SEVENTY48

2027
RACE PACKET

Welcome to the 9th SEVENTY48.

Here in these pages, you will find the logistical details you need to get to the start line in Tacoma - and hopefully to Port Townsend. It's here to point the way as you prepare to race - but only you can put in the training that will get you to the finish line.

Updates and changes to this document will be outlined in the "Change Log" at the end, as well as emailed to Team Captains once they have been accepted and registered.

Read this whole thing. Twice. Then read it again. And then put together a trivia night and quiz each other on its contents.

Still confused? For application/registration questions, reach out to our Registrar, Verity at registration@nwmaritime.org. Race rules and everything else? Hit up the Race Boss, Jesse at raceboss@seventy48.com.

See you at the start line.

RACE HIGH COMMAND

SEVENTY48 takes place on lands and waters that are loved, cared for, and reverently stewarded by the Indigenous people of the Salish Sea and have been since time immemorial.

Today, Indigenous people are our neighbors, colleagues, and partners in a shared love and respect for the sea and its teachings.

We are grateful to respectfully live and work in this place. This acknowledgment is one act in the ongoing process of working to deepen our relationship with the people of these lands and waters.

RESPONSIBILITY

Competitors in SEVENTY48 participate entirely at their own risk. A team's decision to participate in the race, or to continue racing once they've begun, is theirs alone. By participating in this event, each competitor releases the race organizers and officials from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SEVENTY48 Racers are operating vessels within Navigable Waters of the United States, and as such, are subject to any and all regulations contained in COLREGS and other Federal, State, and local statutes. It is their responsibility to know and adhere to these laws.

While the organizers, SEVENTY48, maintain a basic level of watchfulness over the race course by utilizing GPS tracking devices and a small roving fleet of volunteer support vessels, these measures are meant only to increase the likelihood of good samaritan assistance on the water, and we make no guarantees of safety or the presence of rescue vessels in case of emergency.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All times are in Pacific Standard Time and subject to change due to: weather, whimsy, bad omens.

Pre-Race		
November 16		**Application Period Opens**
March 15		**SLACKER TAX kicks in**
April 15		**Applications Close**
April 30		**Registration Deadline**
Race Week		
May 25	**6 PM**	**Skipper's Meeting (Zoom)**
May 28	**12-5 PM**	**Race Check In (Tacoma)**
May 28	**7 PM**	**Race Start**
May 30	**6 PM?**	**The Necktie Affair**
May 30	**7 PM**	**Race End**
May 30	**6:30 PM?**	**SEVENTY48 Awards**

RULES

Human powered propulsion only. Your boat can't have a motor of any kind that powers forward motion. Solar, wind, and human power may charge devices. No sailing is allowed.

Race unsupported. Any resource available to all racers is fair game, but anything you have prearranged - food drops or other resources - is out. No person not on your team may help you in any way, including giving weather information, or even by providing a *sense of safety* with a support boat.

No adding or swapping crew. Your team has been vetted according to the individuals you've told us will be on your boat, and that's who we expect you to race with. If, during the race, you need to leave a team member somewhere along the way for any reason, call the Race Boss. A decision will be made if your team still qualifies at that point.

Pass both waypoints. At Owen Beach, pass between the mark boat and the beach. And transit through the Port Townsend Ship Canal. And watch for falling donuts.

Keep out of the Vessel Traffic Lanes. Entering the lanes means automatic disqualification. Not knowing you were in them isn't a good excuse.

Finish all 70 miles within 48 hours. It's right there in the name.

Portage wisely. Yes, portaging is allowed - but no other vehicle may be involved in the effort, including bicycles.

Keep your tracker on. Follow the tracker instructions, and keep the device on for the entire race.

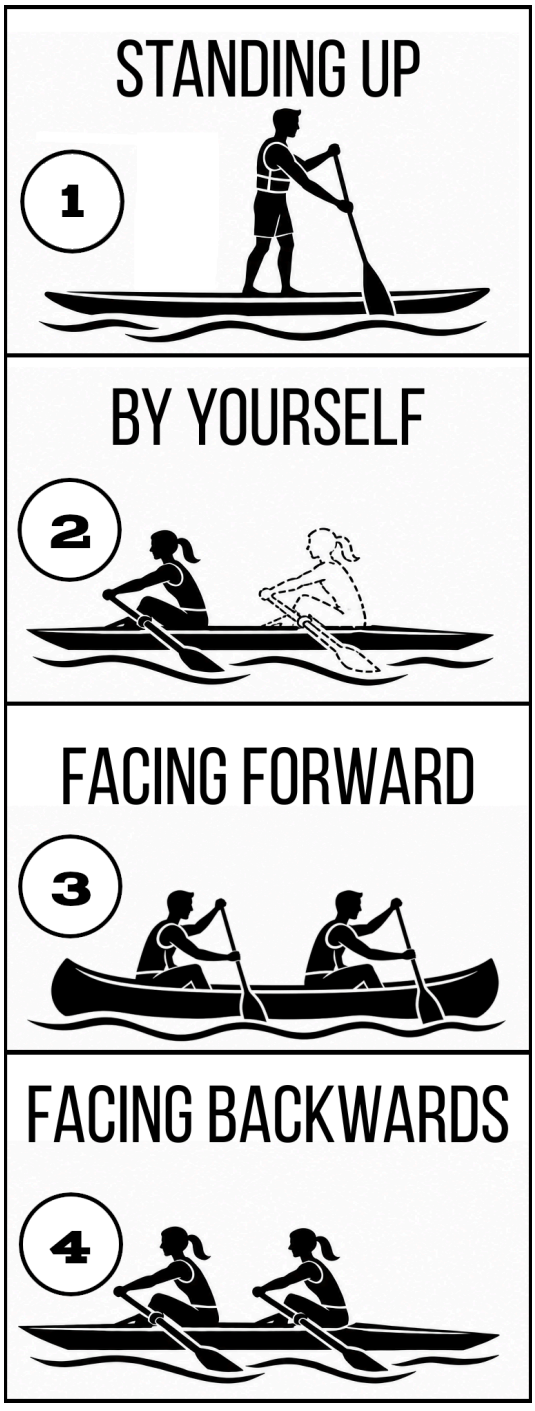
Rule 8. If we need to call a lawyer to determine whether you are disqualified, you are disqualified.

GRIEVANCES and PROTESTING

Grievances for perceived race infractions can be made directly to the Race Boss. Any decision made by the Race Boss is final. If you complain that you shouldn't have been disqualified because you *didn't know you entered the Traffic Lanes*…. That's not on us.

(Yes, this has happened.)

RACE CLASSES



A team belongs to the first class that applies to them in the ordered list.

For example, a Stand Up Paddleboarder is in the “STANDING UP” class, not “BY YOURSELF, or FACING FORWARD”, while a solo rower is in “BY YOURSELF” rather than “FACING BACKWARDS”.

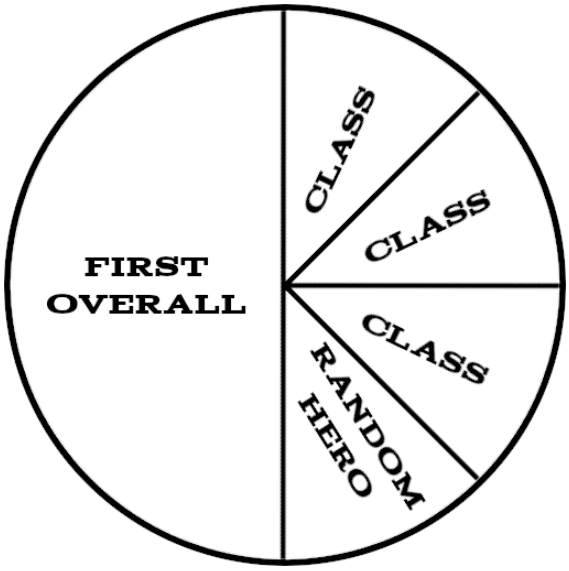
Easy.

If your boat combines forward-facing paddlers/pedalers and backward-facing rowers, **FACING FORWARD** comes before **FACING BACKWARDS** on the list, so you are in **FACING FORWARD**. Simple.

CLASS WINNERS AND WHO GETS THE CASH

Each team kicks in 100 bucks to the prize pot when they register, and that gets split into 5 prizes:

The team that wins FIRST OVERALL wins half the prize pot, but the class they belong to doesn't get a prize, therefore only three class prizes exist.



First Place Overall - 1/2 of the pot

Three Class Prizes - 1/8 of the pot each.

The Random Hero Award - 1/8 of the pot PLUS a special treat from a sponsor. This winner is chosen by our patented "name from a hat" method, drawn from teams that made the finish line. Must be present at The Necktie Affair to win.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

The only race results that are official are the ones posted at SEVENTY48.com. Neither the race finish paper record nor the Yellow Brick Tracking leaderboard should be considered official.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

SEVENTY48 takes place upon the Navigable Waters of the United States, and as such, race vessels are required to follow COLREGs, as well as local regulations.

This means that there are specific pieces of safety equipment that you **must** have on board. And we at Northwest Maritime think that being safe on the water is just as important as having a good time. It is your responsibility to research and understand the requirements for your specific vessel.

You will be required to undergo a safety equipment inspection, and will be contacted by an inspector to schedule this.

In addition to legally required gear, SEVENTY48 also requires you to carry:

VHF Radio

And we expect that you know how to operate it with proper maritime radio etiquette, and on the correct channels.

GPS Tracker

SEVENTY48 provides a GPS tracking device to each team. *This tracker is for entertainment purposes, and we recommend that racers not rely on it for decision making nor as part of their safety system*. It can be inaccurate, it can fail, and we make no guarantees of its accuracy. The online tracker leaderboard is provisional and is not the official race results. The only official race results can be found on the SEVENTY48 website.

SEVENTY48 **does not** collect a refundable tracker deposit from teams. Instead, we let the threat of a solid financial hit do the work of motivating you to get them back to us. Failure to return your tracker to us by June 5 will result in your being charged the **full cost of the device**, which is a bit over $400. This includes if you accidentally sank it in a capsize. So be careful with it!

The tracker return process will be described at the Skipper's Meeting.

SPECIAL NOTE ON PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Updated for 2027

SEVENTY48 requires teams to carry one Coast Guard-approved wearable PFD for every person aboard. This is a race requirement, including for vessels that may qualify for a federal racing exemption.

Older Coast Guard-approved PFDs remain acceptable if they are in good, serviceable condition and used according to their approval label and owner's manual. Some special-use PFDs have conditions on their labels; check that your device qualifies for your use.

Newer Level 50 and Level 70 PFDs may also qualify if they carry Coast Guard approval under the applicable ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-5 standard. An ISO Level 50 or Level 70 rating by itself does not establish Coast Guard approval. Read this if you want to learn more.

A Coast Guard-approved Level 50 PFD **must be worn at all times when underway** to count as required equipment. A Coast Guard-approved Level 70 PFD may count while stowed, unless its label says otherwise. If you choose to wear a PFD that does not have Coast Guard approval, you must still carry a qualifying Coast Guard-approved PFD for each person aboard.

Federal regulations exempt certain racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes, and racing kayaks from federal PFD carriage requirements. SEVENTY48's requirement applies to all race teams as a condition of participating; it does not change those federal exemptions.

We strongly recommend wearing a qualifying PFD at all times while underway.

Teams not adhering to these laws may be disqualified.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

Much of what you **should carry** is not *required* by SEVENTY48, since it is not required by law. But it's the sort of equipment smart racers will carry anyway.

You are responsible for your own safety. The required gear is the minimum, not a complete safety plan. Think about your vessel, your crew, your experience, and the conditions you may face. Decide what else you need, bring it, and know how to use it.

Prudent racers will consider carrying:

- A **PLB** (personal locator beacon) or other independent way to call for help
- Emergency smoke signals and dye markers
- Emergency shelter
- Enough food and water for delays or an unplanned stop
- A camp stove, or another way to make hot food and drinks; fuel stoves are allowed
- Clothing and shelter that will keep you warm when wet
- Adequate first-aid supplies
- Charts and navigation tools, including a compass
- An anchor and line
- Backup systems for navigation and emergencies
- Hypothermia recovery gear
- Navigation lights that make your vessel conspicuous to commercial traffic, not just lights that meet the legal minimum

No piece of equipment replaces good judgment. A PLB won't keep you warm; a chart won't help if you can't use it; and the race tracker is not a rescue device.

Think through what could go wrong for your team, and make sure you're prepared to handle it.

FINE PRINT, REGISTRATION, OTHER THINGS

Application and Vetting

Each team must apply to race and be accepted by our Vetting Team. The Vetting Team's job is to only accept race teams with the vessel, experience, and decision-making prowess necessary to compete in SEVENTY48 in a way that operates within an acceptable safety tolerance and demonstrates a clear awareness of the race's inherent hazards.

The vetting team can take up to two weeks to make a decision. Applications close April 15.

Registration

Once accepted to race, the designated Team Captain will receive an email link to register.

You must register with the crew and vessel that you were vetted with. We understand that life happens and things change, but any changes to your team must be approved.

Registration must be complete by May 1. Once submitted:

Safety Equipment Inspections

You will be contacted by a volunteer race inspector sometime in the 6 weeks prior to the race. They will contact you at the email address or phone number you provide during registration. They will work with you to set up a time where you can connect virtually and perform a safety equipment inspection. Some teams having completed a previous SEVENTY48 inspection may be exempt, this determination is the choice of SEVENTY48.

Skipper's Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 6 PM

This will be about an hour-long Zoom meeting. Race Command will do their best to be entertaining, but will do even better to outline the really critical things to know. Yes, it's called a skipper's meeting, but the entire team should come.

The Zoom link will be emailed to Team Captains sometime before the meeting. If you didn't get it, check that spam box.

Tacoma Check-in: Friday, May 28, 12 PM-5 PM

Race-day registration will take place at Foss Waterway Seaport. We will have big flags and all sorts of joyful noise to welcome you. Upon arrival, you'll check in, get your official racer shirts, any final information or changes, and given your GPS tracker.

Getting Your Boat In the Water

Kayaks, SUPS, and really any boat that can be walked down an average marina ramp can be launched directly at the Foss Waterway Seaport (this ramp measures 46" wide by 90" high). Larger vessels requiring a trailer launch can splash at the Point Defiance Boat Ramp. (This is about 7 miles north of the start, and makes a great warm up.) Hand launching can also take place at the Tacoma Waterway Park.

Race Start

Race start is off the Foss Waterway Seaport in Tacoma. There will be a starting sequence. Want to know what that will look like? Attend the Skipper's Meeting!

Race Finish

A team's finish is declared when they touch the beach between the Northwest Maritime Center Dock and the Pope Marine Park.

There will be some folks there to help drag your cramped and jelly-like body out of your boat. A shower is available to racers at NWM—but we aren't providing towels! So come prepared!



SEVENTY48 Necktie Affair and Awards Ceremony: May 30, 6ish PM

The Necktie Affair is the shindig celebrating the winners, the not-so-winners, and the spirit of SEVENTY48. All 2027 racers who show up to celebrate the race will receive their very own brand-new (actually old and from a thrift store) necktie, and they will only be allowed to keep the portion of its total length that corresponds to the percentage of the race course they completed. Don't worry, we have experts to help with this.

The celebration takes place on the Northwest Maritime campus, upstairs in the yellow building. Some food and drinks will be provided!

Notice that the starting time is **before** the official finish of the race. We understand that you need to get back to your lives, and Port Townsend is pretty far to the side of the map.

Depending on whether all teams have finished early, *this party might start even earlier - we will do our best to announce this change via mass texting to racers and word of mouth at the finish line.*

Awards presented when the room is full!

Friends, family, fans—you're all invited!



RETURNING TO YOUR SENSES (Quitting Mid-race)

This can happen. Sometimes this happens for the majority of teams. In fact, it's a more honorable option than pushing yourself into harm's way and burdening your family, the race, and lifesaving forces by taking things too far. If you get tired of this crazy self-persecution of sleep deprivation, blisters, hypothermia, fatigue and pain, you can quit at any time. It might also be that you realize you'd rather spend the next two days dinking around one inlet or another rather than completing the race. No judgment from us for why you are doing it, but we ask one thing if you do self-select out during the race:

Notify us as soon as possible by calling the Race Phone. You'll get the number at the Skipper's Meeting. You will be walked through how to deactivate your tracker and congratulated!

Once you have left the race, you will no longer be part of our race management safety systems, nor will you be tracked on GPS.

Your Loved Ones Are Powerless. Talk to them.

You signed up for this adventure, and (hopefully) you understand the risks. Your family and loved ones, on the other hand, do not.

While you are out there, they are powerless to mitigate the hazards that you are willfully paddling into, and are more than likely glued to the tracker - each lag in position updates creating a storm of possible harrowing scenarios in their minds.

They often do not understand that the tracker is not meant as an infallible indicator of your safety, nor that we make zero guarantees that the thing will work. They may not understand that SEVENTY48 does not maintain constant contact with you, or that we have no means to check in on you that they themselves don't have access to.

We ask you to speak to those of your loved ones for whom SEVENTY48 will be an emotional challenge. If they need assurances, maybe think about a backup tracking system, or even a phone check-in schedule.

EMERGENCIES AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you find yourself in need of assistance during the race, use the appropriate channels. Things like swamping, capsizing, hull delamination, medical issues, or running aground could all be considered emergencies, or not. You know best what you, your team, and your vessel are capable of handling. This race is about being bold, not foolhardy. For true emergencies, this is by making a distress call on VHF Channel 16 and/or calling 911. Calling Race High Command is secondary to making a direct appeal to emergency services, however, if possible we ask that you contact us directly at the Race Phone if you are able to do so safely.

You **may** restart the race without disqualification, even after receiving emergency assistance, providing that you begin again at the same point that you received that assistance.

You're in an unsupported race, but you're not alone, don't forget. Running out of food or water is not an emergency; it's poor planning. Get to town before that happens. (We know, it's a fine line.)

VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES

Vessel Traffic Services (VTS or, "Seattle Traffic") monitor and manage all commercial traffic along the race route - think of them as air traffic control for the sea. You can monitor their radio channels for information on approaching ships, tugs, and other commercial traffic. And they know this race is going on and will have your information.

VHF RADIOS

We expect all racers to know and have practiced the appropriate use of a maritime VHF radio. We remind you that VHF radios do not work if they are off, stowed out of reach in a hatch, or have run out of batteries.

CHANNELS TO MONITOR

VHF 16	DISTRESS and HAILING
VHF 13	Bridge to Bridge, Contacting Ferries
VHF 14	VTS South of Port Townsend Ship Canal
VHF 05A	VTS North of Port Townsend Ship Canal

YOUR PHONE WORKS GOOD HERE

Carry your cell phone around your neck in a waterproof bag. This small detail has been a key factor in at least one successful rescue during SEVENTY48.

911	**EMERGENCY DISPATCH**. *It's easy to remember, and they're good buddies with the Coast Guard, and anyone else you might need in case of a problem*
1-206-217-6002	**COAST GUARD COMMAND CENTER**. *When you hail USCG on VHF, they most often ask you to call this number, since communication is better here.*

IN CLOSING

We think you're pretty cool, and that by competing in SEVENTY48 you're doing a pretty awesome/ridiculous/difficult/maybe kinda dumb/impressive thing. We congratulate you for even considering it.

See you on race day.

Change Log
