

1. Overview – “Just what is a Raingutter Regatta?”

The Raingutter Regatta is a boat race that is designed to be a parent-son project. Please feel free to give guidance and minimal assistance to your Scout as he builds his Raingutter Regatta boat, appropriate to his age. This is a chance for your son to be part of a team (he and you), and to enjoy the spirit of friendly competition with his peers. These “Official Raingutter Regatta Rules” are written to help you keep it simple and fun for your child, and to know what to expect when it comes time to race your boat.

2. Ground Rules for Participation – “Who can race?”

Pack 83 always tries to keep our activities family oriented, so not only can the scouts have fun, but their brothers and sisters can too. Here are our participation guidelines:

- a. The race is open to all scouts registered to Pack 83, as well as to their siblings.
- b. Each scout or sibling may enter only one boat in the competition. They should have a significant level of participation in building their boat (designing, sanding, gluing, painting, decorating, etc.).
- c. The boat must have been built during the current program year (the school year in which the Regatta is held). Boats that have competed in a previous regatta are not permitted.

3. Boat Specifications – “Are there boat building rules?”

All boats must be made from the BSA Raingutter Regatta kits. However, the materials supplied in the kit can be modified or added to somewhat. On every boat, the hull, mast, keel, rudder and sail provided in the kit must be used in the boat construction. Also, no other form of propulsion besides the sail is allowed. Here are some additional boat construction details to be aware of:

- a. Hull: Length between 6-1/2" and 7" (maximum). The boat body CANNOT be wider than 2-1/2". The boat must remain a single hull boat using the supplied hull wood. Multi-hull catamarans and boats with stabilizing out-riggers are not allowed. Hull should be painted, stained, or otherwise finished to minimize water-logging during the race.
- b. Mast: Height limit is 6" to 7" (maximum) from deck to top. Masts may not be extended, but may be decorated.
- c. Sail: Supplied in kit, may be trimmed but not enlarged or added to (except for decorations).
- d. Rudder and Keel: The provided keel and rudder must be securely attached to the bottom of the boat. The rudder may extend beyond the stern (rear) of the hull (but the boat must remain no longer than 7" inclusive of the rudder). The mast hole, keel and rudder layout specifications given in the BSA kit are for informational purposes only and alternative placements are allowed. For maximum stability, it is highly recommended that the guidance be followed, especially regarding centerline placement of all three components.
- e. Decorations/Additions: Objects such as sailors, cannons, etc. may be added. All such decorations must be firmly fastened to the boat, and may not be placed in such a manner as to exceed the boat dimensions as listed above. Bowsprits (large spars projecting forward from the stem) are discouraged, as they extend the overall length of the boat, and the boat may not exceed 7 inches. Numbering is not required.

4. Boat Assembly Tips – “How can I build a ‘winning’ boat?”

The following assembly guidelines (tips) are provided to help you get the best performance from your boat. They are not meant to be restrictive. (See 3. Boat Specifications above for requirements.)

- a. Shaping the boat: Do not round the sides of the hull. (A less rounded hull is more stable than a more rounded hull.) Any gouges can be repaired with spackle or latex caulk (sandable).
- b. Keel & Rudder: Sand the bottom front corner of these with sandpaper. Use epoxy or hot glue to install the rudder into the slot at the back of the boat body. Likewise, install the keel centerline on the hull bottom behind the mast position, with the shortest flat side down (not with a point down).
- c. Mast: Point one end of mast using sand paper. Install the mast by twisting the point into the boat body approximately 2 to 2-1/2" from bow (front of boat) in the center side to side. Remove and then glue back into place. Be sure to check mast height (see section 3. above).
- d. Sail: Position the sail on the mast. About 3/4" from the top of the mast, either glue the sail to it, or attach securely with tape. Attach bottom of sail in a similar manner. The bottom edge of the sail needs to be about 1/2 inch above the deck of the boat. If the sail is too low, the corners rub against the gutter or dip in the water. If the sail is too high, the boat is top heavy and tends to tip over. A well secured sail makes the boat easier to handle in the water.
- e. Painting/Decorations: Sailboat body should be painted at least 24 hours before racing to allow sufficient time to dry. You may want to use Krylon spray paint -- it dries to a sandable finish in about one minute on the balsa wood hulls. Try not to use water soluble paints. Stickers, decals, and other objects may also be added to customize your boat. Use your imagination!

5. Inspection and Registration – “What must I do to enter my boat?”

Before the race begins, all participants must check-in with their boats. Here are the pre-race check-in details:

- a. Before a boat may compete in the regatta, it is subject to a technical inspection, to verify that it meets the prescribed specifications (see 3. Boat Specifications above for details). If a problem is noted, the scout may be asked to correct it before the boat is registered.
- b. When the boat passes inspection, it is then registered along with the participant's name).
- c. Typically, the races will begin when all boats are checked in.

6. Competition – “How will the race be run?”

Every race has to have rules, and ours is no exception. Here's what to expect:

- a. Once all boats are registered, the competition brackets will be announced. Siblings will be paired in age appropriate races.
- b. Each race heat will involve two equal lengths of raingutter filled with water.
- c. The race heat begins once the official starter has placed the competing boats against the back wall of the gutter and commands the scouts to "GO!"
- d. On the starter's command, the scouts will use a straw to blow into the sail of their boat in order to advance them through the water. The boat can only be propelled by blowing into the sail. Once the race has started, the scout CANNOT touch his boat with his hands, not even to right a capsized boat.
- e. Pushing the boat forward by a scout's straw, face, lips, hat, nose or other body part that touches the boat is not allowed. Blatant violation of this rule will result in disqualification. Inadvertent contact will result in rerunning the race if the scout who

touched their boat wins. A second inadvertent contact will result in disqualification. The lane judge's ruling is final.

- f. The first boat to reach the finish line (the opposite end of the gutter) is the winner of that heat. The finish line official(s) will have the final and only say in determining the winner. In the unlikely event of a tie, the racers will be given a chance to catch their breath, then that heat will be rerun.
- g. If a boat is damaged during a race (boat loses its rudder, keel or mast/sail) and can be repaired in a reasonable amount of time (a few minutes), the race may be run again at the discretion of the judges.
- h. The race will be run in heats until the third, second, and first place winners are determined.

7. Rewards and Recognition – “What can I take home?”

The most important values in Raingutter Regatta competition are parent/son participation, good sportsmanship and learning how to follow rules. Recognition awards may be provided to the winners.

8. Sportsmanship – “How should I act?”

Three things the Raingutter Regatta requires each participant to learn are 1) the craft skills necessary to build a boat, 2) the rules that must be followed, and 3) have fun! Even more important, though, is how we act and behave while participating in the Raingutter Regatta or any other group activity. This is called sportsmanship.

The first thing to remember about sportsmanship is that everyone's skills are a little different. Your craft skills may be just developing, while someone else may be more experienced. Parents have different skill levels, too. Whether or not you feel that you have good boat-building or racing skills, remember, you and your friends are individuals first and racers second. This idea is often called having respect for others.

The second thing to remember is to follow the rules. Without rules, there would be no Raingutter Regatta. You will never know if you are really good at doing something unless you follow the rules. This is often called being honest.

The third thing to remember about good sportsmanship is that there are winners and losers in every competition. You accept this when you choose to compete. There may be times when you win and feel happy, and times when you lose and feel unhappy. Being a winner is easy, and losing is sometimes hard. To be a good sportsman, you must be able to say, "I did my best" and be satisfied with the results. You must also be able to appreciate and feel happy for someone else when he runs a good race or builds a neat boat.

Good Luck!