



OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Regina Dragon Boat Festival
Official Rules and Regulations**

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MISSION STATEMENT

To organize a Dragon Boat Festival, based on ancient Chinese myths and legends, to be held annually on Labour Day weekend in Wascana Park in Regina; and to create cross-cultural experiences and a better understanding and appreciation for Asian culture and heritage, for the citizens of Regina and surrounding area.

DEFINITION - FESTIVAL AND RACE

The FESTIVAL is organized by the Regina Dragon Boat Festival Inc. (RDBFI).

The RACE is organized by the RDBFI.

The VENUE is Wascana Lake, Regina, Saskatchewan.

The RACE COMMITTEE is responsible for registration of teams, administration and enforcement of the Official Rules and Regulations, marine support, conduct of practice sessions and races, and all other matters pertaining to the running of the RACE at the designated VENUE.

The TEAM OFFICIALS are the Team Manager and Team Captain.

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SECTION A - ADMINISTRATION

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Any Team conforming to the registration criteria and the Official Rules and Regulations of the RDBFI.
- 1.2 The number of Teams participating in the Race will be determined by the RDBFI.
- 1.3 The RDBFI reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry of a Team or individual to the Event.

2. Registration

- 2.1 Each Team must submit a completed registration form to the Race Registrar.
- 2.2 The registration form must be accompanied by a payment for the designated amount of the registration fee, payable to the RDBFI.
- 2.3 The registration fee is set by the RDBFI.
- 2.4 Teams withdrawing from the Race must notify the Race Registrar in writing. Refund of any part of the registration fee is at the discretion of the RDBFI.

3. Race Categories

- 3.1 The Race Categories are:
 - a. Adult Mixed Recreational "A" (Refer to Section A.9)
 - b. Adult Mixed Recreational "B" (Refer to Section A.9)
 - c. Adult Mixed Recreational "C" (Refer to Section A.9)
 - d. Adult Mixed Prairie Cup Challenge (Refer to Section A.9)
 - e. Men (Refer to Section A.9)
 - f. Women (Refer to Section A.9)
 - g. Junior Mixed (Refer to Section A.9 and D.25)

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- 3.2 The Race Committee shall determine the race category for each adult mixed recreational team.

4. Safety

- 4.1 Each Team Member is required to be able to swim 100 metres while wearing a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). It is the responsibility of the Team Officials to ensure that all Team Members are able to comply with this rule.
- 4.2 **Each Team Member is solely responsible for his or her own safety at all times while engaged in activities related to practising and racing in the Dragon Boats.**
- 4.3 PFDs will be provided to all Team Members and must be worn in the proper manner at all times while in the Dragon Boats.
- 4.4 Any injury occurring while engaged in activities related to practising or racing in the Dragon Boats must be reported verbally and a written Injury Report must be submitted immediately by the Team Manager to the Training Coordinator or the Chief Official, as the case may be.
- 4.5 All safety precautions as announced by the Training Coordinator or the Race Officials shall be observed.

5. Waivers

- 5.1 All Team Members must sign a waiver stating that they have read the conditions of the waiver and are aware of the risks associated with practising and racing in Dragon Boats, and accept and thus waive any right they may have to any course of action against any or all of the sponsors, organizers, officials and the RDBFI for injury to persons(s) or loss or damage to personal property.
- 5.2 All Team Members must submit a signed waiver to the Team Manager prior to their first practice session.

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- 5.3 The Team Manager is responsible for collecting signed waivers from Team Members and submitting the waivers to the Training Coordinator prior to a Team Member's first practice.

6. Dragon Boats and Equipment

- 6.1 All Dragon Boats, paddles, steering oars, drums and PFDs used by Team Members will be provided by the RDBFI. No additional equipment may be used.
- 6.2 A Team may use its own paddles or PFDs if approved by the Race Committee.
- 6.3 All Dragon Boats, paddles, steering oars, drums, PFDs and any other equipment used during the practice sessions and races must be returned to the RDBFI intact and in full. Replacement costs or repair of equipment will be charged to the responsible Team should negligence be determined by the RDBFI.
- 6.4 Signalling devices, including radio communications or other electronic items and any noise-making devices shall not be used by any Team during practice sessions or races.
- 6.5 Only the drum and drumsticks shall be used to signal the stroke rate. Whistles, rattles, air horns or any other noise-making device are prohibited from use.

7. Teams

- 7.1 A Team Member is any person who has submitted a signed waiver, is eligible to compete in the Race Category for which the Team is registered and is entered on the Practice Roster or Race Roster as the case may be.
- 7.2 The Practice Roster shall be comprised of:
- a. one (1) Team Manager;
 - b. one (1) Team Captain; and,
 - c. a maximum of 30 Crew Members.

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- 7.3 The Race Roster shall be comprised of:
- a. one (1) Team Manager;
 - b. one (1) Team Captain; and,
 - c. a maximum of 26 Crew Members.
- 7.4 The Race Roster must be drawn from the Practice Roster and shall be submitted by the Team Manager to the Race Registrar by 8:00 P.M. on the Thursday preceding Race Day.
- 7.5 Each Team is entirely responsible for its own conduct and compliance with the Official Rules and Regulations of the RDBFI.
- 7.6 Each Team Member is required to abide by the Official Rules and Regulations of the RDBFI.
- 7.7 Any Team that allows a person not listed on the Practice Roster or the Race Roster to practice or race in a Dragon Boat may be disqualified from further participation in the Race at the discretion of the Race Committee.

8. Team Manager and Team Captain

- 8.1 The Team Manager shall be responsible for:
- a. Team conduct as required by the Official Rules and Regulations.
 - b. Liaising with the Race Registrar and RDBFI.
 - c. Gathering and submitting all necessary forms and waivers for the Team.
 - d. Communicating and distributing information to the Team.
 - e. Maintaining the Practice Roster and the Race Roster.
 - f. Presenting Team concerns and comments regarding the Official Rules and Regulations or any other matters associated with the Race or the Festival.

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- 8.2 The Team Captain shall be responsible for:
- a. Team conduct while the Team is on the water.
 - b. Communicating and liaising with RDBFI Officials while the Team is on the water.
 - c. Filing and presenting Race Protests to the Chief Official.

9. Crew Members

- 9.1 Each Dragon Boat Crew shall consist of one (1) drummer, one (1) steersperson, a minimum of 16 paddlers and a maximum of 20 paddlers.
- 9.2 The Team Manager may also be listed as a Crew Member. The Team Captain must be listed as a Crew Member.
- 9.3 A Crew Member can not be a Crew Member of more than one Team in the same Race Category.
- 9.4 A woman can not be a Crew Member on any Team entered in the Men's category.
- 9.5 A man can not be a Crew Member on any Team entered in the Women's category.
- 9.6 A Mixed Team shall be comprised of a minimum of 8 male and 8 female paddlers, a drummer and a steersperson.
- 9.7 A Team cannot race with less than 16 paddlers.
- 9.8 Substitution of Crew Members is only permitted from those Crew Members listed on the Practice Roster or the Race Roster, as the case may be.

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10. Team Sponsorships

- 10.1 The RDBFI retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship and commercial representation for the Race.
- 10.2 Team Sponsorship is not a requirement for any Team to participate in the Race.
- 10.3 Team Sponsors supportive of an individual Team may not be considered as sponsors of the Festival. The Festival is not obligated to individual Team Sponsors, and may refuse any representation by a Team Sponsor on the Festival site or on the water Venue.
- 10.4 Where the involvement of a Team Sponsor is determined not to be in the best interest of the Festival, the RDBFI may refuse an entry of the supported team unless an alternate Team Sponsor is obtained.
- 10.5 Commercial and promotional activities such as the distribution or sale of material or goods for the benefit of any Team Sponsor or Team is not permitted without the prior approval and agreement of the RDBFI.
- 10.6 Representation of the Team Sponsor and the Team shall be limited to:
 - a. Clothing such as team uniforms, hats, head bands, pins, etc.
 - b. One (1) free standing team flag not exceeding 12 square feet in area.
- 10.7 The RDBFI will, where appropriate and possible, acknowledge the support of Team Sponsors as related to their Teams.

SECTION B - PRACTICES

11. Attendance

- 11.1 The practice schedule will be determined by the Race Committee. The Training Coordinator may cancel or postpone a practice session. A practice session that has been postponed will be rescheduled by the Training Coordinator.

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- 11.2 Team attendance at a minimum of two (2) practice sessions is required unless B.11.4 applies. Individual Crew Members must attend a minimum of two (2) practice sessions unless B.11.4 applies.
- 11.3 Teams must begin practices on time and return the Dragon Boat to the dock promptly at the end of their practice.
- 11.4 Teams or individual Crew Members who have been deemed by the Training Coordinator to have demonstrated sufficient proficiency in Dragon Boat racing may be exempted from B.11.2.

12. Marshalling for Practices

- 12.1 Team Managers must present the Practice Roster to the Training Coordinator prior to each practice session.
- 12.2 The Team shall assemble at the Wascana Marina at least 15 minutes prior to the start of its practice session.
- 12.3 The Team Manager and/or Team Captain shall determine Crew placement in the Dragon Boat and Crew rotations prior to the beginning of each practice session.
- 12.4 The Dragon Boat shall not be loaded and shall not leave the dock without the permission of the Training Coordinator.

13. Practice Conduct

- 13.1 Practice sessions will be held at the Wascana Marina.
- 13.2 Each Team will obey all instructions given by the Training Coordinator and/or Coaches.
- 13.3 All Dragon Boats will proceed in a clockwise direction in the practice area and will obey all normal boating practices.

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- 13.4 All Dragon Boats will maintain a safe distance from all other marine craft at all times and must not impede the progress of any other marine craft in the vicinity.

14. Penalties

- 14.1 A Team that fails to comply with the Practice Rules may be disqualified from participation in the Race at the discretion of the Race Committee.

SECTION C - RACES

15. Competition Committee

- 15.1 The Competition Committee shall be the Chief Official and two other Race Officials appointed by the Race Committee.
- 15.2 The Competition Committee shall have jurisdiction and supervision over the conduct of the Race.
- 15.3 The Competition Committee shall hear and decide all race protests.

16. Race Schedule

- 16.1 The Race Schedule shall be determined by the Race Committee.
- 16.2 Each Team shall be assigned to its initial race(s) by random draw and to subsequent races in accordance with the Race Schedule. Lane assignments shall be determined by random draw.
- 16.3 The starting time for each race shall be in accordance with the time listed in the Race Schedule.
- 16.4 If there is a time delay in the schedule, the Race Committee will make every attempt to notify Team Managers of the new starting times.

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- 16.5 If a race must be rerun, the Race Committee will insert it into the Race Schedule where it is determined to be appropriate and will make every attempt to notify Team Managers.

17. Marshalling for Races

- 17.1 The Team shall assemble at the Team Assembly area at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of their race.
- 17.2 Each Crew must load the Dragon Boat assigned to it in accordance with the instructions of the Dock Marshall. After the Dragon Boat is loaded, the Crew must proceed directly to the starting area on the instructions of the Dock Marshall.
- 17.3 Crews are under the control of the on-water Referee and/or Starter as soon as their Dragon Boat leaves the loading area and while in the starting area.
- 17.4 Each Crew shall position itself in the lane assigned to it.
- 17.5 A Crew arriving at the start line after the race has been started, may be disqualified by the Starter and not allowed to race.
- 17.6 A Crew impeding the progress of a race may be disqualified from further participation in the Race at the discretion of the Race Committee.

18. Starting Procedure

- 18.1 The objective is to give all Crews a dead, even start on the defined start line. Dragon Boats shall be started by their bows.
- 18.2 The procedure to be followed by the Referee(s) and Starter is:
- a. The Starter shall communicate the countdown as follows:

"5 minutes to start"
"3 minutes to start"
"1 minute to start"

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- b. The Referee(s) will space Crews behind the start line and the Referee furthest from the Starter shall say "Mr./Ms. Starter the race is yours".
- c. The Starter shall ask each Steersperson "Boat number --, do you have a course?". The Steersperson shall signal to the Starter in the affirmative when the Crew is ready and positioned in its lane.
- d. The start commands shall be:
 - "Paddles Up"
 - "Are you ready?"
 - Followed by a 2 to 4 second pause and the sound of the starting horn or the command "Go"
- e. The Referee(s) and/or Starter may interrupt the start procedure or recall a race after it has started, in the event that the alignment and/or spacing of a Crew's Dragon Boat jeopardized a fair start.
- f. The Referee(s) and/or Starter may recall a race after it has started by sounding an air horn.
- g. In a timed race, a Crew attempting to gain an unfair advantage at the start will be assessed a 30 second time penalty by the Starter.
- h. In a placing race, a Crew attempting to gain an unfair advantage at the start will be disqualified by the Starter.

19. Race Conduct

- 19.1 Each Dragon Boat shall keep its own water throughout the race by keeping to the assigned lane and not interfering with other Dragon Boats in the race. The water of a Dragon Boat is the lane to the left of the numbered marker buoys.
- 19.2 Each Dragon Boat shall keep to its own water by travelling in a straight line from the start line to the finish line.
- 19.3 Each Dragon Boat shall finish the race within its own water.

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- 19.4 It shall be considered a foul when, after the race has commenced:
- a. Any Dragon Boat, Crew Member or Crew Member's paddle comes in contact with another Dragon Boat, Crew member or Crew Member's paddle, unless, the Referee determines that the contact is so slight as not to influence the outcome of the race.
 - b. A Dragon Boat deliberately steers into another Dragon Boat, regardless of whether the other Dragon Boat is in its own water.
- 19.5 When a Dragon Boat is in a position to overtake another Dragon Boat during a race, it is the duty of the Dragon Boat overtaking to keep clear of the Dragon Boat being overtaken at all times. Similarly, the Dragon Boat that is being overtaken is not allowed to alter its course to make difficulties for the overtaking Dragon Boat.
- 19.6 The Referee(s) have jurisdiction over the race and all matters connected with the race from the time the race is started until it is finished and their decision in all cases shall be final. The Referee(s) shall be the sole judge of a Dragon Boat's water and proper course during the race.
- 19.7 The Referees shall have equal power to judge, stop the race, caution or disqualify any Crew for an infraction of the Race Rules.
- 19.8 In the event of a foul or other infraction of the Race Rules, a Referee shall have the power to:
- a. Stop the race, assess any penalties and order the race restarted.
 - b. Allow the race to continue while assessing penalties.
 - c. In a timed race, assess a 30 second time penalty to the offending Crew.
 - d. In a placing race, disqualify the offending Crew.
- 19.9 If a Crew is disqualified for a foul or other infraction of the Race Rules, the Referee shall advise the Crew at the time of the infraction.

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- 19.10 If a Crew is assessed a time penalty for a foul or other infraction of the Race Rules, the Referee shall advise the Crew at the finish of the race.
- 19.11 If in the opinion of the Referee, a Dragon Boat is swamped or deliberately capsized, the Crew may be disqualified from any official standing in the Race and may be disqualified from further participation in the Race at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 19.12 Crews must remain in their Dragon Boat upon completion of their race and must return directly to the loading area. They must then disembark in an orderly fashion.

20. Race Course

- 20.1 The official race course is 500 meters in length and divided into 15 metre wide lanes.
- 20.2 The start line and finish line are to be marked with buoys or similar devices positioned between each lane.
- 20.3 Where possible, the course is to be marked with buoys positioned on the outer boundary.

21. Race Finish/Scoring

- 21.1 The finish line is reached when the nose of the Dragon Boat passes across the finish line. All Crew Members must be in the Dragon Boat at the completion of the race or the Team will be recorded as "Did Not Finish" (DNF).
- 21.2 The Chief Finish Line Judge will determine the order and time for each Dragon Boat as it crosses the finish line.
- 21.3 A fair race is signalled by the Referee with a white flag at the conclusion of the race. A red flag is used to signal that a foul or infraction occurred during the race.

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- 21.4 In the Adult Mixed Recreational Category, Team standing will be determined by the total time of all races. In accordance with the number of lanes, the corresponding number of Teams will advance to a final race in which Team standing will be determined by placings.
- 21.5 In all other Categories, Team standings will be determined by timings or placings as may be determined by the Race Committee in establishing the Race Schedule.

22. Protests

- 22.1 A protest may be lodged with the Chief Official, by the Team Captain only, upon arrival at the dock after completion of the race.
- 22.2 The Competition Committee shall hear and decide on all protests.
- 22.3 A fee of \$10 will be charged for each protest.
- 22.4 Protests to be heard by the Competition Committee are limited to race conduct and race rules only.

23. Penalties

- 23.1 Penalties may be imposed by the Race Committee on a Team or its Crew Members for reported:
- a. Violation of safety procedures.
 - b. Infraction of stated rules and regulations.
 - c. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - d. Disobeying instructions from Race Officials.
 - e. Wilful damage or loss of equipment.
 - f. Violation of sponsorship rules.

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- g. Misrepresentation of the Race or Event or the Race or Event organizers.

23.2 Penalties may include:

- a. Disqualification from any official standing and/or awards.
- b. Disqualification of the Crew or individual Crew Members from further participation in the Race.
- c. Financial reimbursement for damage or loss of equipment.
- d. Disqualification of the Crew or individual Crew Members from participation in future Races.

24. Awards

- 24.1 Teams will only be eligible for awards in the Race Category that they have entered in and are eligible for as determined by the Race Committee.
- 24.2 All trophies and Championship Cups will remain the permanent property of the RDBFI.

SECTION D - JUNIOR DIVISION

25. Specific Rules and Regulations

- 25.1 Crew Members must be 18 years of age or under as of August 1st. A Junior Mixed Team shall be composed of a minimum of 8 male and 8 female paddlers.
- 25.2 The Team Manager must be 19 years of age or over.
- 25.3 The Team Manager must attend all practices and races with the Crew.
- 25.4 Any infraction of the Official Rules and regulations by the Crew or individual Crew Members may result in the disqualification of the Team from the Race.