

Participation rules for the 25th Hiddenseemarathon

These rules are a translation of the German original. In case of uncertainty the German original is to be consulted.

1. Limitations on participation

A maximum of 70 boats will be admitted.

A maximum of 10 relay teams will be admitted.

Each participant has to be at least 18 years old at the date of the race.

Good health condition and sound experience in large water areas are required. Race organization reserves the right to reject registrations.

2. Sign up

From 1st January the online sign up is possible at Hiddenseemarathon.de.

Online sign up is possible until the number of participants plus a waiting list is reached or until June 7th. opened.

Registrations via other channels will only be accepted by the race management in justified exceptional cases.

After the online registration, a confirmation with the registration fee to be paid and account information will be sent to the provided email address.

The Retro Folding Kayak class receives priority registration.

Once all other classes have registered by the 55th time, applicants will be placed on the waiting list.

Folding boat registrations will receive a starting place or be placed on the waiting list before other class registrations.

On March 1st, the available starting places that could not be filled by Retro Folding Kayak registrations will be filled by those on the waiting list.

3. Registration fee

The registration fee is staggered depending on the sign up time:

until May 16th: 70 € per person,

until June 7th: 90 € per person.

For a relay team the team captain is responsible to deliver the fee for all participants.

The registration becomes effective when the entry fee is received on the account of the organizer Stralsunder Kanu Club:

Account holder: Stralsunder Kanu Club e.V.

IBAN: DE61150505000100064663

BIC: NOLADE21GRW

The registration becomes ineffective if the entry fee is not received within 4 weeks after receipt of the confirmation email, for registrations after May 31st. has not been received after June 17th.

Registration after June 7th is only possible in exceptional cases with confirmation from the race management. There is a penalty fee of 50 € per participant in addition to the entry fee.

The race organization reserves the right to refuse any registration.

In case of cancellations the full registration fee will be refunded if you cancel until 16th May. If you cancel after this date but before 7th June, you will receive a refund but a cancellation fee of 30 € will be kept. A refund is not possible, if you cancel after 7th June.

Any additional costs due to reimbursement will be charged to the participant. registrations.

4. Withdrawal from registration

Withdrawal from the registration is possible up to the day of the race.

If you cancel your registration by May 16th the entry fee will be fully refunded.

If you cancel your registration by June 7th, there is a fee of € 30.

If you withdraw after June 7th a refund is no longer possible.

Any additional costs due to reimbursement will be charged to the participant.

5. Boat classes and age groups

The race is held in the kayak classes K1, K2, K1 open, K2 open, SUP, OC1, OC2 and OC6 (each for male or female athletes and mixed teams). Every class consists of the age groups 18 to 39, 40 to 59, 60 to 79 as well as 80 and over. Additionally you may start as well as open relay team (male, female, mix).

A relay team consists of 3 athletes. Changeovers are done at the beaches of Barhöft and Schaprode. At the changeover the distress signal and the map must be handed over to the next athlete. The overland transport needs to be organised by the relay team itself. Every team has to provide a team name.

The age on the day of the race applies to the division into an age group.

Folding Boat Retro Class

The race is held in boat classes F1, F2, and F3, each in the age groups 18 to 39 years, 40 to 59 years, 60 to 79 years, and 80 years and over (male, female, and mixed categories), as well as in relays if all boats in the relay are folding boats of this classification.

Which boats are permitted?

Folding boats whose construction corresponds to that which was common in the year 2000 are permitted.

Klepper, Pouch, Feathercraft, or Triton are good examples.

Every folding boat must be made "unsinkable" - buoyancy aids are mandatory, even when using sea socks!

The folding boat must be seaworthy, not become a submarine. The spray deck/tarpaulin should be present, fitted, and closed sufficiently so that Baltic Sea waves cannot flood the boat.

Each person in the folding kayak must carry a hand bilge pump and/or a comparable solution (a sufficiently large scoop) in the boat.

6. Substitution of participants

After online registration but before local registration on the evening before the race a substitution of participants in teams of several participants is possible.

If a participant is exchanged, the receipt of the original certificate at the award ceremony cannot be guaranteed.

An exchange of participants in registered single boats is not possible - a transfer of the registration to another person is not permitted.

7. Local registration

Local registration is held between 12 PM and 7 PM the day before the race, June 26th 2026.

Local registration is mandatory for participating in the race.

During registration every attendee will receive:

- a boat number
- a map of the route
- a statement of participation to sign
- a Hiddenseemarathon base cap

Participants staying the night on the grounds of Stralsunder Kanu Club e.V. are asked to pay any incurring costs due to accommodation in full during local registration. In case of any prolonged stay the obligation of settling additional costs for accommodation falls onto the participant.

8. Mandatory briefing

At 8 PM on 26th June 2026 a mandatory briefing is held. The planned route, Local currents, possible spots to rest, areas with prohibited entry as well as security measurements are going to be explained. Any questions by the participants will be answered in this meeting.

Attendance in this briefing is required of all participants.

9. Race course

The race starts at the dock of the clubhouse in Stralsund.

Afterwards the course runs through the trench at Barhöft out to the Baltic See. Running along the western shore of Hiddensee the track turns at the northernmost point of the island, called "Toter Kerl" before going back to the clubhouse through the Bay of Stralsund.

The goal is the dock at SKC's boat house.

Every boat will receive a map on the planned route at local registration.

Depending on wind direction the route may be reversed.

Race organization reserves the right to change the course of the race according to occurring wind and weather conditions on short notice.

Paddling in or entering restricted zones (national park) is only permitted in an emergency, otherwise it will be punished with disqualification.

10. Race control

Race control is the chief operating decision maker in all aspects concerning the race, including online and local registration, the briefing, the start, the process and the award ceremony.

During the competition race control is present at the boat house as well as on the water.

Every participant is bound by orders of race control.

11. Boats and equipment

Every boat has to be unsinkable.

Due to its buoyancy, each boat must be usable as a rescue aid for the participant in an emergency and enable the participants and material to be rescued by accompanying and reporting boats. Racing, touring or down river racing boats are not permitted.

Everyone is obligated to wear a life vest! Each participant has to wear the Hiddenseemarathon base cap to be distinguishable on the water.

Athletes on surfskis as well as outriggers must wear a leash connecting them to the boat.

Every canoe must carry a distress signal and mobile phone.

Each participant is required to carry enough food and drink to endure the race.

The boat, its name and color as well as a mobile phone number need to be announced to race control at least 7 days before the race.

12. Rule violations

Rule violations and complaints shall be made known as soon as possible, but

- no later than one hour after the official end of the race (27th June 2026 – 7 PM)
- no later than one hour after the last participant reached the goal

Every decision of race control is binding. Rule violations can lead to disqualification at any time.

13. Show sportsmanship, avoid hinderance

Any deliberate hinderance to the progress of other participants, on water or on land, are met with disqualification.

Following in somebody's wake is generally allowed but only permitted when both parties agree.

During the race no additional help is allowed. Pace and feeder boats are forbidden.

Using naturally occurring waves as well as following a ship's wake is allowed.

14. Emergencies

In any emergency the guideline "Human life before material or racing results." is to be followed.

It is your duty to help other participants in any visible emergency, if you can reach them. Use your distress signal, to call attention to the emergency. Stay with the person in need until an accompanying ship has reached you.

If you are not able to reach the person in need, inform race control about the incident through your mobile phone.

Failure to render assistance in an emergency will be met with a lifelong exclusion from Hiddenseemarathon for all involved participants.

15. Accompanying ships

The organizer provides several accompanying ships along the track. These escorts usually ride along the field at a moderate velocity, observe participants, occasionally ask the participants how they are and will pass the athletes from time to time. Nevertheless it cannot be guaranteed there always will be an escort in close proximity to you. Accompanying ships are bound by navigation rules and will therefore stay in the fairway.

16. Garbage

Keep our environment clean! It is forbidden to leave any garbage on the track or at rest areas.

17. Race start

The race will start at the dock in front of SKC's boat house in the Bay of Stralsund on 27th June 2026.

The participants are divided into start groups according to the previous year's performance of the participants and the assessment of the organizer. The aim of the division into start groups is to maintain a compact field on the offshore passage and to be able to keep enough escort boats in the vicinity of the participants for any rescue operations.

All participants are required to be at the starting line on the water 10 minutes before the start of their respective start group.

Before the start, all participants will be called by name and start number in order to compare the start list. With the answer to the call before the start, the participants confirm that they think they are healthy and fit enough to take part in the race.

Each participant enters the race at his or her own risk!

Folding Kayak	5:30 AM	Applies to all folding kayaks
Early start	6 AM	Applies to all participants who are expected to reach a time of more than 8 hours.
Late start	7 AM	Applies to all participants who are expected to achieve a time of less than 8 hours. In addition, participants who only marginally do not meet the time criterion can be divided into this group.

18. Report ships

Report ships will be at 4 positions along the track. Each ship is marked with a large yellow buoy. Their positions may vary from the position given at the briefing due to wind, waves and each ships' own draught. Be on the lookout for the yellow buoy!

At every report ship each participant has to call out their boat number to the volunteers aboard and make sure, that the number was understood.

Communicate with the volunteers!

19. Time limits

The race for a participant or team is discontinued, if ...

- ... the boat has not reached the Baltic Sea 3 hours after its start. In this case the team or participant is sent back.
- ... the boat has not reached the last checkpoint (report ship 4 in front of Ummanz / Suhrendorf) till 3 PM. In this case the team or participant will be picked up by accompanying ships.

20. End of the race

The race ends when the last participant has reached the dock in front of SKC's boathouse but not later than 6 PM on 27th June 2026.

Volunteers on the accompanying ships will convey race controls orders.

In the event of an extreme weather event the race will be discontinued and all participants will gradually be picked up by accompanying and report ships.

21. Voluntary redundancy from the race

If a participant wants to discontinue the race voluntarily, he or she has to inform race control immediately, so their recovery can be organized.

The participant can de-register himself via his mobile phone or via an accompanying or reporting boat.

20. Legal rights

Each participant releases the organizers, the Stralsunder Kanu Club e.V. and every other contributor from their liability and responsibility. This concerns all deliberate acts or omissions by participants, volunteers or organizers leading to injuries of a participant as well as loss or damage of participant's property.

Hiddenseemarathon is a public event. Stralsunder Kanu Club e.V. reserves the right to photograph and film the event. This right is not revocable, incontestable and effective indefinitely. The footage is used for representation and information in internet, press as well as social media.

21. Changes

The organizer reserves the right to change competition conditions due to any important reasons.