



**Equipment Usage, and Water Safety Policy**  
**Arizona Dragon Boat Association**  
亚历桑那龙舟协会

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**AZDBA Board: Approved**

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# Equipment Usage, and Water Safety Policy

## Arizona Dragon Boat Association

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## Purpose

The Arizona Dragon Boat Association (AZDBA) is committed to minimizing the risks of anyone involved in the sport of Dragon Boating. The AZDBA considers that it is the duty of everyone involved in the sport to follow the advice and guidance contained within this Policy. The AZDBA supports that a pervasive principle for Dragon Boating be instilled of **'prevention reduces risks and injuries and saves lives'**.

## Rules and Regulations

Rules and regulations of the AZDBA include those listed in this document, in addition to those signed by each member in their membership application and club waiver.

AZDBA or the watercourse management due to special events or circumstances, can change, modify, or request specific requirements, and Dragon Boat users will comply as instructed.

New rules or regulations can be added, changed, or amended at any time by the appropriate representative of the AZDBA. Boat Captains and Steers are required to stay current on such rules, and are required to see that their boats comply. Updates to rules and policies can be found posted on the AZDBA website ([www.azdba.com](http://www.azdba.com)) and when updates are made to this policy they will be forwarded by email of record, to AZDBA authorized steers, and boat captains.

## Responsibility

Dragon Boats and Dragon Boat equipment usage is determined by the governing rules of the Arizona Dragon Boat Association. Dragon Boats and Dragon Boat equipment usage is primarily intended for use of AZDBA members, but can be used upon the discretion of the AZDBA for other events such as outreach, training, fund raising, or community events.

When a Dragon Boat is owned, leased, or operated by the AZDBA and is on the water, the Boat Captain, who will normally be the Helm (Steerer) will take responsibility for the safety of the crew and equipment.

For use of AZDBA boats both the Boat Captain and/or Steerer will acknowledge in writing to the AZDBA that they understand and will comply with the regulations, rules and safety requirements of both the AZDBA and any watercourse they are utilizing equipment of the AZDBA on.

Because AZDBA equipment is stationed at Tempe Town Lake, the AZDBA safety requirement will stress the City of Tempe Lake users rules. However, if AZDBA equipment is utilized on other watercourses the rules of this course would pertain and need to be followed.

While AZDBA equipment is in use on Tempe Town Lake, the Boat Captain will abide by the City of Tempe (COT) Boating Regulations. [www.tempe.gov/lake/boating/boatregs.htm](http://www.tempe.gov/lake/boating/boatregs.htm).



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## Steerer

For an AZDBA boat to be used upon a watercourse, a trained steerer must be present in the boat at the helm at all times.

A trained steerer is recognized by the AZDBA as someone who is familiar with the type of boat being used, and has demonstrated a knowledge and expertise on how to steer the boat on the watercourse the boat is to navigate. Additionally a trained steerer has agreed in writing to abide by both the equipment and safety rules and regulations of the AZDBA, and in addition to abide by the rules and regulations of the watercourse being navigated.

The AZDBA recognizes that periodically, additional people will be trained as steerers. Until a trainee has completed steerer training, and been accepted by the AZDBA as a trained steerer, a trained steerer must be present in the boat while a trainee has the boat on a watercourse.

Training and testing will include demonstrated knowledge of AZDBA equipment, safety rules, and regulations and that of the watercourse. The trainee will demonstrate the ability to maneuver the boat as required in a safe and prudent manner before being recognized by the AZDBA as a steerer.

## Personal Floatation Device (PFD)

Each person who is in the boat on an open watercourse must wear a vest type Life Vest or Personal Floatation Device (PFD). This PFD will be a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III PFD vest **in good condition**. Type IV and inflatable PFD's do not meet the AZDBA standards. The PFD vest must be the proper size for that person's weight and build, and be form-fitting and comfortable.

Individuals may use their own PFD vest upon inspection by the steerer or Boat Captain, and their approval that it meets the above stated requirements.

## Paddlers

The Boat Captain and steerer will assure that the boat has an adequate number of paddlers to allow emergency commands to be quickly carried out. For an experienced crew this is recommended to be at least six paddlers but more than six paddlers are normally required for less experienced crews. Even for an experienced crew, more than six paddlers would be required if a watercourse is substantially restricted, or is experiencing inclement conditions such as rough winds or waves.

## Lightning, Wind and Evacuation

At Tempe Town Lake, lights and sirens have been mounted on tall poles on the north side of the lake. Boat Captain and/or Steerer will be familiar with location of these poles and monitor while on the lake for increment conditions requiring the following actions.

**WHITE** light flashing to indicate wind reaches 15 miles per hour. The frequency of the light flashes will increase as the velocity of the wind increases. A weak boat (novice or a boat with minimal number of paddlers) is to return to the Marina when wind reaches 15 miles per



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hour. A strong boat will return to marina if wind velocity continues to increase, or if maintaining course becomes difficult, or if waves are threatening to go over gunnels.

**YELLOW** light flashing, indicates lightning is detected within 10 miles of the butte on the south side of Tempe Town Lake. If Yellow light is flashing or lightning is seen in the vicinity of the lake, immediately return to the Marina, secure the boat as quickly as possible.

**RED** light and **SIREN**. Immediately return to Marina and secure the boat as quickly as possible.

If AZDBA boating equipment is in use on another watercourse, unless that governing authority rules conflict, the same criteria listed above for weather conditions and evacuation are to be.

## Watercourse Requirements

Boat Captain and Steerer are responsible for having thorough knowledge of the rules of the watercourse, and making sure that the crew are aware of and follow these rules (i.e. paddling direction of the lake, right of way, lake closures, special events, facility restrictions, after dark rules and the required bow and stern lighting etc...).

Public boating navigational rules specific to the Tempe Town Lake include, but are not limited to, the following:

*Lake traffic shall be counter clockwise. Watercraft leaving the shoreline shall yield right-of-way to watercraft approaching the shoreline.*

*Public watercraft should give way to commercial watercraft, public safety watercraft and emergency watercraft.*

*All watercraft operators shall maintain a proper lookout and proceed at a safe speed when underway.*

*Watercraft underway shall stay at least 50 feet from drifting or anchored boats. If approaching or coming alongside another boat, the operator shall use caution and approach at a safe, controlled speed.*

*If there is a possibility that the boat will be out at dusk or at night then navigation lights need to be affixed. Lights, should be affixed so that they can be seen by lake traffic. Navigation lighting includes a red (or Red/Green) light affixed to the bow, and a white clear light affixed to the stern. The stern light should be reachable by one person in the boat, and would be waived in case of an emergency. **If lights are not able to be displayed at dusk or night, the boat will immediately return to the marina. If navigation lights are not displayed as specified above, this could result in a citation to the Boat Captain and/or Steerer.***

## Boat Occupants

Boat Captain and steerer will ensure that all participants in the boat are:



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1. Members in good standing with the AZDBA. Members in good standing with the AZDBA will have met all required criteria of membership, including age, health, current in membership dues, and have a signed waiver on file with the AZDBA. *A complete membership roster of all AZDBA members will be supplied upon request to Boat Captain or steerer.*
2. All participants are suitably dressed and prepared for the weather and water conditions and that they are not wearing anything (such as personal accessories or jewelry) which would impede their ability to escape from a capsized boat or swim unaided once in the water, for example, wrist weights.
3. Cognizant of the paddling procedures required to meet AZDBA and venue safety requirements, for example, commands such as “stop the boat”.
4. Appropriate equipment is utilized by each boat occupant, such as PFD’s, and oars.

## Team Usage of Equipment

Team usage of the boats is not a right but a privilege, and can at any time be preempted, changed or cancelled at the behest of the AZDBA or the watercourse authorities. A change in practice schedule could include any AZDBA approved event, or a watercourse venue conflict such as:

- Classes
- Clinics
- Special Events
- AZDBA contractual obligations
- Road, Lake, Boat or Equipment maintenance requirements
- Open Paddle

## Calendar of Boat Usage

To aid teams, a quarterly calendar will be published on the AZDBA ([www.azdba.com](http://www.azdba.com)) web site listing team practice schedules 30 days prior to the start of the quarter. The AZDBA will attempt to notify interested parties in advance if changes in availability of boats or facilities occur, but due to special events, equipment issues, and other happenstances advanced notice might not always occur. Teams should email requests for practice dates and times at least sixty days in advance of each quarter to the AZDBA.

## Equipment Care

Equipment supplied by the AZDBA is to be treated with respect, and should be returned to the appropriate storage area, in a manner that is consistent with maintaining the equipment in good condition.

It is a crew’s responsibility to ensure that the dragon boat and its equipment are fully functional and water-worthy. Boats and equipment must be carefully checked before use. If issues are noted with equipment of the AZDBA or with facilities that are being used for this equipment by the AZDBA, it needs to be reported to the AZDBA authority in a timely manner. If appropriate required equipment in good condition is not available, the boat will not be available for use and the AZDBA should be notified.



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## Facilities

Facilities where the boats and equipment are stored and moored are not the property of the AZDBA, and are shared by multiple groups. All crew need to be courteous of other users. Unless a designated agent of the AZDBA is present, locked areas are to be kept locked at all times.

Access to storage, boat, and marina areas are shared with many users. Members of the AZDBA will not block or hinder access and usage of other lake users. If any issues occur, they should be reported immediately to the AZDBA authority.

## Violations

Violations to rules and regulations are to be reported to a board member of the AZDBA immediately.

The Boat Captain and/or Steerer are subject to all regulations of watercourse (Tempe Town Lake etc.) and are responsible for any and all citations received from the Local Police and other authorities.

Upon notification of rule violations, the president of the AZDBA or their agent can institute boat usage suspension while the reported occurrence of a violation is being investigated. The AZDBA has the right to suspend membership and privileges, including use of boats, to any person or persons who do not comply with the rules and regulations, or who in the judgment of the AZDBA does not follow prudent safety practices.

After a restriction ruling has been made by the AZDBA, an individual(s) cited has fifteen days to contest a restriction ruling by the AZDBA. After the AZDBA has considered the individual's request, the AZDBA will confirm and/or amend and/or rescind the restriction ruling, and this will be deemed to be the final ruling of the AZDBA.

## Source Information

Arizona Boating Regulations: [www.tempe.gov/lake/RManagementPlan/AZBoatingRules\(Title5\).doc](http://www.tempe.gov/lake/RManagementPlan/AZBoatingRules(Title5).doc)

Arizona Dragon Boat Association web site: [www.azdba.com](http://www.azdba.com)

AZDBA Membership and Waiver Form: [Membership Form: http://www.azdba.com/membership.htm](http://www.azdba.com/membership.htm)

City of Tempe Boating Regulations: [www.tempe.gov/lake/boating/boatregs.htm](http://www.tempe.gov/lake/boating/boatregs.htm)

International Dragon Boat Federation "Documents": [www.idbf.org](http://www.idbf.org)

US Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety: [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

## Notes

*\*Any reference to AZDBA includes all AZDBA board members, individually or as a whole, or a designee or agent of the AZDBA board as they may designate from time to time. Listing of board members can be found at [www.azdba.com](http://www.azdba.com). Email questions or suggestions to rules to AZDBA Secretary.*