



# Arizona Dragon Boat Festival

## RACE RULES and REGULATIONS

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The following are the race rules and regulations for the Arizona Dragon Boat Festival. All Rules and Regulations are based on (a) the International Dragon Boat Federation Members Handbook (2nd Edition, 1/1/1997) and (b) local rules and regulations that apply to the Arizona Dragon Boat festival.

**All rules are to be read and understood by all teams prior to taking part in the Arizona Dragon Boat Festival.**

### A. Team and Paddlers Details:

For all races, including all distances:

1. A minimum race crew consists of sixteen (16) paddlers, one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.
2. A maximum race crew consists of twenty (20) paddlers, one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.
3. All mixed crews must have a minimum of eight (8) female paddlers. This includes Corporate, Collegiate, Masters and any division except for Open.
4. All Open race crews may contain any amount of male or female crew members.
5. Crews in Female divisions *may* race with male drummers or steers, but with no male paddlers.
6. All teams are required to have a drummer.
7. Only crew members on a registered team roster will be allowed to paddle with that team.
8. No paddler may paddle with more than one team in the same division.
9. Teams with paddlers on more than one roster must let the festival organizers know of possible race scheduling conflicts. Festival organizers cannot guarantee that there will be no conflicts in the schedule, especially during the afternoon finals.
10. All team members must sign the event waiver/roster form prior to entering a boat (including practices).

### B. Finish Line/Timing Tent

1. No paddler or team representative may approach the timing tent. This area of the race site is out of bounds to all race attendees. Any paddler or team representative that approaches the tent will receive a verbal warning and may face disciplinary action.

### C. Meetings

1. Captains, Coaches and Steers are expected to attend all Captains Meetings held during the race weekend.

### D. Race Details:

1. Teams will be assigned lanes by number, and must line up and stay within these lanes during the start, race and finish.
2. A team will not be considered to finish unless all crew members who started the race are present in the boat.
3. Standard races are 500 meters in length, unless otherwise stipulated.
4. All teams must complete all assigned race heats to be eligible for Awards.



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### **E. Starting:**

1. Boats must listen to the Chief Starter and follow instructions clearly when lining up for the start.
2. Starters instructions will include procedures for boats to 'hold', 'back up', and 'one minute to start' while boats are lining up for the start.
3. Once the Chief Race Official determines that the boats are lined up evenly (at his/her sole discretion) in the designated starting area, each team's drummer will be asked to signify that his/her boat is ready to start by raising his/her hand.
4. A warning signal of "Attention Please!" will cue all paddlers of every competing boat to prepare for the start.
5. The Started will sound the start signal at any time after the warning signal.
6. Drummers may not drum during Start procedures. Drummers must stop drumming if the Starter calls a False Start.
7. False Starts will be signaled by three sound signals after the start signal.

### **F. Right of Way Rules:**

1. All boats must stay in their designated lane
2. A boat changing lanes during a heat may not pass in front of any team on the course. A penalty or disqualifications will be assessed at the time of race completion.
3. All boats must avoid other boats
4. Any contact between boats may result in penalty or disqualification.
5. All boats must attempt to avoid contact at all times on the water.
6. A boat which is not competing must keep clear of all boats which are competing.
7. When heading to the start of the race, boats must stop to prevent wakes when any race is in progress.

### **G. Finishing:**

1. Buoys on the finish line indicate the position of the finishing line, but not necessarily the official line.
2. For the Finish Line Officials to stop the clock, the Dragon's nose must cross the finish line.
3. When your boat crosses the finish line, stay in your lane, check for clearance, then turn towards shore and head back to docks as quickly and safely as possible.

### **H. Safety**

1. Crew members that are inebriated or under the influence of any drugs or drink 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.
2. All Life Vests must be fully zipped up and properly buckled from the time the paddler enters the marshalling area to when the paddler leaves it.; these life jackets must be kept on until all team members have returned to the marshalling area after their race heat. All life jackets must be Coast Guard and DOT approved.



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### I. Disqualifications and Penalties

1. Any Team determined to have broken a rule, as defined in these *Rules and Regulations*, or any team not complying with safety protocols may receive a time penalty or disqualification, depending on the seriousness of incident.
2. Any alteration to festival equipment may result in a penalty to be assessed by race officials.
3. Any switching positions or teams, standing, rocking or leaving the boat once the boat has left the dock may result in a penalty.
4. The Chief Race Official shall be responsible for implementing the Disciplinary Code and additionally may penalize 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.
5. All roster changes on the day of the event must be approved by the Festival Team Coordinator.
6. Disqualified teams will not be allowed to compete for awards in that set of races.

### J. Appeals:

1. Appeals must be made by the team Captain or Manager only.
2. All protests must be made in writing to the Dock Marshall within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the race heat in which the penalty was assessed.
3. The Dock Marshall will investigate the written appeal and discuss appeal with Race officials who will make the final ruling.
4. The ruling of the Festival Chairman is final and without appeal.

### K. Adjustments

Adjustments to the race course, race times, race schedule and cancellation of race heats may occur due to any number of circumstances including weather, daylight, water conditions, safety, etc. 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.