

**Jigging Overview** The United States Canoe Association created canoe and kayak specifications to keep racing fair. The boats in a class will meet the same length, width, and other requirements. Boats that are longer, more narrow, or are otherwise different may create a significant advantage over the boats that conform to the specification. Usually, wider and shorter boats are accepted into a class because it would be a disadvantage.

At the USCA National Championship races, boats are precision measured (jigged) to ensure they meet their specification. If they do not meet the specification, they are disqualified. The specifications provide maximums in length, and minimums in width (beam) when important for speed. The specifications don't have tolerances - if it states 18 feet maximum, then 18 feet and 1/64 inch is out of specification and would be disqualified. A 17 foot 11.5 inch boat length would be acceptable.

In local races, it is up to the race officials. Generally, no measurements are performed, or a simple length check is performed to keep the race relatively fair for all.

**Simplified Sea Kayak Jigging** method (use at home or when purchasing a boat):

**Length:** Sounds easy, just use 25 foot tape measure and pull it tight. However, both the top and bottom of the boat are curved and the error could be up to 2" off. Place boat level on a good flat surface and make it level and upright. Use a framing square or tri-square to mark the floor straight down from the longest part of the bow. Do likewise for the stern without including the rudder. Move boat away and carefully use a tape rule stretched tight across the floor for the boat maximum length. The USCA Sea Kayak specification uses maximum boat length, not waterline length.

**Width:** USCA Sea Kayak width is 8.5% of the overall length measured at the 4" waterline. First, get an accurate boat length from previous paragraph. For an exact 18 foot boat the 4" water line beam would be:  $18 \text{ feet} \times 12 \text{ feet/inch} \times 0.085 = 18.36"$ , just under  $18.375"$  or  $18\text{-}3/8"$ . Make the simple jig: cut a 4" deep and  $18\text{-}3/8"$  long rectangular piece out of paper covered foam board or similar. Make all edges square and as accurately as possible. See photo. How to use: turn boat upside down. Find the widest part of the boat. Place jig gently over the boat (don't damage the jig corners) and move forward and backward to find the largest beam. If only the outer edges of the jig touch, the boat is wider than it needs to be. If the edges and the center touch, the boat meets the beam specification. If the jig touches the center and only one edge of the two edges, the boat beam does not meet USCA Sea Kayak specification.



Specifications Summary (Go to >>>> for the exact specification wording): Single Kayak, Sit-on-top or Surf ski

1. Recreational: any single kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 16' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 22".
2. Sea Kayak: any single kayak, sit-on-top or surf ski with a maximum overall length of 18' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 8.5% of length.
3. Touring: any single kayak, sit-on-top, surf ski with a maximum overall length of 20' and a 4" waterline beam of at least 18".
4. Unlimited: any single kayak, sit-on-top, or surf ski.

#### Sea Kayak Specifications: Detail and Qualifying Boats

There are several sets of Sea Kayak and Fast Sea Kayak (FSK) 18' Class specifications:

Width at 4" waterline vs. length	RATIO	%
Sound Rowers FSK	10.99	9.1%
Blackburn FSK	11.5	8.7%
USCA Sea Kayak	11.8	8.5%

Widely used boats which **MAY** meet USCA Sea Kayak Specifications are below. ~~If you paddle one of these boats, you do not need to have it jigged at the National Championships.~~

Epic: Endurance 18, 18X, 18X Sport, V8

Stellar: S18S

Think: EZE

Nelo: Viper 55 Ski

Fenn: Blue Fin

Seda: Glider, Impulse