



NILE RIVER FESTIVAL 2020 - RULES

January 30th - February 2nd

GENERAL RULES

- All competitors must sign in and pay entry fees on (or before) the 24th January during the afternoon's registration. No entry fees = no competing. Entry fees must be paid in cash only. Registration will be at Explorers Campsite, Bujagali.
- Only playboats to be use for all races and freestyle competitions (max 220cm length).
- You must use the same kayak for the freestyle, mass start and Itanda Falls race. You do not need to use the same kayak for the big air ramp event.
- Event registration will also be taking place at Adrift, Nalubale and Nile River Explorer's raft bases for their employees.
- Any complaints regarding judging decisions will have to be submitted within 20 minutes of the relevant event finishing.
- We will do our best to be fair as possible, we will consider the complaint, and decision thereafter will be final.
- All competitors must have their own travel insurance and must provide a copy to the organisers at registration on request.
- All competitors compete completely at their own risk and should understand that the competition and the organisers are in no way responsible for the paddlers' safety during any part of the competition.

BIG AIR RAMP RULES

- There aren't any scoring rules, other than impress the crowd! The cooler it looks, the higher you are likely to score.
- Judging will be done with a mix of kayakers and non-kayakers, each will have score cards from one to ten, and will hold them up after each attempt.
- Competitors must have a helmet and buoyancy aid on for every attempt.
- Competitors compete at their own risk. Big air ramps present risk of high impacts on landing and other potential injury risks as well.
- This event does not count towards your overall ranking.

SUP JOUSTING RULES

- The person who falls off loses
- Use the padded end of the paddle ONLY
- No hits to the face
- Stay on your own board, standing up.
- Competitors must have a helmet and buoyancy aid on
- This event does not count towards your overall ranking.

UGANDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES

- Kayakers from any nation can compete, the highest placed Ugandan in each category will be crowned Ugandan Champion. For NRF all nationalities will be considered and it's possible for any nationality to win the Itanda hole freestyle event.
- Competition is held at Itanda hole and led by organizers representative
- In order to assure event running smoothly - everybody should follow organizers representative instructions.
- Competition will be video recorded and judged later using ICF freestyle rules
- There will be 2 runs of 45 seconds, a short whistle will mark 35 seconds, and a long double blast will mark the end of the run.
- The sum of your two rides points will make up the competitors score.
- We will do every competitors first run in a fixed order communicated by the organiser, then run through the field again in the same order for the second run.
- Your Itanda hole freestyle event counts towards the overall NRF competition.
- To count towards the overall NRF kayak competition, you must use the same boat as all the other contributing events.

KAYAK FREESTYLE

- Everyone runs the river in a mass group.
- Please stop and wait above every rapid. A video team will paddle ahead and set up at each competition feature (which can be a wave or rapid).
- Each competitor will get one run through each rapid or wave, the video team will record their run.
- Maximum of 1 minute per feature per competitor.
- Each competitor will get a short compilation video made of each of the waves / rapids on the run down the river.
- On each wave a competitors best / coolest move will go into their compilation video.
- We will post the compilation videos on social media on Saturday late afternoon and show in the bar on Saturday evening.
- In the event where it is not clear which move is the coolest the editing team may include multiple moves from a feature.
- This is subject to change based on levels, but the following features are the planned competition features
 - Bubugo Downriver
 - Real Deal hole
 - Real Deal wave
 - Superhole
 - Itanda hole
 - Pheonix wave
 - Vengeance
 - Unce wave
 - Tea total hole
- In the event where a paddler misses the wave on the way down (like for example real deal wave) then we'll just miss that feature out of the compilation edit of that particular competitor.
- In the event that a competitor chooses not to surf a feature because of intimidation factor or any other reason, this is absolutely no problem, the compilation will be made of the surfs each competitor chooses to engage with.
- Competitors must not swap gear, boats equipment etc. as we go down the river otherwise it will be very confusing for the editors.
- If you get left behind or run the rapid ahead of the video team, your rides will obviously not be recorded, and therefore not included in the edit. Do not come and complain about this to us. It will be your responsibility to stay close to the group and listen to the trip leader who will be directing the competition.
- Competitors will run each rapid in order, directed by the Trip leader. You will be told the order at the beginning of the day and each time you go

down each rapid it will be the same. Please be ready and try not to hold everyone up. Feel free to hang out at the base of the rapid and cheer everyone else on, we'll paddle to the next rapid as a group.

- Clear communication will be made by the trip leader when the video team are ready. Do not drop through the feature / wave until you have had a thumbs up otherwise you might not be recorded! And how will you claim glory and fame on Saturday evening if you didn't catch it on film?

Judging and scoring

- The judges will be made up of a wide range of individuals, a range of kayakers with a diverse whitewater background and judges will also include some non kayakers.
- All judges results will be collected, and then the scores totalled.
- Enough judges will be taking part that any individual biases will be averaged out. This is a fun format, but doesn't mean it can't be fair.
- This is the briefing the judges will get:

Judges Brief

- You need to give each competitors video a score between 1-100.
- A score of 100 is your interpretation of the coolest, most stylish and skilful freestyle kayaking, and 1 is the worst attempt at those things you can imagine.
- You are judging each competitors edit as a collective set of moves rather than each feature or move. If a competitor does something particularly outstanding then that will obviously boost their scores.
- Having 20 kayakers with 100pts is not meaningful or useful judging as we will be from the judges scores attempting to order competitors, So try and have competitors in a spectrum of numbers based on the order that you think.
- Please judge the kayaking they are doing rather than who they are, or the quality of the video shot (e.g. if we use some lower quality footage from a back up camera, this should not effect their score in anyway).
- If you think two competitors are equally cool, stylish and skilful then make sure they are on equal points.
- You must watch the whole sequence of clips through at least twice, ensuring that the scoring you have given is comparable and fair based on your judgement. Review the order after watching twice and confirm that your scores reflect your opinion.
- Videos will go online Saturday afternoon (26th Jan) Uganda time, and then be shown on loop on the big screen in the NRE Bar also. You will need to submit your scores to event team by 6pm Uganda time on Saturday 1st Feb.

VENGEANCE MASS START RACE

- This is a simple format, all competitors start at the top of vengeance in the eddy where the Adrift Raft take out for lunch.
- Someone will blow a whistle to start, and the first to touch the banner at the end wins.
- You must touch the banner with your hand or paddle.
- Standard boater Cross rules apply, jostling and nudging of boats are allowed, but you must keep both your hands on your paddle and not leverage your paddle off another person's boat or body.
- Please respect safety and your fellow paddlers. It's a big rapid, and a boater cross can be dangerous, if you are not happy about going down in a big group, please hold back at the start and give the main pack a bit of a head start to allow yourself a clear run through.

RAFT FREESTYLE RULES

- Everyone runs the river in a mass group with all the companies rafts.
- Please stop and wait above every rapid. A video team will paddle ahead and set up at each competition feature (which can be a wave, hole or rapid).
- Each raft will get one run through each rapid or wave, the video team will record their run.
- Each raft will get a short compilation video made of all of the competition rapids / surfing on the run down the river.
- We will post all the videos on social media on Saturday afternoon and show the videos on loop in the NRE bar on the party night.
- This is subject to change based on levels and practicalities but the following features are the planned competition features
 - Overtime (strictly no flipping)
 - Retrospect
 - Bubugo
 - Superhole (surfing)
 - Bad place
 - Vengeance
- If you get left behind or run the rapid ahead of the video team, your rides will obviously not be recorded, and therefore not included in the compilation edit. Do not come and complain about this to us. It will be your responsibility to stay close to the group and listen to the trip leader who will be directing the competition.
- Rafts will run each rapid in order, directed by the Trip leader. You will be told the order at the beginning of the day and each time you go down

each rapid it will be the same. Please be ready and try not to hold everyone up.

- Safety will not be provided by the event. Each company will need to provide adequate safety for the numbers of rafts they are putting on the water.

Judging and scoring

- The judges will be made up of a wide range of individuals, raft guides, kayakers, members of the international rafting federation and some judges will have no idea about rafting also.
- All judges results will be collected, and then the scores totalled.
- Enough judges will be taking part that any individual biases will be averaged out. This is a fun format, but doesn't mean it can't be fair.
- This is the briefing the judges will get:

Judges Brief

- You need to give each competitors video a score between 1-100.
- A score of 100 is your interpretation of:
 - The coolest
 - most stylish
 - Most badass
 - Most entertaining
- A score of 1 would be the least cool / stylish / badass / entertaining you can imagine.
- You are judging each rafts entire compilation as a collective rather than each feature or move. If a raft does something particularly outstanding on a certain feature then that will obviously boost their scores, but you are looking at the whole edit rather than the best single flip for example.
- Having 10 rafts with 100pts is not meaningful or useful judging as we will be from the judges scores attempting to order the rafts, So try and have rafts in a spectrum of numbers that reflects the order that you think is fair.
- Please judge the rafting rather than who they are, or the quality of the video shot.
- If you think two rafts are equally cool, stylish, bad ass & entertaining then make sure they are on equal points.
- You must watch the whole sequence of clips through at least twice, ensuring that the scoring you have given is comparable and fair based on your judgement

Videos will go online on Monday 3rd Feb, we will communicate a deadline for returning results.

CUBAN BIG AIR

****This event is dangerous. If you do not have the skills to race this rapid or are uncertain in any way, just watch from the bank!****

Between the prelims and the final of the Itanda race, assuming the water levels are high enough, we will run a Cuban big trick contest, for anyone brave enough to try!

Cuban Big Air Scoring System:

- Two rides each paddler. One from the top, one from the eddy (we won't have time to do two from the top).
- The highest scoring move from each competitor will be their event score.
- Each move individually scored as a stand alone score, using a simple 1-10 score cards by each judge. 10 for the coolest, most badass, stylish skilful move. The total of all judges scores will be the moves score.
- Moves can still be scored if they flush, this is because some moves are amazing but don't quite stay on the wave afterwards, but some acknowledgement from judges will be given for the moves that land perfectly and retain the feature.
- Judging will be fair and impartial

HENDRI COETZEE MEMORIAL ITANDA FALLS EXTREME RACE RULES

****This race is dangerous. If you do not have the skills to race this rapid or are uncertain in any way, just watch from the bank!****

Hendri Coetzee put the following rules in place many years ago through many discussions about the potential for a race. Re-negotiation of the race rules can only be done with Hendri directly, which you may find difficult. Entry will be by invite or competitors must prove their ability to run Itanda Falls competently through video footage or at least two referees (known by organisers).

Prelims:

- Race will be two paddlers racing together 'head to head' with times for each competitor being recorded.
- Start will be in the eddy above the ramp on river left.
- Finish line is just behind the Bad Place in the eddy on the right.
- Any competitor who takes the chicken line (right of bad place) will be disqualified and presented with a funnel.

- Competitors must hit the bad place, the V line, or go left of the bad place.
- Once you have done your run you must wait in one of the bottom eddies to give extra safety until the next pair arrive and replace you.

Finals:

- Fastest 5 competitors will go through to a final, which is judged on style.
- Anyone not wishing to compete will drop to 6th and their place will be offered to the next competitor.
- The scoring system will be simple. We want your grandmother to see who is winning. It should be that obvious.
- The scoring system does not put constraints on the paddler, who is free to be creative, imaginative and to do whatever they feel to be most impressive.
- Judging will be in a “strictly come dancing” format (yes, you did read that right). There will be 4 judges: 2 kayakers and 2 non-kayakers. They will have a number between 1 and 10. If they like what they see you will get a good score. Organisers will ensure judges are fair and impartial. **Compulsory finish line is the centre of the Bad Place.** Skirting the bad place on either side will result in scoring 0 points.
- You have to be 18 years old or older to compete in the Itanda Race.

OVERALL KAYAKING WINNER

The overall winner of the Festival will be worked out as a total from the following events:

- Itanda hole freestyle (Uganda national championships)
- Kayak Freestyle
- Mass start vengeance race
- Itanda falls extreme race
- Big air cuban

It does not include:

- the ramp event,
- superhole olympics
- the SUP events,
- raft freestyle.

How it works:

- The winner of each event will get 50pts, 2nd place 49pts, 3rd place 48pts, etc
- The totals will be tallied up after each event.
- The overall winner of the Festival will be the competitor with the most points at the end. You do not have to compete in all parts of the competition, but if you don't it will be a lot harder to win!
- In the case where multiple people are tied on points at the end, then the best result will split the tie... e.g. a 1st, 3rd and 5th will beats three 3rds.

Any questions: info@kayakthenile.com or call +256 772 880 322