

Practice Cancellations

Minimum number of paddlers

At least 5 paddlers are needed for each canoe (this includes a steersperson). If there are less than 5 signed up, or if there is no steersperson available, the practice is canceled. In certain circumstances (depending on river conditions and the experience of the crew) a steersperson may choose to go out with a total of 4 paddlers.

If you are the seventh person to sign up for a practice, please note that you are “#7” (also #8 or #9). This way if no one else signs up, it is clear who was the last to do so and should drop out.

Paddlers are responsible for checking the Team Cowboy website and/or Team Hero app to confirm the status of practice. If you have signed up but later decide to drop out, please change your status on Team Cowboy/Hero ASAP.

Weather and river conditions

Weather conditions can be so variable and complex that it is difficult to state concise rules for when practices should be canceled. Additionally, our practice area is frequently in its own micro climate and can differ from Portland conditions. Paddlers are responsible for deciding what conditions they individually are comfortable with. The steerspersons make the final determination if a practice must be canceled.

Conditions that can factor into making a decision to cancel include:

- Extremely cold air temperature (consider canceling if air temp is less than 40 degrees)
- Extremely hot air temperature (consider canceling if air temp is greater than 95 degrees)
- Very cold water temperature (consider canceling if water temp less than 45 degrees)
- Potentially ice on the marina ramp and dock
- Strong winds
- Thunder & lightening
- Dense fog covering our area
- Especially strong currents
- Too much debris in the water
- Very smoky, unhealthy air (Air Quality Index above 150 is considered unhealthy)
- Reported sewage overflow in our area
- Toxic algae blooms

Due to the complexity and uncertainty of these factors, it is possible practice can be canceled even after paddlers have arrived at the dock if the steersperson decides that conditions are not favorable.

Additionally, if it appears the drive to the marina will be hazardous, such as icy/snowy roads, then practice should be canceled.

If a last minute cancellation is made on the day of practice, steerspersons will make efforts to contact affected paddlers via text and will note it on Team Cowboy/Hero. Again, paddlers are advised to check the website/app prior to leaving for practice.