

SHUSWAP DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION A – ADMINISTRATION

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival reserves the right to change the rules and regulations stated in this document without notice.
- 1.2 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival has the sole right to construe, interpret and enforce the Official Rules and Regulations.
- 1.3 Any decisions rendered on or under these rules and regulations are conclusive and final.
- 1.4 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival reserves the right to add, cancel, or make any changes to the divisional categories or the race structure.
- 1.5 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival reserves the right to limit the number of teams that may participate in any division.
- 1.6 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry into the festival.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Any team conforming to the registration criteria and Official Rules and Regulations.

3. REGISTRATION

- 3.1 Each team must submit a completed team registration form to the Festival Registrar.
- 3.2 To be valid, the registration must be accompanied by payment of fee.
- 3.3 Fees are payable to SARP.
- 3.4 Registrar must receive written notice of withdrawal at least fourteen (14) days prior to day of event. No refund, in whole or in part, will be made if notice is received in less than fourteen (14) days before race day.
- 3.5 A deduction of one hundred dollars (\$100) will be charged for all withdrawals regardless of date of withdrawal.

- 3.6 Once race roster is full, all other entries will be held on a wait list in the order in which they were received. Cheques covering entry fees will be returned to respective clubs after final race roster is confirmed.
- 3.7 Changes to the Team Registration Form such as team name, team description and team participants will not be accepted fourteen (14) days prior to event.
- 3.8 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 Dragon Boat racing, accept the risk, and thus waive the right to any cause of action against any or all of the sponsors, organizers, the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival, Shuswap Association for Rowing and Paddling and the City of Salmon Arm, for injury to person(s) or loss/damage to personal property.
- 3.9 Waivers must be **received** by the Registrar seven (7) days before festival date.
- 3.10 For participants under the age of eighteen (18), parents or guardians must also sign the waiver.

4. RACE CATEGORIES

- 4.1 Mixed – boat crew must be comprised of a minimum of eight (8) female paddlers with the balance of the crew being of either gender.
- 4.2 Women – All paddlers must be female.
- 4.3 Masters (mixed) – all paddlers, steerspersons and drummers must be 55+
- 4.4 All teams may use a drummer and/or steersperson of either gender.
- 4.5 Should regular steersperson or drummer be concerned about water conditions on race day, they may borrow a more experienced steersperson and/or drummer as long as a festival waiver has been signed by them. They do not have to appear on the team roster.

5. TEAM MEMBERS

- 5.1 A team member is any person who is listed on the team roster and has signed a waiver.

- 5.2 Official team will consist of a maximum of twenty six (26) persons.
- 5.3 Each boat shall carry a crew consisting of a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of twenty (20) paddlers in addition to one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.
- 5.6 Each team must designate a Captain and a Team Manager. Both must be 19 years of age or older on or before race day.
- 5.5 Any team or team member who allows a non-registered person to participate as a crew member will be subject to disqualification.
- 5.6 Paddlers will be permitted to paddle on one team in each category as long as their names appear on the rosters and they have signed the waiver for each team.

SECTION B – RACES

6.0 EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 Racing fleet will be provided by Festival organizers.
- 6.2 Wood club paddles will be provided. Personal paddles are permitted (including carbon composite) provided they meet festival size specifications.
- 6.2(a) Adaptive devices required to facilitate participation by disabled paddlers must receive Festival Committee approval prior to race day.
- 6.3 Paddlers are not permitted to alter the supplied paddles in any way, including, but not limited to; applying sticky or waxy substances to the shaft, roughening, or taping the hand gripping surfaces.
- 6.4 Club PFD's will be provided. Personal equipment may be used only if they are Department of Transport or Canadian Coast Guard approved. No "self-inflating jackets" will be permitted. Dock manager has the right to refuse use of unapproved PFD's.

- 6.5 Drums, Steering Paddles, Dragon Heads and Tails are provided by the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival. In inclement weather, drum sticks may be prohibited to protect the skin of the drum
- 6.6 Only the Drums and Drum Sticks provided shall be used to signal the stroke rate. Electronic devices including radio communications, signaling devices (such as whistles, rattles, air horns, or any other noise-makers) are strictly prohibited.
- 6.7 All boats, paddles, drums, PFD's and other equipment used during the races must be returned intact and in full. Teams failing to do so will be charged for the replacement costs of items should the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival Committee determine loss/damage was due to negligence.

7.0 COURSE DESCRIPTION

- 7.1 Race length is 500 metres. 250 metre sprints may also be included.
- 7.2 Lanes – There are no marked lanes. Each lane has a designated number with lane (1) being closest to the wharf.
- 7.3 Start Line – Marked with buoys positioned between each lane.
- 7.4 Finish Line – Marked with buoys and Judges Stand located on wharf.
- 7.5 The correct course for each boat is a straight line from its starting position to the finish.

8.0 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 8.1 The race program is organized into different divisions as determined by the Festival Committee. The Race Director develops a contest structure, race schedule and competition program by taking into account such factors as the number and type of teams entered, minimum number of teams needed to form separate divisions, and other practical considerations.
- 8.2 Team placements in the initial heats and lane assignments shall be random or based on seeding method.
- 8.3 Team standings will be by finish time for each division.
- 8.4 Teams will advance or drop back in accordance with the structure of the scheduled competition.

9.0 MARSHALLING

- 9.1 Team managers must ensure that teams check into the Crew Assembly area at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of their heat. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from participation in the heat and relegation to last place in that heat.
- 9.2 Crews will be directed to the final Marshalling area where they will pick up PFD's and paddles, then line up according to their pre-planned seating order.
- 9.3 Crews must board in accordance with Dock Marshal's instructions.
- 9.4 Crews must board the boat allocated to them and must race in the lane assigned to them by the race officials.

10.0 STARTING PROCEDURE

- 10.1 Team must proceed directly to the start area, by the designated route, as soon as the crew has boarded and has been cleared by the dock officials. Penalties may be assessed by race officials for any delays in proceeding to the Start Line.
- 10.2 When approaching the Start Line, it is important that the crew adjust their paddling so that forward boat speed is kept to a minimum to ensure no part of the boat crosses the Start Line. Boats doing so may risk disqualification.
- 10.3 Taking into account the wind and/or current conditions, it is the responsibility of the Steersperson to ensure that the boat is properly positioned in the lane at the start of the race.
- 10.4 In order to line up the dragon head of all competitors evenly with the Start Line, the Starter's Assistant will address individual boats to either move forward or backward or to stand still.
- 10.5 In the event that there is no dragon head or the head is seriously damaged, the most forward part of the affected boat will be the reference point for aligning that boat and determining the moment of finish.

11.0 START SEQUENCE

11.1 The Starter controls the count down to signal start of race. (Starter and Starter's Assistant are onboard motorized boat left of the buoys at the Start Line.)

11.2 Starters commands will be:-

“PADDLES UP” Drummer signifies “ready” by raising hand.

“ATTENTION PLEASE” followed by a few seconds pause.

AN AIR HORN BLAST OR SIMILAR SIGNAL WILL START THE RACE. (WILL OCCUR 1-5 SECONDS AFTER “ATTENTION PLEASE” COMMAND.)

11.3 Always anticipate a standing start, however, in the event of adverse weather a rolling start may be used by the starter. Teams will be notified as they approach if a rolling start is called for.

11.4 The finish time is recorded when the nose of the dragon head crosses the finish line. But the race is considered complete when the full body of the boat has crossed the finish line with full crew intact.

11.5 Once over the finish line, steerers must remain in their lane and sight other boats in their area before starting back to the dock.

12.0 FALSE STARTS

12.1 Any boat that is out ahead, that is already moving or is being paddled ahead when the air horn sounds, will be cited for a false start.

12.2 Assistant Starter or Starter may cite false starts for any other condition that compromises a fair start.

12.3 Should a false start constitute a safety hazard, the Starter or Assistant Starter will employ whatever means necessary to stop all crews from paddling including, but not limited to, display of a red flag or repeated blasts from horns, whistles or other noisemakers.

12.4 Two (2) false starts by any one team may result in disqualification.

13.0 RESTARTS

- 13.1 A re-start, indicated by a 2nd blast of the horn, can be called by an official within 50 m of a race start.
- 13.2 A team may request a re-start within 50 m of the start of the race if there is interference beyond their control. The boat must stop in its respective lane and the steersperson must raise his/her arm indicating they have been obstructed.
- 13.3 There will be absolutely no grounds for a re-start once boats have passed the 50 metre mark, except one that is initiated by the Officials under extraordinary circumstances.

14.0 RACING PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- 14.1 Protests by teams will be limited to race conduct and race rule infractions only. Teams may protest illegal paddle/PFD/Seat, non-compliance with roster rules, or collision initiated by another team. Teams may not protest boat/lane assignment, interference that did **not** result in collision or collision with course markers.
- 14.2 A protest must be lodged by the team manager (and only the team manager) to the Race Director verbally within fifteen (15) minutes after finish of race followed by a written protest within thirty (30) minutes after the race finish.
- 14.3 Protest must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 fee.
- 14.4 Crew members, other than team managers, who approach race officials with protests will receive one (1) warning, then will risk team disqualification for any subsequent approach.
- 14.5 The Race Director, upon receipt of a protest, shall summon other race officials involved, to a hearing no later than thirty (30) minutes from the conclusion of the race. After the hearing, the Race Director will convey their decision to the person filing the protest. The decision is final.

SECTION C – OVERALL CONDUCT

15.0 GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- 15.1 Participants are at all times to behave in a good sportsmanlike manner. Any attempt to win a race by less than honourable means or by deliberately breaking the rules will result in a team disqualification
- (a) Any attempt to “ride wash”, the use of another boat’s bow wave or wake to gain advantage, will result in disqualification.
 - (b) When overtaking another boat, the overtaking boat is to stay clear of the boat being overtaken who, in turn, must not alter course to impede the overtaking boat.
- 15.2 Violation of safety procedures and sponsorship rules, disrespecting race officials, willful damage to property and/or equipment, impairment through use of drugs, alcohol by any one team member could result in a team disqualification.

16.0 SAFETY

- 16.1 Each person registered to race in the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival is responsible for his/her own safety.
- 16.2 Approved PFD’s must be worn at all times on the water along with clothing appropriate to water and race conditions.
- 16.3 Paddlers with physical restrictions must notify the Registrar and the Team Captain.
- 16.4 In the event of a crew being in distress, including “man overboard”, dragon boat is to be brought to a complete stop and rescue boats notified by whatever means necessary.
- 16.5 All injuries incurred during a race must be reported immediately to the Dock Marshall and the Team Manager who must then provide a written report to the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival Committee.
- 16.6 Emergency Procedures
- (a) Steersperson takes charge of boat crew until help arrives.
 - (b) Crew must hold onto the boat and not attempt to swim ashore.
 - (c) Each crew member must verify “buddy” is safe.

- (d) Follow the instructions of the rescue boat
- (e) If Steersperson is incapacitated, captain takes charge of the boat until rescuers arrive.

SECTION D – FESTIVAL HOUSE RULES

17.0 FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- 17.1 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival is hosted by the Shuswap Association for Rowing and Paddling (SARP).
- 17.2 The Festival takes place June 25, 2011
- 17.3 The Festival Site is the Marine Park in Salmon Arm.
- 17.4 Races start at 8 AM sharp and run through until completed.
- 17.5 Individual team tents may be erected but under no circumstances are you to put pegs of any length into the Marine Park grounds for any reason.

18.0 SPONSORSHIP

- 18.1 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship and commercial representation for the Race. All photos taken by a sanctioned photographer during the event may be used by the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival or the Shuswap Association for Rowing and Paddling, for advertising and/or marketing without the expressed consent of the individuals in the subject photos.
- 18.2 Sponsors directly supportive of the Festival will be acknowledged and represented as sponsors of the Dragon Boat Festival and/or the Shuswap Association for Rowing and Paddling.
- 18.3 Individual team sponsors are not considered sponsors of the race and/or the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival. Any commercial representation of such sponsors on site will be refused with the exception of:-
 - (a) Clothing such as team uniforms, hats or head bands
 - (b) Pins

18.4 The Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival Committee reserves the right to refuse displays of sponsorship if it determines the sponsors involved jeopardizes the interests of the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival or the Shuswap Association for Rowing and Paddling.

18.5 Under no circumstances will any individual or any individual team fundraise on or near the site of the Shuswap Dragon Boat Festival.

19.0 AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

19.1 Awards will be presented at the Gazebo as close to the completion of the final race as possible.

19.2 BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR/SUPPORTER CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AS CLOSE TO NOON AS POSSIBLE.