - a) A float that is primarily designed and constructed by students in grades 6 through 12 (students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the coming September and students who graduated from High School in the June of the current year are considered eligible).
  - b) Adult participation must be limited to advisory capacity and where safe use of tools is a concern
- 2) Single Canoe:
  - a) Any individual or group entry using a single canoe of not greater than 17' in length.
  - b) Single canoe entries may utilize additional means of stabilization. Such means may solely provide for stabilization and may not provide additional means of buoyancy.
- 3) Organization: Any volunteer organization based in Medford Lakes.
- 4) Non-Competitive: Any float group that does not comply with the standard Participation Rules **BUT** has passed the safety inspection (this category will not be judged). Such floats remain subject to all safety rules and regulations.
- 5) Tiered: All float Groups not entered in any of the above categories will be placed into categories based on the number of participating members in the float group.
  - a) The category placement will be determined by the Canoe Carnival Committee after the final entry deadline.

- b) When a group submits their entry packet, they must include a list of all participating float group members. This list will be used to determine the size of the group. The number of members within a group will determine the tier in which a group will be placed
- c) Once a float group has submitted their entry packet, they cannot change the number of members in the group.
- d) NOTE: each float group will continue to receive up to ten (10) participant plates. Additional plates will also continue to be available for purchase by individual float groups. However, groups may only receive the total number of plates equal to the total number of participants listed in their entry packet.

### Carnival Scoring Results

- 1) All results will be posted on the Colony Club Website. The goal is to have results posted as soon as possible Saturday evening. Captains will receive a text message when the results are available. Results will NO LONGER BE POSTED AT THE COLONY OFFICE DOOR!
- 2) The highest and lowest score for each float will continue to be eliminated from the overall calculation.
- 3) The total number of points available will be 400 (8 judges x 50 total available points / judge)
- 4) If deemed necessary, floats will be subject to non-emergency towing deductions (see Non-Emergency Tow Protocol document for more detail).

### Prizes

**The Grand Prize** is awarded to the Float with the highest total score, regardless of that float's category.

**Junior Grand Prize** (Ned Steel Memorial Award) is open to all Junior entries and is awarded to the Junior Float with the highest total score.

**First, Second, and Third Place Category Prizes** will be awarded to each winning float in the Junior, Organization, and Single Canoe categories as well as in each of the Tiered categories.

**Builders Choice for Technical Achievement:** Each float captain will be texted post Canoe Carnival with a survey to vote on the float that they thought was the float displaying the best use of technology. Captains cannot vote for their own float and only one vote per captain.

***Award Certificates will be given to winning floats on Awards Night. Award plates will be given to winning floats at a later date. Winning Captains will be notified when plates are available.***

Participation Plates:

1. Up to ten (10) participants of each prize-winning float group will receive a participation plate.
2. Single Canoe entries will receive up to five participant plates.

3. Non-winning (4<sup>th</sup> place & lower in their category) and Non-Competitive float groups will receive one (1) Participation Plate.
4. Canoe Carnival Committee Members will receive 1 plate per family.
5. Groups may purchase as many additional plates as there are members listed on their entry form (form a). Additional Commemoration Plates must be ordered through the Colony Office. Payment for additional plates is due at time of ordering.
6. Homes hosting a float group or judges will receive 1 Participation Plate

### *Float Construction Rules*

1. A float must be constructed on one (1) or two (2) canoes (canoes may not be longer than seventeen 17').
2. All floats must be self-contained on these 2 canoes (1 canoe for single canoe entries).
  - a. No additional means of buoyancy or locomotion are acceptable.
  - b. Floats will be disqualified if this occurs and/or it is Non-Competitive.
3. A keel and/or rudder will be optional.
4. Safety and Entry Identification Signage on float
  - a. Float numbers must be displayed in 3 places Show side front and back; lakeside back
  - b. Non-Swimmer aboard sign must be displayed on lakeside back just below float number
  - c. Number signs and "Non-Swimmer" signs must be no less than 18"x 18" and be brightly colored
5. All 2 Canoe Floats MUST have canoes covered with plastic forming a pontoon. This is optional for single canoe floats.
6. Tow Ropes
  - a. Tow Ropes must be installed at bow and stern of floats.
  - b. Each Rope must be 20 feet long with a loop at the tow end.
  - c. Ropes must be easily accessible.
7. All floats must adhere to all items listed on the Safety Checklist.
8. Paddlers:
  - a. Up to four (4) paddlers can be used on a two (2) canoe float.
  - b. Up to two (2) paddlers can be used on a single canoe.
  - c. If more than 2 paddlers are used on a two-canoe float, 30 points will be deducted for each additional paddler used or up to 60 points deducted.
  - d. If more than 1 paddler is used on a single canoe, 30 points will be deducted for the extra paddler.
  - e. Float groups will declare the use of the extra paddlers on their Safety Checklist and at the time of the Safety Inspection.
  - f. If the float group DOES NOT use the extra paddlers, this information MUST BE CALLED IN to the Canoe Carnival Committee. Otherwise, the point deduction will be taken and will be reflected on the Judge's scoring sheets.
  - g. \*\*\*\*REMEMBER YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE THE EXTRA PADDLES AND LIFE-PRESERVERS, ETC. READY AND ON BOARD IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT USE THE EXTRA PADDLERS\*\*\*\*\*

- h. Changing of the paddlers during the Parade is optional and will result in no point deductions. (example: operator and paddler may switch positions if need be.)
  - i. Paddlers should be positioned to allow good maneuverability and sight lines.
9. Generator Requirements
- a. Generators must be securely and safely mounted.
  - b. Generator exhaust must be positioned away from paddlers, operator(s), and others on the float.
  - c. Generators and all electrical connections must be properly grounded.
10. Single canoe entries may utilize additional means of stabilization. Such means must not be utilized as additional means of buoyancy.
11. All floats must be constructed, decorated and lighted as to be fully visible on the right side (shoreline) when traveling counter-clockwise around the lake.
12. For Groups constructing their floats on one of the beaches...
- a. Float groups **MUST EXERCISE CAUTION, CONSIDERATION, and COURTESY** in regards to bathers on the beach.
  - b. Driving on Beach 1 or 2 with any type of vehicle to drop off equipment or material too bulky to carry **MUST BE LIMITED**. Float groups **MUST USE CAUTION, CONSIDERATION, and COURTESY** in regards to bathers on the beach.
  - c. **VEHICLES MAY ONLY BE ON THE BEACH FOR A MINIMAL UNLOADING TIME ONLY.**
  - d. Part of Beach 2 will be roped off as Canoe Carnival weekend approaches. This will allow our float builders the room they need to build and also allow more room for bathers and spectators on Canoe Carnival night.
13. Total float height from the water is no more than 40 feet.

### *Carnival Parade Rules and Procedures*

1. All floats should be ready by 8pm. The Carnival will begin by signal as established at the captain/safety/marshal meeting.
  - a. **CANOE CARNIVAL IS OVER AT 11:00PM.** Unless otherwise determined by the Inclement Weather Committee and/or the Head Marshal
  - b. Floats will be required to complete the circumnavigation of the lake within this time frame. This will ensure that all floats will have the opportunity to be seen by all spectators and judges.
2. The total number of people on float may not exceed 10.
3. Floats **MUST** begin parade from their assigned launch location. (Failure to do so will result in a 100-point deduction from their final score). To ensure that floats are spaced out around the lake as best as possible, the launching point may be different from the location of where the float was being built. Float captains will be informed if this becomes necessary. Floats requested to move will move to their assigned launch points at least 30 minutes prior to first flare time.
4. Effort will be made to have the Camp Ockanickon float launch location positioned so that it should be the last float to pass by Beach 1.
5. Floats must maintain the speed at which the parade is proceeding. The marshals will monitor progress of the parade.

6. All floats are expected to comply with the request of the marshals on the water during the Carnival Parade. Failure to comply with the requests of the marshals may result in point deductions (minimum of 25 points per violation) and/or disqualification.
7. Float group members may assist the float during launch and once the float has returned to its dock.
8. At no time during the Canoe Carnival procession may a person enter the water to guide or assist his/her float except at time of launch and return.
9. All persons must remain on the float at all times during the Canoe Carnival procession. Immediate disqualification will result in anyone entering the water/exiting the float other than in an emergency.
10. If marshals find any infractions not covered on the score and/or procedures sheets (e.g., passing when not directed by a marshal, disregard of other floats, spare gas can aboard float, additional means of flotation, not reaching home dock within 2-hour time limit, etc.) the Head Marshal will report those infractions to the Head Judge. Point deductions, if needed, will be determined by the Head Marshal and the Head Judge. The Canoe Carnival Chair or his/her designee shall be consulted as necessary.
11. Floats must **MAINTAIN A MINIMUM OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200')** distance **BETWEEN FLOATS**. Marshals will help maintain spacing. This spacing may be changed by request of a marshal. The number of entrants may affect the distance between the floats.
12. Each float is to follow in numerical order. Late entries may not be in numerical order. There will be no penalty assessed to floats which may get out of order during the parade.
13. Floats may pass other floats **ONLY** under the direction of the Marshals.
14. Where possible the paddlers should make every effort to **maneuver their float to within a maximum of fifteen (15') feet from the shoreline**. It is suggested that around Beach 1, floats try to make the turn further away from the spillway/dam area in an effort to lessen any wind "issues".
15. Floats are asked to be considerate of other floats around them especially in consideration of controlling their sound systems.
16. Floats with issues or problems that may be obstructive to the float parade, or which present a safety hazard, will be directed or helped to move to a safe spot either in the middle of the lake or shore line, as safety dictates. Floats will remain in this location until their problem(s) have been overcome and they have received an ok to proceed from the marshals. There will be no point deductions for this delay and/or loss of parade order.
17. Floats that continue to be disabled will be permitted to return to their launch site **ONLY** after the end of the parade.
18. All floats must have and rehearsed an emergency evacuation plan.
19. All float participants must familiarize themselves with the non-emergency towing protocol.
20. Marshals may, if needed, assist disabled floats back to their home dock **only after the Parade has concluded**.
21. Each entrant is responsible for the safety of his/her float. Participants must adhere strictly to the Safety and Procedure requirements listed in this entry packet. Float Captains, paddlers and others who will be on board during the float parade **MUST** sign the safety inspection sheet stating that they have read and understood all safety rules and carnival procedures.

22. All floats will be expected to go to the RIGHT of any buoys. Remember that the buoys are intended to guide the path of your float to better show it to the audience and judges.
23. See paddler rules under the “Float Construction Rules” section above.

*In Case of Inclement Weather*

An Inclement Weather Committee will be formed and charged with deciding the status of the Carnival relative to inclement weather conditions (rain, wind, etc.)

1. The IWC will consist of the Canoe Carnival Chair, the head marshal, the safety committee, and three float captains or their appointed representative. The Canoe Carnival Chair or their designee will act as committee chair.
2. Group Captain Representation will be selected from the Current Captains (or their representatives) of previous year’s Grand Prize winner and First place winners in each category. The three names will be selected at the annual Captain’s Safety meeting with eligible names being drawn from a hat.
3. The IWC will meet on Carnival day at the times and location of their designation. The committee may also elect to meet prior to carnival day if deemed necessary.
4. The IWC will have the responsibility for deciding the status of carnival relative to weather conditions. They will have the authorization to:
  - a. Have carnival proceed without restriction or modification.
  - b. Have carnival proceed with restrictions as they see fit.
  - c. And ONLY as a complete last resort, postpone carnival. Such a decision must include consideration the following:
    - i. Participant safety
    - ii. Cost factors relative to postponement
    - iii. Security Personnel issues related to postponement
    - iv. Volunteer issues related to postponement
    - v. Crowd control issues related to timing of postponement decision
    - vi. Impact of postponement on individual floats
    - vii. Notification issues related to postponement
5. The IWC will immediately report their decision to appropriate parties as soon as possible. Notified parties will include:
  - a. Security personnel (Police, Fire, Safety)
  - b. Head Judge
  - c. All float captains
  - d. Beach 1 MC
  - e. IF carnival is to be postponed or delayed, this committee will also, as soon as possible:
    - i. Inform all lakefront home owners & audiences at beaches 1& 2 and Beach Drive
    - ii. Post Signs notifying postponement information on beach 1 and 2 as well as Beach Drive.
    - iii. Request posting of postponement information on the Colony website and through the Police “Nixle Team” system

### **Post Carnival Procedures**

1. The Carnival Committee will provide a dumpster(s) on beach 1 on Sunday after carnival.
2. Float groups may use these for the disposal of Float remains only!
3. NO GLASS is permitted.
4. Care **MUST** be taken to ensure that **ALL TRASH HAS BEEN REDUCED IN SIZE** as much as possible and that no screws, nails, or other dangerous materials and/or objects are left on the beach.
5. Driving on Beach 1 with any type of vehicle to drop off trash or material too bulky to be carried **MUST BE LIMITED**. Float groups **MUST USE CAUTION** in regards to bathers on the beach.
6. **VEHICLES MAY NOT BE PARKED ON THE BEACH FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME!**
7. All float canoes, platforms and related items **MUST** be removed from beaches 1 and 2 by end of day Sunday of Canoe Carnival weekend.
8. Any request made by the beach lifeguard is to be obeyed as they are hired to ensure the colonists' safety. A Canoe Carnival Committee representative will be present to assist the lifeguard in the implementation and enforcement of these rules.
9. The Canoe Carnival Committee reserves the right to sanction Canoe Carnival float groups who do not abide by the rules.

## NON-EMERGENCY TOW PROTOCOL FOR ML CANOE CARNIVAL

1. The Parade's Command Post Marshal (CPM) will have authority to request float-towing from Medford Lakes Police/Fire Joint Command in a non-emergency capacity when a float shows an inability to navigate forward after several minutes, and after a verbal warning to paddlers from a Safety Marshal. This decision must be accepted by the paddlers or a disqualification will occur.
2. A towed float will incur a single 50-pt deduction in scoring, regardless of distance towed or number of tows required. (Extra paddler deductions are reduced to 25 pts per person, and will not be applied if towing deduction also applies. I.e., the most a float can be deducted for conveyance beyond two paddlers is 50 pts total.)
3. Any float awaiting a tow that is not yet available will temporarily anchor in the closest stable cove, or tie off to closest available dock. If conditions become more favorable during this waiting period, the paddlers may ask a Marshall to call in a review of the tow decision, but the CPM's decision shall remain intact unless he/she specifically reverses it. Lack of an answer means "tow remains in effect". If the CPM reverses their decision and the float is able to proceed without a tow, there will be no point deduction.
4. This protocol does not supersede or affect Medford Lakes Police/Fire Joint Command (PFJC)'s ability to announce an "emergency situation" at any time, or to take whatever actions they feel necessary to address what they feel is a dangerous situation. In such event, all protocols become secondary to PFJC official instructions, and all Float Parade personnel and participants will immediately comply with same.

### ADDITIONAL ITEM

FLOAT REQUIREMENTS TO BE ADDED TO SAFETY CHECKLIST PER MLFD (\$37 total)

- A. Four marine cleats, one added to each corner of any platform.

[https://www.amazon.com/Mizugiwa-Nylon-Cleat-Black-Pack/dp/B01DYNMJCG/ref=sr\\_1\\_11?crid=EAPQ6Q6C1ED1&keywords=dock+cleats+4+inch&qid=1568745005&srefix=dock+cleats+4+inch%2Caps%2C155&sr=8-11](https://www.amazon.com/Mizugiwa-Nylon-Cleat-Black-Pack/dp/B01DYNMJCG/ref=sr_1_11?crid=EAPQ6Q6C1ED1&keywords=dock+cleats+4+inch&qid=1568745005&srefix=dock+cleats+4+inch%2Caps%2C155&sr=8-11)

- B. Two tow harnesses, one at each end of any platform or single canoe.

[https://www.amazon.com/AIRHEAD-Tow-Harness-12-ft/dp/B000ZYCLHG/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?keywords=airhead+tow+harness&qid=1568744925&sr=8-6](https://www.amazon.com/AIRHEAD-Tow-Harness-12-ft/dp/B000ZYCLHG/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=airhead+tow+harness&qid=1568744925&sr=8-6)