

Establishing an Outrigger Canoe Club

These are a few basic tips on what to consider when thinking about starting an outrigger club in your area. Modify according to your particular area and anticipated needs.

Legalities

- Establish a committee to handle the administrative aspects of a club. The committee must include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three committee members. Important roles for recommended for the three committee members are race director, membership director and Equipment/Maintenance manager.
- Society status is an asset, which registers your club as a not-for-profit organization and qualifies you for grants, etc.
- The committee is required to have an annual general meeting for all club members to attend and the board voted in each year.
- The committee members are required to have monthly meeting and provide minutes of those meeting to keep society status.
- Insurance is provided to your members with payment of CORA fee and filling out CORA registration forms. This insurance covers members while practicing, racing or traveling either locally or internationally.
- Club waiver forms should be developed and signed by each member of your club to absolve your organization should accident/injury occur.

Location

- Choose an area where canoes can be easily launched. Lakes, rivers, harbors, bays or open ocean are all viable options if ramps or beachfront are accessible.
- A secure space to store the canoes and keep equipment may also be a consideration.

Finances

- Establishment of a club bank account with 2-person signing authority.
- Canoe prices can vary greatly depending on class and age of the vessel. Fundraising, sponsorship, membership fees and grants are a few ways to raise money and determine how much your club can spend. Some clubs have purchased canoes and other equipment through member contribution and receive reimbursement through the years.

Equipment

- **Canoes** – Source out canoes appropriate for your clubs needs. They come in many styles and price ranges. Many established clubs purchase new canoes and may have used ones for sale. Ask around. It will be to your advantage to network with other

clubs for canoe opinions and contacts. Don't forget about the added expense of a spray deck if your canoe does not already have one.

- **Paddles** – Purchase of club paddles or each member buys their own. There are many different types of paddles on the market for the novice to experienced paddler.
- **Life jackets** – For insurance and safety purposes there must be as many life jackets in the canoe as there are paddlers.
- **Trailer** – Second to the canoe, the trailer is another expensive purchase. This is a nice to have more than a need to have item and could be a thought for the future. Often canoes can be borrowed from the host club, but there are advantages to racing your own canoe.
- **Other items** – Rigging gear (rope, rubbers, tape measure), duct tape, trolley to get your boat to and from the water, lights for reduced light practices, repair kit, tools.

Members

- Active recruiting will ensure a broad base of members to start from.
- Post flyers or posters at places like work, community centers, gyms, and sporting events.