

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS



A. Fundamental Rules:

SAFETY

The first priority of all competitors is the safety of their crew and all other crews involved. Assistance must be rendered as required.

FAIR PLAY: CONDUCT OF CREWS.

“Any Dragon Boat Crew or competitor who attempts to win a race by other than honorable means, or who deliberately breaks the Race Rules, or who disregards the honorable nature of the rules shall face disqualification from the competition.” (Reference: I.D.B.F. Competition and Rules of Racing.)

B. Race Details:

1. The minimum race crew is sixteen (16) paddlers and a maximum of 20, plus one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson. Of the crew members, a minimum of 8 must be women.
2. Crews exceeding 22 members on board will be disqualified.
3. Only crew members on the roster are allowed in the Dragon Boats.
4. Races are 250 metres in length, unless otherwise stipulated.
5. A team cannot finish a race unless all crew members who started the race are present in the boat.
6. Teams will be assigned lanes, by number, and must line up and stay within these lanes during the start, race and finish.

C. Starting:

1. Boats must listen to Chief Race Official (Starter), and follow instructions clearly, when lining up for start.
2. While boats are lining up for the start, starters instructions will include procedures for boats to ‘hold’, ‘back up’, and ‘one minute to start’ (not actually 60 seconds).
3. Once the Chief Race Official feels boats are lined up evenly (at his/her sole discretion) in the designated starting area, the warning signal of “Attention Please!” will cue all paddlers, of every competing boat to prepare for start.
4. Chief Race Official will sound signal at any time after warning signal.
5. Drummers may not drum during start procedures. Drummers must stop drumming if the Starter calls a false start.
6. False starts will be signaled by three sound signals after the start signal.
7. UNFAIR STARTS - When a crew ‘jumps the start’, (which for the purpose of the Rules of Racing means that a crew has anticipated the Starters word of Command, or Sound Signal), and a ‘false start’ cannot be called, but in the opinion of the Starter a material advantage has been gained by the crew or crews, the Starter may award a ‘Time Penalty’ to crew or crews in question.

D. Right of Way Rules:

1. A boat changing lanes during a heat may not pass in front of any team on the course. A penalty or disqualification will be assessed at the time of race completion.
2. Any contact between boats will result in penalty or disqualification.
3. All boats must attempt to avoid contact at all times on the water.
4. A boat that is not competing must keep clear of all boats which are competing.

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E. Finishing:

1. The finish line will be between the finish buoys. When buoys are not present, the Finish Line Official on land will indicate the finish line.
2. For the Finish Line Officials to stop the clock, the Dragon Boat's bow (Dragon's nose) must cross the finish line. Two short sounds will blast when the last boat crosses the finish line. When your boat crosses the finish line, stay in your lane until the horn is sounded then 'let it ride' for 2 full boat lengths straight in the lane. Check for clearance, then turn towards shore in a long, gentle, under-power turn and head back to docks as quickly and safely as possible.

F. Other Grounds for Disqualification and Penalty:

1. Any Team determined to have broken a rule, as defined in the Official Rules and Regulations or any Team not complying with the Safety Protocol, may receive a time penalty or disqualification, depending on the seriousness of incident.
2. Crew members who are inebriated will be disqualified from racing. The Organizing Committee has the sole discretion to deny any racer from entering a boat who they feel has been drinking or using banned substances.
3. Any alteration to festival equipment, switching positions/teams, standing, rocking or leaving the boat are not allowed and will result in a disqualification.
4. The Chief Race Official shall be responsible for implementing the Disciplinary Code and additionally may disqualify any crew or competitor who behaves improperly or shows contempt by bad conduct or speech towards the Race Officials or any other persons, including on-lookers (As per I.D.B.F. Competition Regulations & Rules of Racing, Part 2, R3.1.3).
5. Waivers – any team found not to have a complete and accurate set of participation waivers and roster forms completed and adhered to all practice and race rules regarding waivers, rosters and number of minimum practices will be disqualified. In this case disqualification may include refusal of participation without recourse.

G. Disqualifications and Time Penalties:

1. Any boat deemed disqualified by either the Organizing Committee or the rules, will receive a time of the slowest time for the day - PLUS five seconds.
2. Disqualified times will not be considered qualifying times and will disqualify teams from awards.
3. Time Penalties which are assessed to teams can range anywhere from 1 - 10 seconds.

H. Appeals:

1. Must be made by the Captain only.
2. The protest must be made verbally to the Starter immediately following the heat in which the penalty was assessed.
3. The ruling of the Starter is final and without a second appeal.

***NOTE: Adjustments to race course, times, race schedule and cancellation of race heats may occur due to a number of circumstances including weather, daylight, water conditions or safety. These adjustments are a part of the event and are at the sole discretion of the Race Officials and are final, without appeal and without refund.