

Circle one: Team member or Team captain

Canoe # \_\_\_\_\_

# United States Canoe Association

Competition ★ Cruising ★ Conservation ★ Camping ★ Camaraderie ★

AMATEUR ATHLETIC WAIVER AND

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

\*\*\*\*READ BEFORE SIGNING\*\*\*\*

Name of Event: The Texas Water Safari Date(s) of Event: June 8-12, 2019

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the UNITED STATES CANOE ASSOCIATION athletic sports program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death; and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,

*I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releases or others and assume full responsibility for my participation; and*

I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such hazard to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,

I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the UNITED STATES CANOE ASSOCIATION and

The Texas Water Safari Corporation

(name of club, affiliate or sponsor), their officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

*I acknowledge that I am aware of the safety rules and regulations applicable to this event including the use of life jackets and lightning safety, and that I have read the USCA sanctioning guidelines and will attend the pre-event/pre-race meeting.*

I also acknowledge that photographs and video may be taken of me in my participation in and attendance at this event, and hereby freely agree to allow without restriction all uses of such photos and videos in the reporting of this race, and/or in the promotion of this event, its location, other sporting events, sport in general, and/or related purposes.

*I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.*

**(All participants are to sign and completely fill in the information numbered 1-7 including emergency contact.)**

**(Please print legibly)**

X \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Participant's Signature)

2. City: \_\_\_\_\_

3. State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please PRINT the participant's full name)

6. Emergency Contact Person for this participant: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Emergency contact Phone Number: Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_



**EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON CANNOT BE A PARTICIPANT IN THE RACE OR EVENT.**

**Fill in form above for participants under age 18. Parent/Guardian is to sign and complete the form below.**

**FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)** This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above, of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I further agree to the photographic and video release set forth above.

X \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date signed by parent/guardian)

**TEXAS WATER SAFARI FULL RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXTREME RISK**

The Texas Water Safari Corporation is a Texas non-profit corporation that sponsors the Texas Water Safari. Read this document very carefully before signing. Each racer and each Team Captain must review and sign in order to participate in the Texas Water Safari.

The Texas Water Safari is a long, grueling race that is extremely demanding, both physically and mentally. Entrants are encouraged to consult a physician to ensure that they are in good health and can withstand the rigors that participation entails. The physical demands of the race, combined with sleep deprivation, heat, dehydration and exhaustion, often cause participants to become disoriented. Amnesia, hallucinations and other debilitating conditions are not uncommon. Such effect can impair judgment, a condition especially dangerous for a solo paddler.

Coast Guard approved life jackets are required for all participants. In addition to having these devices in the boat, participants are strongly urged to wear them. A life jacket should be worn in white water (or other hazardous river conditions), at night, in open water and whenever a paddler is incapacitated, disoriented or in danger of becoming incapacitated or disoriented. Life jackets must be worn and inflated while crossing the bay. Participants should consider carrying a knife, safely mounted in a sheath, attached to clothing or life jacket, to free clothing caught in trot lines, other cordage, or in obstructions.

Moving water, even under normal conditions, involves certain inherent dangers. A person in a boat may be struck by overhead branches or man-made objects. A boat may strike a stationary object causing injury. A person in the water may be pulled under, especially if not wearing a Coast Guard approved life jacket. He/she might be pinned against tree limbs or trunks or rocks, possibly between his/her canoe and such obstructions. Boats and swimmers can be swept over dams and into recirculating currents. Even slow moving water has tremendous force. All participants are strongly urged to be familiar with the sport of canoeing and with their craft and equipment. Participants should use only those craft which they can safely control. By race time, you should be familiar with your craft, the racecourse, and know the locations of all rapids, dams and obstructions. You fail to do so at your own risk. The fact that the Texas Water Safari has a novice division should not be interpreted to mean that this is a race for people who are not well prepared for this race.

Most participants travel at night. You should be aware that night travel on moving water adds to the potential hazards. Lights should be in good working condition and of sufficient power to light the river in front of you. Proceed at night only if you are confident you can handle what is ahead.



The effects of heat can be extremely debilitating, resulting in temporary disorientation and discomfort or even in death. Take heat exhaustion and heat stroke seriously. Become familiar with the causes and effects and learn to recognize them. Dress in light-colored clothing that dissipates heat and “breathes”. Use water or ice to cool the body and, most importantly, the head. If you feel heat exhaustion or stroke coming on, stop and take care of the problem. Drink plenty of liquids and avoid becoming dehydrated. Drink on schedule and before you feel thirsty. Eat regularly, as failure to eat can enhance exhaustion and disorientation.

Animal hazards can be a factor. So far, there has been no documented attack by alligator or sharks in the 50+ year history of the race, but that does not mean it cannot happen. There are alligators and some are quite large. There are also sharks in the bay. There have been cases of racers stepping on stingrays in the bay and there have been snake bites. Participants should be especially careful during portages and when passing beneath overhanging vegetation. Snakes are especially active at night. A snake bite kit is mandatory equipment. Because there is controversy, even among medical experts, the type is left up to the participants. Various methods are discussed at the seminar, but if in doubt, consult a physician. Wasp, bee, spider and fire ant bites are quite common; people subject to allergic reaction to these insects should take the necessary precautions.

The majority of the race course will take you through areas that are isolated and in some cases extremely isolated. This means that you become stranded and/or injured it may be many hours before assistance can reach you. Do not think or expect that if you or your team is in trouble that help will be there quickly, as it will likely not be. Depending on your location and your accessibility, it could take several or even many hours for help to locate you and arrive at your position, depending on your particular circumstances. If this is a risk you are unwilling to accept, then this race is not for you. You are responsible for any medication and medical equipment you believe you and your team may need.

Team Captains should also be aware of all the possibilities described in this narrative and in other Texas Water Safari publications. Driving times should be planned to allow as much sleep as possible, and Team Captains or their companions should not drive while exhausted, ill, disoriented, or under the effects of any alcohol or mood-altering substance not approved by a physician. Snakes, moving water, heat and other hazards don't distinguish between racers and Team Captains. River access can be difficult in places and poses risks to Team Captains and their vehicles. River banks may be slippery, rocky, muddy, or most likely all of the above.

In some years, heavy rains add an additional element of risk to the already lengthy list of risks for this race – particularly high, swift water. As you should know, and as is linked on the Texas Water Safari Website, there are a number of gauges on the racecourse that give river height and flow in cubic feet per

second. Some of these gauges, which are not maintained or operated by The Texas Water Safari Corporation, list categories of flood or "action" stages. You and your team are responsible for the decision to begin this race and whether or not to keep going throughout this race. This means that if you or your team is unwilling to race based upon the current or predicted level or flow of the river at any place along the course, this decision is up to you and your team.

There is a fine line between "gutting it out" and pushing on in the face of pain on the one hand, and failing to recognize the danger signs on the other. This race is not for everyone, the best you can do (what we have all done in the past) is talk to other racers, enter races of shorter duration and gain experience. Race officials, Team Captains and partners notwithstanding, you are in the best position to recognize where the fine line is. There is no disgrace in pulling over to rest for a while. Some of the top finishers have done so and some of the best racers in Safari history have been forced to drop out. But, when you finish, you will find, as former recorder-holder John Bugge has repeatedly said, that you are a different person...for life.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read this document carefully and understand and agree that it is impossible to enumerate the many hazards and risks that the racers and Team Captains face, and the foregoing list is not in any way a comprehensive list of hazards and risks. By your signature below, you acknowledge that you have read and will abide by the Race Rules. By your signature below, you hereby fully and finally release, discharge, hold harmless and acquit The Texas Water Safari Corporation, its officers, board members, agents, sponsors, and TWS race volunteers from any and all causes of action, demands, damages of any type (including loss of income, medical, mental anguish, punitive or exemplary), costs, repairs, attorneys' fees and any cause or causes of action that you may have or ever have arising directly or indirectly from participation in the Texas Water Safari. **YOU ARE FULLY, FINALLY, AND FOREVER RELEASING AND HOLDING HARMLESS THE TEXAS WATER SAFARI CORPORATION, ITS OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AGENTS, SPONSORS, AND TWS RACE VOLUNTEERS FROM THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE, ERROR AND/OR OMISSION OF ANY TYPE.** By signing below, you acknowledge that the Texas Water Safari is an extremely dangerous activity that you willingly undertake and that you accept the risk of injury of all types and severity up to and including death. This release includes damage to personal property.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Number \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member: Y or N (Circle one) Team Captain: Y or N (Circle one)