

RAID FINLAND RULES

2007-05-19

Introduction

Raid Finland is a discovery of the delights of the Finnish archipelago, its scenic beauty and culture, through the medium of long distance coastal and inland waterway navigation in small craft that are light, easy to handle and maintain, and which may be easily sailed or rowed. The Organizers do not wish to impose on the participants any constraints concerning measurement rules or construction specifications, excepting those concerning safety. The Organizers wish is to always encourage entries that reflect the personality of their designers, builders, owners and sailors.

Description of the event

The Raid is a weeklong sailing through a coastal area of Finland of approximately 100 NM from the starting harbour to the finishing harbour. It is in the form of a morning and afternoon leg each day from one place to another along the route. Each leg is a separate race. Points for placings in each race are accumulated to determine the winners of the overall event. At least one leg is replaced by an afternoon free to explore an island or town. Meals are included, and provided by local caterers. They are of high quality and are samples of the local cuisine. Participants may choose to stay in local accommodation or use their own tents. The cost is adjusted accordingly. Choice of accommodation is made at the time of registration. It may be changed on request at the discretion of the organizers.

Organisation

Raid Finland is the name of the annually organised event. The Sail and Oar Association initiates each Raid Finland and appoints a Project Leader to manage it. The Project Leader is supported by a Race Committee during the event. The Sail and Oar Association is the legal representative for the event, dealing with authorities and involved parties; e.g. insurance for the project is handled and paid for by the Association. Officers (Secretary, Treasurer) hold honorary positions and are reimbursed for their expenses incurred in the organization of the event.

Raid Finland is by invitation to persons who, after applying for entry, have been selected to participate by the organizers. The organization does not have to justify its decision to either accept or refuse a candidate for any reason. All participants automatically become members of the Sail and Oar Association.

The entry fees for each boat and participant are determined each year.

The crews

Each person wishing to take part in Raid Finland must apply individually. Applicants are invited to participate in Raid Finland on the basis of their stated sailing experience and ability, under their own sole responsibility. Boat owners/renters must submit details of their boat on the supplied application form, and pay a fee for the boat, in addition to their personal participation.

One member of the crew will be designated as skipper of the boat, and will be considered as the person responsible for the boat, its crew and its safety. Each crewmember must apply separately, to ensure that his/her accommodation requirements and payments are taken care of correctly. The current forms can be downloaded from the Raid Finland website or will be mailed on request.

The number of the crew shall be determined at the beginning of each race (leg), by the Race Committee, which will consider the boat, the conditions for the race and the experience of the persons.

The skipper of each boat must be at least 18 years old. The skipper will have to present a parental authorization for each member under the age of 18. Children (at least 5 years old) may participate only with and under the sole responsibility of a parent.

The boats

The boats may be old or traditional boats, or newly constructed modern or traditional craft, as one of the aims of the Raid is to foster the progress and development of both traditional boats and modern light displacement craft suitable for coastal passages. There are no class rules, but a handicap based on a formula modified during the years of the event is used.

General Requirements

Approximate length is between 4.5m and 8.0m. As length alone is not an absolute determinant of suitability, these dimensions are a guide only, but boats must be of light draft, capable of being beached. Boats with fixed keels will be accepted as long as the draft does not exceed 80cm.

Boats must contain sufficient flotation to support all crewmembers in the event of a capsize.

The boats must be handled by sails and/or oars alone, sailing being feasible under all reasonable wind conditions. Sail area and rig must be sufficient to allow control and windward sailing under normal (not storm) conditions.

The boats must be easily transportable on a trailer or car, complying with usually applied European road rules, and be capable of self-launching and recovery.

Each boat should be able to transport all the necessary personal belongings and equipment of the crew for and during the whole event if necessary.

Rental Boats

Usually a number of boats are available for rent. Their equipment will be arranged by discussion with the renter.

Divisions

The sailing event can have one or more divisions (classes) for different boat types. The default setting is one class for all participating boats. The Organizers may create additional classes such as "sailing only" if the number of boats is sufficient to make it worthwhile, and the participants agree before the event has started.

Safety

The Race Committee will attempt to make every effort to ensure a safe course for all competitors through strict safety rules, and the enforcement of such. It is, however, the sole responsibility of all competitors and teams to decide to enter the race and abide by the rules set out herein. It shall be the sole responsibility of all boat crews to decide whether or not to enter, to start or to continue a race at any time.

Any crew that is not prepared to abide by the safety parameters, or causes any other person to negligently risk life or limb, will be disqualified from the event.

Decisions contrary to or in variance with any of these rules may be made at any time by the Organisers to ensure a safe course for the participants. Crews will be notified of any such decisions as they occur.

Local customs

As the participants are guests of the people in the archipelago, it is expected that they will respect persons and property during Raid Finland. Any failure to may lead to a penalty or immediate exclusion of concerned participants and their boat from the event.

Common Sence and the Right of Public Access

Finland's legal concept of everyone's right gives everyone the chance to enjoy outdoor pursuits, and the freedom of the country's vast forests and fells, and many lakes and rivers, with few restrictions. It applies to foreigners as well as Finns.

Public access to private land is much wider in Finland, and the other Nordic countries, than in most of other countries. You may walk on private property, such as forests and fields, but through crops or gardens. You may pick mushrooms and berries for your own use. You may anchor anywhere outside harbours.

Nature is often fragile, however, and especially here in the North can be slow to recover from damage. With the freedom to enjoy the countryside comes the obligation to leave the environment undisturbed and preserve Finland's rich natural heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Overnight camping and open fires can be done only with the property owner's permission. So please make sure you put up your tent only where the Raid organisers tell you is allowed. Never make a fire on large rocks, because they can crack and become disfigured.

Fishing requires a fishing card, which can be bought.

Insurance

A document as evidence that the boat is insured is required at time of technical inspection.

Charts

The Raid Finland organization will provide one set of needed sea charts for each boat.

Insignia

Each boat should fly its national (size around 60 x 40 cm), **and** a Finnish courtesy ensign if not of Finnish registry. These ensigns will be hoisted at the appropriate places.

Other than formally approved sponsored entries, Limited Named Sponsorship of boats and crews will be accepted but is strictly limited to:

- One (1) flag or decal, maximum size 60 cm x 45 cm.

The name of the boat's sponsor must be submitted to the organizers with the application. A decision on acceptance will be made in writing at the time of acceptance.

Raid Finland will provide stickers with boat numbers according to skippers' country of origin or country of registration (example FIN-3 or NED-1). The stickers are to be placed in the front of the boat hull, visible from the outside.

Equipment

All the participating boats must carry navigation and safety equipment. The organizers will perform a technical inspection by checking the items, and will sign the technical inspection form only when each item has been checked and approved. The form used for technical inspection can be found on the last page of this document.

Boats and skippers are required to arrive at the starting port well in time before the start, to allow inspection. If the skipper/owner has any questions about the suitability of the boat, the Project Leader should be contacted to discuss them.

Authorization to Start

To be authorized to take part in Raid Finland, crews and boats will have to comply with the following conditions:

1. Paid the full entry fee for boat and crew and refundable security equipment deposit as applicable, by the date required.
2. Read and understood the intent of all the articles listed herein.
3. Passed the technical inspection before the event has begun. The checklist presented in this document must be signed by a person representing the organizers.
4. Signed the **starting declaration**. (A copy of this shall be sent with the application form or included as part of it).
5. Skipper and Navigator from each boat attend a meeting before the start of the event about Traffic Rules and Navigating in Finnish waters.

The Races

A Race Committee, consisting of the Project Manager and two designated persons, will run the races.

Races will be held on selected legs, each morning and afternoon. A Racing Leg will have a Start and a Finish with no arranged stops in between. The participants will be informed before each start about the starting procedures for that race. The finishing time of each boat will be registered. The overall positions for the entire Raid will be calculated. The winners and placings for the event will be of two kinds: uncorrected overall time for the event, and positions after a handicap is applied.

The Race Committee chooses the Handicap method.

Information on the required course and special rules for the legs of each day will be announced by the Race Committee at the Skippers Meeting held before starting of the first leg. The route will be discussed and questions answered. The start, finish, and route may be changed from that announced or stated in the information for the year, according to current weather conditions, in consideration of safety and scheduled travel arrangements to accommodations, etc.

Any leg may be shortened or abandoned in the interests of safety.

Safety Boats

Safety boats will accompany the fleet. Each will be equipped with radios, megaphone, horn, first aid kit, etc. A safety boat may be signalled with the provided service flag, or by mobile phone. The phone numbers of each safety boat will be provided, and each safety boat will carry the mobile phone numbers of each participating boat.

Towing

At any time the Race Committee may decide in the interest of safety to commence towing the whole fleet or any of the participants. The participants will have to follow strictly the instructions given.

Boats should be able to be giving a towing rope to the towing vessel immediately upon request. The towing rope must be of the size and length stipulated, and should therefore be left permanently connected to a secure cleat or an equivalent fastening at the bow or stem-post.

It should be understood that all boats must be able to pass a line to the boat ahead, and the boat ahead must in turn be able to securely fasten the line to its stern by a secure cleat or an equivalent fastening.

Technical inspection form

CHECK	DESCRIPTION
	Certificate of Insurance for the vessel and "Third Party" risks.
	1 waterproof torch and spare batteries.
	1 lifejacket/approved buoyancy aid for each crewmember.
	1 mobile phone in a waterproof container, attached to the boat. The phone numbers of the safety boats are to be entered into the mobile phone's directory. The numbers of the phone of each boat will be recorded and carried on the safety boats.
	Protective foul weather suit for each crewmember.
	1 horn/ sound signal device.
	2 litres of water per crewmember must be carried aboard every day. Drinking water will be supplied by Raid Finland en route.
	1 first aid kit.
	Minimum 2 oars or paddles sufficient to propel the boat according to class entry.
	1 towing line 12 meters, of at least 10mm diameter, plus one mooring line, 8 meters by 8mm diameter.
	1 anchor with line attached.
	Means of fastening anchor, mooring, and towing lines at bow and stern.
	Means of emptying the boat of water in the event of capsize: bucket and/or pump.
	2 fenders.
	1 watch.
	1 compass.
	Tools including: 1 good knife, pliers, screwdriver, and adjustable wrench.
	Boats with motor: 1 Dry Powder Fire extinguisher.

Technical Inspection Completed

Name of boat:	Sign here:
---------------	------------