

New Paddleboard Race Committee announces new date and rules for year-end event

A committee formed to plan, promote and organize the Club's annual Paddleboard Race has announced a new date of December 30 for the '78 event, together with rule changes governing size and style of boards, length of the course and classes of boards.

The governing committee for this year's event is composed of Fred Hemmings, Jr. - former World Surfing Champion; Cline Mann, patron of aquatic sports; Joe Quigg, internationally-known designer of surf boards and boats; John Beaumont, Club Captain; Ron Sorrell, former Diamond Head Paddle Board Race record holder and member of the Board of Directors of the Outrigger Canoe Club; and Dale Hope, paddle board racing competitor.

The most important change in rules, in the opinion of committee members, is the elimination of the open, or unlimited and the paddleboard, or stockboard classes of boards available to participants. Effective with the 1978 race, there will be only one board class with just two specifications: overall length, 12 feet; and **no rudder**. Otherwise, there are no restrictions governing width or thickness of boards; weight; shape, or material used in their construction. The 12-foot length was selected because 12 feet is the length of the readily available standard foam surfboard blank, so may influence some competitors to make their own boards. Also, because of transportation and storage considerations. It is hoped that establishment of standards for the size and general design of boards and distance to be paddled may lead to international competition in the sport and establishment of an annual Paddleboard Race which might even be included in the Olympic Games.