

2014 Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival



RACE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Long Beach Dragon Boat Races will be managed by the Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival Committee, that is appointed by the International Culture Exchange Association.

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I. **CONDITION OF ENTRY TO RACES:**

Each participant agrees to:

1. Abide by the race rules and requirements of the races.
2. Conduct him/herself consistent with good sportsmanship, friendship and respect for the traditions of the Dragon Boats and culture of participating countries, organizations and individuals.
3. Waive any claims against the Race Committee, ICEA, Co-Sponsors, and all other and their members or race officials which may arise from personal injury, death or damage to personal property caused by participation in practice or competition.
4. Use only equipment provided or approved by Race Committee. Boats, and paddles life jackets are provided. Competitors are allowed to use kneepads and coast guard approved personal life jackets and paddles approved by ICEA Race Committee. Ski belts are not allowed. Noise-making devices are not permitted. However, intercom connection within the boat is allowed.
5. Paddle from a seated position. For safety reason, standing up or kneeling positions are not permitted.
6. In the event of a team member falling out of the boat, the team shall stop paddling and immediately recover that person. The safety boats following the races may assist, but it is the responsibility of the team to rescue their own teammate.
7. Any intentional entrance of a teammate into the water will result in automatic disqualification.

II. **TEAM COMPETITION:**

Each team shall consist of a maximum of 23 members. A maximum of 18 paddlers and a minimum of 14 paddlers should be on the boat during the race : 18 paddlers, 1 drummer, and 1 steer person. The final team roster shall be submitted to the race committee during the published date(s). Signed waivers for each team member are required prior to the race.

No person who is not on the final team roster may paddle for a team unless approved by the race chairman.

III. **DIVISIONS:**

1. **International Open** - International teams and all other teams that have had previous competitive experience.
2. **Women** - All 18 paddlers must be female.
3. **Division I** - To include all competitive and previous race experienced teams.
4. **Division II** - To include some race experience.
5. **Division III** - Novice teams not of competitive nature (comparable to recreational division).
6. **Division IV** - Novice teams of recreational nature.
7. **Master** - Must be 40 and older.
8. **Grand Master** - Must be 50 and older.
9. **College** - All teams members must be currently full-time enrolled in college.
10. **High School** - Must be currently 18 and under.
11. **Jr. High School** - Must be currently 15 and under.
12. **Elementary School** - Must be currently 12 and under.

13. **Corporate** - Team members must be employed or sponsored by the company.
14. **Female Breast Cancer Survivors** - Must be female and breast cancer recovered paddlers
15. **All Female Cancer Survivors** - Must be female and cancer recovered paddlers

NOTE:

Except the International Open and Women's Divisions all other divisions must be mixed with at least 6 female paddlers; for the small boat division, at least 4 female paddlers.

In the event that one division does not have at least three teams, the Race Committee reserves the right to move teams from their respective division to a similar division to fill space.

For all divisions, there are no limitations on age or gender for your drummer and steer person.

IV. PRACTICE TIME SCHEDULE:

Each team will have 6 hours of free practice time. (There is a \$50.00 per hour fee for additional practice time)

V. RACE STRUCTURE:

1. The race committee develops an appropriate contest structure, race schedule and competition program by taking into account such factors as the numbers of teams, minimum number of teams needed for a separate division, time limitations, safety and other practical considerations.
2. The format for advancing is to be announced in mid-July depending on the enrollment in teams in their respective division.
3. In the event of a tie between any of the boats in an individual race, the situation will be decided by race juries.

VI. TROPHIES AND PRIZES

Will announce in early July.

VII. MARSHALING:

A Captains Meeting will be held (Date will be announced)

Communications with officials by the team captain is encouraged; however, for those that do not pay close attention to the announcements made and to postings on the results board. The team captain is responsible for conduct of the team members on and off the water. Team leaders or captains should communicate with Race Officials at all times. The team captain is also expected to take charge during an incident or a mishap on the water. The team captain, drummer, or steersperson should conduct a head count, make sure everyone stays together / re-check everyone until the rescue boat picks everyone up.

All teams must report to marshaling area 45 minutes before the race.

VIII. FALSE START:

If a team false starts, all boats will be called back to restart or if the race is allowed to continue, a minimum of 20 second penalty will be added to the false starting team's time at the completion of the race. You will be disqualified for the division after your second false start in the same division race. In case of a race that has been called back, any first time team false starts in that race will result in being disqualified in that race.

IX. RACE CONDUCT:

1. The correct course for each boat is a straight line from its starting position to the finish line. Each boat must remain in the center of its correct lane and must not interfere with other boats.
2. Any boat failing to keep its proper course will be warned by the referee. Boats must comply immediately with the referee's command. Failure to comply will result in disqualification and the team will be assigned last place finish in that race. (STAY IN YOUR OWN LANE).
3. The official race course is approximately 500 meters in length. The finish line will be marked by buoys. Teams are assigned to a particular lane and boats are marked accordingly.
4. If, in the opinion of the referee, a boat is deliberately swamped or capsized, the race committee may disqualify the team from any official standing and may refuse the team's further participation in the races.
5. If, in the opinion of the Race Committee, a boat and its equipment is deliberately damaged by team members, the Race Committee may impose a financial and/or disciplinary penalty. This rule applies throughout the practice season and the race weekend.
6. At the conclusion of each race, the Finish Line Judge will signal a fair race by waving a green flag. A white flag results for each boat that properly crosses the finish line.
7. Upon completion of their race, teams remain in their boats (please don't stand up in the boat) and paddle directly to the dock, without delay. All boats will be used in the next race; participants should not linger at the finish line.
8. Dock at the proper spot on the dock according to lane number. Disembark in an orderly manner. Leave the paddles, and life jackets at the designated area. And, leave any anti-skid material and drumsticks on board, or passing them to the next racers if they are waiting.

X. PROTESTS/DISPUTES:

Should a protest or dispute arise, the team captain or captains may make written notice to the Race Director or the Staging Manager within 20 minutes of the incident. Consistent with other international venues and in order to accommodate costs incurred from stopping the races, a protest fee of \$100 U.S. currency is required with all protests. The Race Coordinator, the Chief Judge and one other member of the Race Jury will make a prompt decision on the matter. The team captain will be informed orally of the decision. If the decision is made in favor of the protesting team, the team is refunded their protest fee.

XI. DISQUALIFICATION:

The Race Committee reserves the right to impose penalties on a team or its members for any of the following problems.

Disqualification may result.

1. Violation of safety procedures.
2. Violation of stated rules and established procedures.
3. Arriving late to the Marshall or start line and arriving late to the dock after your race has been completed.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. Disobeying reasonable requests or instructions from members of the Race Committee, that is, the Marshall, Dock Manager, Starter, Referee, and the Finish Line Judge, or any other designated person.
6. Willful damage to loss of equipment.
7. Violation of sponsorship rules.
8. Misrepresentation of the race, event or organizer.
9. You may not use any player from a competitor's team unless prior agreements have been made with race committee and the other teams.

XII. PENALTIES:

1. The teams will be designated the last finish in the race for advancement. At that point, the team advances as the schedule allows. (Minor infraction).
2. Disqualification of team members or the entire team from participation in the races.
3. Financial reimbursement for damage or loss of equipment.
4. Other as deemed necessary by the Race Committee/Disciplinary Committee is final.

XIII. SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT:

1. All boaters must be wearing a properly fitted (coast guard approved type I, II, III) PFD.
2. If a boat swamps/sinks all team members must stay near the boat and wait for the rescue boat.
3. The captain must assume command of his team, making sure all members are accounted for.
4. When safety boat personnel arrive the boat captain will surrender command to the rescue personnel.
5. If a paddle breaks/drops, do not attempt to rescue it. The referee boat will pick it up for your team.
6. Team leader and captain will be responsible for delivery of their crew members signed waiver forms.

Special Notes

Each year, there will be special notes for all team to follow. Please check the website (<http://www.lbdragonboat.com>) for the notes.