



RULES AND REGULATIONS Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

1) TEAMS & ELIGIBILITY

A team roster is allowed to hold up to 25 crew members. All teams registered for The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival must have a minimum of 8 female paddlers for a total race compliment of 20 paddlers and 1 drummer in the race boat for each race. If you have your own steersperson you may carry 26 members on your roster. If your team does not have a steersperson one will be supplied by the Festival, at no cost to your team. We strongly encourage all teams to train their own steersperson. Under special circumstances, and only by approval of the Festival Co-ordinator, a team roster may be expanded; e.g. for health reasons. Requests for an expanded roster must be received in writing by fax (705-728-4322, marked "Attention: Barrie Dragon Boat Festival") or e-mail (bpdragonboat@barrie.ca) at the event office by July 31 of the event year. **Note:** teams with an expanded roster will still only receive 25 festival gifts.

All registered team members must be sixteen (16) years of age or older in the year of competition and no team member under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to practice or race without written consent and a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian. Please contact your Team Captain for the required documents.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A final team roster, along with **all** signed waivers, must be submitted to the event office by **August 1 of the event year**. Hard copy waivers that are incomplete, do not comply with the age requirement or are not legible will not be accepted. Teams will not be permitted to race if all the team waivers, matching the team roster, have not been submitted to event officials.

AN INDIVIDUAL MAY REGISTER FOR ONLY ONE TEAM AND PADDLE ONLY FOR THAT PARTICULAR TEAM.

The Team Captain shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her team, and for communicating and distributing all practice and race information to the team. She/he is responsible to ensure that team members submit a completed waiver form to the Dragon Boat Coordinator prior to boarding the boat for their first practice, and/or collecting and submitting the final roster and waivers to the event office no later than **August 1 of the event year**.

2) SAFETY & WAIVERS

All team members must sign a waiver prior to participation in any practice session or race. The Team Captain is responsible for duplicating and distributing said waivers to team members, and ensuring every member has submitted a signed waiver prior to boarding the boat for the first time.

Be aware of forecast weather conditions during practices and on race day. The Dragon Boat Coordinator will be responsible for the suspension or cancellation of practices due to hazardous weather or marine conditions. In this case, attempts will be made to re-schedule the practice; however, this provision is based on availability. Teams not showing up for scheduled practices will forfeit their registration practice and/or will not receive a refund of the standard practice fee of \$90.

All decisions regarding practice cancellations due to weather will be decided at the water, at the time of the practice. The Festival Office does monitor the weather forecast during practice season.

A referee boat will follow each race, and a safety boat will be on standby. If your dragon boat veers off course or becomes swamped, please remain with the boat and wait for the referee and/or safety boat to arrive. Follow their instructions!

Wearing a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is **mandatory** and these will be supplied by the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival. Bring your own approved PFD if you prefer.

Dragon boating is a weather dependant event. Should the water conditions not be considered safe on race day, the race schedule may be adjusted accordingly. In the event of extreme weather conditions that result in the cancellation of races there will be no refunds.

Alcohol may only be consumed in licensed areas. Festival officials reserve the right to refuse access to the dragon boats to any individual appearing to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3) **DRAGON BOATS AND EQUIPMENT**

The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival will be using Great White North dragon boats. Depending on conditions and availability, The Moore Dragonslayer and Barrie's Ribbons of Hope dragon boat will also be used. On race day each boat is fully equipped with dragon head, dragon tail, paddles, steering oar, drum and drumsticks. The boat is not dressed for practices.

Paddles will be supplied, as required. Teams may use their own paddles as long as they conform to required specifications. Any unmodified *Grey Owl* dragon boat paddle or any paddle supplied by race organizers will meet event specifications. No substitutions.

When equipment is damaged or lost through the wilful, reckless or negligent actions of a person or team, then that person or team shall be responsible for financially reimbursing the Festival.

4) **RACE VENUE AND LOGISTICS**

The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival is held at Heritage Park on Kempenfelt Bay. The racecourse is a **300-metre course**, clearly marked with neon buoys. Electronic timing with manual back-up and finish line video replay will record official race times and placing.

The start sequence of the race will initially be controlled by the referee, who will in turn hand the race over to the starting official. The referee will direct the teams to the start line (pre-start position). Once each boat is in the pre-start position the referee will hand the race to the starter. As soon as all boats are aligned and stationary at the start, the starter will voice the command, "ATTENTION PLEASE" and within a two (2) second period the start cannon will fire. A five (5) second time penalty will be issued to any team that begins paddling, in whole or in part, prior to the start cannon. In all cases, the starter can call back the race for a re-start.

Once a race has begun, each team is responsible for remaining in **the centre** of their respective lane until they cross the finish line. A team that wanders outside the racecourse or into another lane may be disqualified (DSQ), particularly if they interfere in any way with the progress of another boat. A team that enters into another team's lane but does not interfere with the progress of another boat, may continue but will be disqualified if the team does not cross the finish line in the team's own lane. **The decision as to whether interference has occurred is made by the referee, whose decision is final, without appeal.** A team that is interfering, or is about to interfere, with another boat may be told to stop their boat by a race official. If the team does not stop their boat they will be disqualified.

The finish line is marked with RED buoys. The finish of each boat is recorded as the dragon's nose breaks the plane of the finish sight line approximately 1 metre behind the red buoys. All crew members must be in the boat at the end of the race or the boat will be recorded as 'Did Not Finish' (DNF). The decision of the judges is final.

Upon completion of their race, all crews must return immediately to the dock mooring area and follow the instructions of the dock marshals so that the next heat can begin on schedule.

Official times and finishing positions will be announced as results become available and will be posted on-site. Team advancement into divisional semi-finals will be posted as soon as they are determined by qualifying heats.

5) RACE SCHEDULE FORMAT & AWARDS

The race schedule for the first set of heats will be available on the website (www.barriedragonboatfestival.ca) approximately one week prior to the event. It will also be posted on-site on race day. Each team will race a minimum of three times on Saturday, weather permitting: in a qualifying heat plus subsequent seeding of teams for divisional semi-finals and finals. Teams may participate in Challenge Cups, where eligible. Closing Ceremonies at the finish of race day will include the presentation of trophies/awards. **Note:** if racing is incomplete due to weather or for other reasons, the official results will be based on completed rounds of racing. Under such circumstances Challenge Cup results will remain best time of the day, achieved within the completed rounds of racing.

6) SPONSORSHIPS

The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship and commercial representation for the event. Unauthorised use of the Festival logo is prohibited.

Teams are encouraged to solicit individual team sponsors. However, representation for these sponsors is limited to team uniforms, accessories and a flag or banner not to exceed 1.5 square metres which can be used **only** on the team's tent to identify the team's on-site assembly area in the "Team Village".

Any other promotional or visual displays must receive prior approval from the organizing committee. Enquiries regarding event sponsorship, on site promotions or product sampling should be made to the Festival office: bpldragonboat@barrie.ca or 728-1010 ext: 7137 alternatively, ext: 7039.

7) SALES OR SOLICITATIONS FROM TEAM TENTS

Due to city permit requirements, selling or soliciting **is not permitted** from team tents in the Team Village. Teams wishing to sell items or have a fundraising booth at the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival must contact the Festival office: bpldragonboat@barrie.ca or 728-1010 ext: 7137 alternatively, ext. 7039. A special vendors rate can be arranged for teams registered in the Festival.

NOTE: The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival and it's officials, reserve the right to disqualify any team considered to be in violation of the above listed Rules and Regulations.