



DBNT Race Rules and Regulations

DBNT Race Rules and Regulations

Contents

General

Entry

Eligibility

Definitions

 Team

 Crew

 Competitive Division

 Social Division

 Corporate Division

 Open Category

 Women's Category

 Mixed Category

 Mixed Youth Category

Races and Points System

Race Officials

Safety

Race Procedure

Race Distance

Race Results

Race Misconduct

Race Protests

Race Equipment

Basic Dragon Boat Commands

General

- The Peak Body of Dragon Boat Racing in the Northern Territory is Dragon Boat Northern Territory Inc (DBNT), henceforth “the Organiser”.
- Any team that fails to observe the rules and regulations may be disqualified at the discretion of the Chief Marshal.
- Teams must follow the direction of the Race Officials.
- Each team must nominate a Team Manager who must be present while the team is under the control of the Race Officials.
- The Organiser reserves the right to refuse entry to any team.

Entry

- Acceptance of Team Entry is conditional on responsibility being borne that the Team Manager, Coach and each team member is aware of, and complies with the Rules & Regulations of DBNT Inc. and with the stated requirements of the Organiser, whose decisions in all matters relating thereto, including the suitability and eligibility of applicants is final and binding.
- The entry fee paid is refundable should a team decide to withdraw no earlier than a week before the advertised event date or should the event be cancelled for reasons beyond the Organiser’s control.
- Entry fees must be paid at least one week prior to the advertised event date.

Race Eligibility

- Any local, interstate or international teams may enter provided that they meet the safety and entry requirements as detailed by the Organiser.

Definitions

- A “Team” may comprise of one or more Crews plus officials and reserves.
- A “Crew” consists of ten (10) paddlers, plus one (1) drummer and two (2) reserves. The Sweep (steerer) is provided by the Organiser and is not included in the Crew. An individual may be a member of more than one Crew.

Divisions

- “Competitive” – A Competitive paddler must be a financial member of DBNT. There is no limit on the training undertaken. The use of T-Bar paddles is permitted.
- “Social” – A Social paddler must be a financial member of DBNT. Social paddlers do not train more than once per week. The use of T-Bar paddles is permitted.
- “Corporate” – A Corporate paddler is a member of a corporate organisation. A Corporate crew must have at least eight (8) Corporate paddlers and is not permitted more than two (2) training sessions in the two (2) weeks prior to a regatta. The use of T-Bar paddles is NOT permitted.

Race Categories

- “Open” - crews may comprise of all male paddlers (female paddlers may be substituted) and a drummer of either gender.
 - “Women’s” - crews comprise of female paddlers (substitution of male paddlers is not permitted) and a drummer of either gender.
 - “Mixed” - crews may comprise equally of male and female paddlers, male paddlers shall not outnumber females, there may be any number of females, and a drummer may be of either gender.
 - “Mixed Youth” – crews may comprise equally of male and female paddlers and shall not be over the age of 18 as at 31st December. A drummer may be of either gender and may be of any age. All persons under 18 are required to wear a personal floatation device.
-
- A minimum of 2 participating crews are required to enable a race Category and/or Division to be included in the program. Crews that nominate for under subscribed Categories/Divisions will be placed in the most appropriate Category/Division at the discretion of the Organiser. These crews will only be eligible for competition points in their original nominated category and may not be eligible for competition points for the category in which they have been placed.

Races and Points System

- Each crew will contest three races in their allotted Race Category.
- Points will be awarded to each team and the team with the most points at the end of three races will be declared the winner of that Race Category.
- Points are allocated as follows: 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place and 1 point for third place.
- In the event of a tie at the end of three races, there will be a race-off to determine the winner.

Race Officials

- The Race Officials shall comprise of the following:
 - Chief Marshall
 - Boat Handlers/Marshals (4)
 - Scorer
 - Commentator
 - Starter
 - Finishers (2)
- An Adjudication Panel is to consist of the Chief Marshall, Scorer and Finishers in the event of a protest or requirement to adjudicate misconduct. If required the Panel may include the Starter.
- Boat Handlers/Marshals are to report any behavior that they believe may adversely affect or have affected the outcome of any race to the Chief Marshall.
- The Chief Marshall may call upon the Boat Handlers/Marshals to report on their observations of races at any time.

Safety

- All teams will be a maximum of 10 paddlers, plus drummer and sweep, unless otherwise determined.
- It is a mandatory requirement that all crew members can swim at least 50 metres wearing light clothing. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that all crew members can comply with this requirement. Any crew member that is unable to comply with this requirement must wear a life jacket whilst in the boat.
- All Youth paddlers (under 18 years of age) must wear a personal floatation device.
- Team Managers must ensure that crew members are conversant with the buddy system in the event of boat capsize.
- Paddlers identified by marshals as appearing intoxicated will not be permitted to race. DBNT encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol.
- Only DBNT accredited Sweeps will be permitted to sweep for a team.
- Sweeps are to keep a minimum distance of not less than three metres apart from an adjacent boat in a race.
- Drummers must be a minimum age of 12 years.
- The Chief Marshal may decide to discontinue the event as a result of inclement weather.

Race Procedure

- Any team that has not moved from the marshalling area and is making their way to the start line within 10 minutes after being called up by the race commentator will be disqualified.
- Prior to the start, the Sweep is to position the boat in the assigned lane.
- Sweeps are to keep a minimum distance of not less than three metres apart from an adjacent boat in a race.
- The first two rows of paddlers in the boat are to either draw right or draw left to ensure that the boat is aligned with the finish.
- The last two rows of paddlers in the boat are to back paddle to ensure that the boat is aligned with the start.
- With the exception of the first and last two rows of paddlers all other paddlers should be in the resting position.
- When the Starter is satisfied that all boats are aligned across the starting line, "**ATTENTION PLEASE**" will be announced, followed by "**GO!**" or a blast from an air horn.
- A second blast of the air horn indicates a false start and the race will be restarted.
- Drummers must drum throughout the entirety of the race.
- When teams have finished their race and moved away from the marshalling area, the race commentator will call up those teams that are programmed to race next.

Race Distance

- Races may be run over a distance that is determined by the Organiser. Race distances are normally 250, 500 and 1000 metres.

Race Results

- The Finishing Judges shall determine the results of each race.
- The decision of the Finishing Judges shall be final.
- Race results will be publicised by the Announcer following advice from the Finishers, and marked on a scoreboard by the Scorer.

Race Misconduct

- The Race officials shall disqualify any team that fails to return to the starting line after a false start or causes two false starts.
- Any boat that does not keep to its assigned lane and is deemed by the Chief Marshall to have interfered with another boat will be disqualified.
- The Organiser may require the organisation/club which enters a team to indemnify all costs of repair/replacement of racing equipment and boats wilfully damaged by any or the entire team members including all related incidental costs.
- If collision affects the outcome of a race the race officials have the right to restart the race without the participation of a disqualified team or teams.

Race Protests

- Any protest must be lodged with the Adjudication Panel within 10 minutes of the result announcement. The protest must be lodged on the Protest form, which will be available from the Organiser. The Team Manager must lodge the protest form.
- A protest fee of \$100.00 in cash must accompany each protest.
- If the protest is unsuccessful the protest fee will not be refunded.
- If the protest is successful the protest fee will be refunded and the race result will be determined by the Adjudication Panel, which may or may not include a re-run of the race in question at the Adjudication Panel's discretion.

Race Equipment

- The Organiser shall provide the dragon boats, sweep oar and paddles used by the competitors and the allocation of this equipment shall be at the discretion of the Organiser.
- T bar paddles are permitted only in the Social and Competitive divisions and are not to be used in the Corporate division.
- The Organiser will not be responsible for the failure of any equipment during a race and each team is advised to carefully check the boat, sweep oar and paddles allocated to them prior to racing.
- The Organiser will dress the dragon boats with a dragon head, tail, drum and drumsticks and lane identification flag.

- Competitors or teams shall not make any modifications or additions to the boat or the equipment.
- Seat padding is permitted but should be flexible and no thicker than 2cm.
- No electrical, electronic or radio amplifying equipment of any kind is permitted in the boat.
- Wax may be used on seats and paddle shafts.

Basic Dragon Boat Commands

- Team Captains and coaches are responsible for ensuring that all competing crew members are familiar with and understand the following dragon boat commands:
 - *Resting* The paddler is leaning forward with paddle horizontal to the water at angle of 45 degrees to the gunwale. This position is adopted just prior to the race starter calling, "Attention Please".
 - *Attention Please* From the resting position the paddle is placed in a vertical position with the bottom hand in the water. This is the actual starting position and allows the catch phase of the stroke to be initiated on the start of the race.
 - *Paddles Up* The same position adopted at Attention Please, this command is used in all training situations.
 - *Go* Commence paddling
 - *Easy/Let it Run* Stop paddling and remove paddles from the water. This allows the boat to glide through the water unassisted.
 - *Dig Water* Stop paddling but the paddles are left in the water to bring the boat to a stop. Used in the event of an emergency or to wash off boat speed.
 - *Draw Left/Right* The first three paddlers on the left or right side of the boat use a stroke perpendicular to the boat, moving the bow of the boat in the appropriate direction.
 - *Back Set/Back Paddle* Paddles placed in the water at the hip and pushed forward to reverse the boat.
 - *Brace the Boat* Paddles on the water perpendicular to the boat. Adopted in the event of paddlers changing position or in rough and unstable situations.