



# Competition Rules and Regulations

## 1. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.1 The organizer reserves to right to expel teams and/or individual participants who display unacceptable behavior during the competition (i.e. fighting, verbal abuse, etc.).
- 1.2 The decision by the race officials is final. Any physical and/or verbal abuse towards our race official staff may be subject to crew expulsion.

## 2. SAFETY

- 2.1 Competitors must be able to swim at least 50 meters wearing light clothing with or without a personal floatation aids (PFD). It is the responsibility of the Boat Captain/Team Manager to ensure that all members of the team comply with this rule.
- 2.2 It is compulsory for all competitors to properly wear a personal floatation device (PFD). Wearing a PFD does not exempt the crew from Cl. 2.1.

**2.2.1 Crews that violate Cl. 2.2 will be awarded a 3 second time penalty (TP).**

- 2.3 Each athlete is solely responsible for his or her own safety and fitness during the practice sessions and during races. It is therefore the Team Manager/Boat Captain's responsibility to look into the safety of each crew. No responsibility will be accepted by the Organizer or any other individual or organization connected directly or indirectly with the races and they will not be held responsible for any death, injury, damage or loss incurred by the members of a team.

## 3. RACE CATEGORY

### 3.1 Race category:

- Recreational League
  - A. 200m Standard Boat 22 Person Crew – Champion IDBF 1222
    - Open class
- Premier League
  - B. 200m Standard Boat 22 Person Crew – Champion IDBF 1222
    - Open Class
    - Mixed Class
    - Women Class



#### **4. CREW COMPOSITION**

4.1 Crew composition for the following competition classes is provided below:

- Open Class: No restriction on men and female crew composition.
- Mixed Class: A minimum of (8) to a maximum of (10) paddlers of either gender (i.e. This means for a full crew of (20) paddlers (10) must be women and (10) men. For (18) paddlers then you can use (8) women and (10) men or (9) women and (9) men or (10) women and (8) men, etc.)
- Women Class: All paddlers shall be female.
- For all competition class, the drummer and steerer can be of either gender.

4.2 The following crew numbers are summarized below:

- Recreational league: A minimum of (16) to maximum of (20) paddlers for each race.
- Premier league (Open/Mixed/Women): A minimum of (16) to maximum of (20) paddlers for each race. A crew can compose of an additional (4) reserve paddlers excluding the drummer/steerer.

4.3 Only those listed on the crew list can race for the respective crew with the exception of the steers person which may steer for other dragon boat clubs.

4.4 Identification will be provided to each paddler. Crew members that do not carry the identification tag will not be allowed to race.

**4.4.1 Crews with unauthorized members racing on their teams will be subject to a 1 sec Time Penalty (TP) per violating member.**

4.5 Participants may only race in one league only (Premier or Recreational).

#### **5. AWARDS AND PRIZES**

5.1 Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each Grand Final race category. Teams will be awarded a trophy and athlete medals.

5.2 Minor finals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place only. Teams will be awarded a trophy and athlete medals.

#### **6. COMPETITION FORMAT**

6.1 The position in the lanes will be randomly drawn prior to the competition.

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6.2 In general, a series of Race Heats, Semi-Finals or Repechage races and Finals will be utilized in this competition.

6.3 Where the number of crews entered in a competition is small (below 6) and they race each other in a series of Competition Rounds, the aggregated times from the Rounds will be used to determine a crew's final place. Disqualification from one 'Round' does not mean automatic disqualification from the whole competition. In the case of a disqualification from a Round, the crew or crews concerned will be given the slowest time recorded for that particular Round, plus a 5 second time penalty, as their race time, for the purpose of determining their final place in that Competition Class.

6.4 In the unlikely event of unforeseen circumstances which prevents the race from completing within the allotted time, the final placement and award will be based on the registered best time in the previous race heat.

## **7. COMPETITION RULES**

### 7.1 Marshalling and Embarking:

- 7.1.1 It is the responsibility of the crew to check that all dragon boat equipment is functional prior to embarking to the start line.
- 7.1.2 Equipment Failure/Paddle Breakage – Crews are advised to carry two (2) spare paddles in each Dragon Boat in case of paddle breakage during the race. Equipment failure happening within fifty (50) metres of the Start Line, if notified to the boat marshal by the crew halting and raising both hands, can be restarted.
- 7.1.3 Dragon boat crews must report to the Crew Assembly Area at the time stated in the Race Program, and proceed to the start line in a timely fashion. **Excessive delay will incur a time penalty of 5 seconds or disqualification, subject to the Chief Officials discretion.**
- 7.1.4 Changes to Crew Numbers – Once the crew has disembark on the boat, there shall be no changes to the crew members unless expressly agreed to by the Chief Official.

### 7.2 Starts and Starting Procedures:

- 7.2.1 All crews shall assemble at the starting time in a timely fashion, at least 3 minutes before the Start Time. Crews will be called forward and placed into the Race Lanes no later than 2 minutes from the Start Time. **Late arrivals will be subject to a Time Penalty of 5 seconds, subject to the discretion of the official in charge.** Crews shall be positioned behind their designated lanes.
- 7.2.2 The starting command is **“Are You Ready?”**. Crews that are not ready shall signal the boat official by having the drummer raise his/her hand. When the starter is

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satisfied that all crews are ready, the starting signal of the word **“Attention”** followed by the word **“Go”** or horn shall be used.

- 7.2.3 False Starts – If the crew starts after the word **“Attention”** and before **“Go”**, it has made a false start. **If a crew has made (2) false starts, it shall be awarded a 5 second penalty or disqualified from the race subject to the discretion of the chief official.**
- 7.2.4 False starts will be signaled by the boat official using a Red Flag, or by repeating the alternative starting signal. All crews must stop upon the false start signal.

**7.3 Race Conduct:**

- 7.3.1 **A time penalty of (5) seconds may be awarded to a crew that leaves its Racing Lane/Line or impedes another crew**, whether or not the action of the crew concerned has materially affected the result of the race. (A crew that has gone ‘off line’ due to a involuntary steering error and in correcting the error leaves its Racing Lane, shall not normally be penalized under this Rule unless another crew is impeded and the race result materially affected).
- 7.3.2 In the event of a collision between (2) or more boats, the race official shall **disqualify** the offending boat(s) from the **whole competition** class or, if the result of the race has been materially affected, order one or more boats to re-race before the next round of the competition subject to the schedule of the race. The race official shall have the final decision.
- 7.3.3 The steersman/helm and drummer are not permitted to paddle nor assist to propel the dragon boat in any way or by any other means during the Race. **Any violation may impose a time penalty of up to 3 seconds.**
- 7.3.4 The drummer, once the boat has cleared the Starting Area, which is deemed to be 50 metres from the Start Line, must actively, beat the drum throughout the race. That is, the Drum must be clearly seen to be struck with a Drum Stick on the drum skin (top or side) at short, regular intervals. Failure to actively beat the Drum will result in disciplinary action. **The Race Official may impose a time penalty of up to 3 seconds against the crew concerned.**
- 7.3.5 The Drummer. The Drummer shall sit on the drummer’s seat provided during the racing heat. **Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action of up to 3 seconds time penalty being taken against the crew concerned.**
- 7.3.6 Crews that, in the opinion of the Chief Official, has deliberately swamped, capsized the boat may be disqualified from the competition. Boat damage incurred by the concerned crew deliberately shall incur financial penalties for repairs and/or disqualification from the competition.

**7.4 Finish Line:**

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- 7.4.1 A boat is deemed to have finished the race when the foremost part of the boat crosses the Finish Line.
- 7.4.2 All boats shall start and finish in the same lane. **In the event the crew finishes the race in another lane, a 20 second penalty will be taken on the concerned crew.**
- 7.4.3 Dead Heats – In the case that two (2) or more boats reach the Finish Line at the same time, they shall get the same classification. In the event of a dead heat for a place which determines advancement to the next round, the crews concerned may be required to race-off.

**7.5 Disputes:**

- 7.5.1 All racing protests shall be lodged in writing by the Crew Manager within 15 minutes after the result is officially posted. A fee of **300 QAR** is required prior to the submission of the protest, and the amount shall be refunded if the protest is upheld. The Chief Official's decision is final.

**8. TEAM SPONSORSHIP AND BRANDING**

- 8.1 Dragon boat clubs are allowed up to one tent or shade plus one free-standing flag or banner next to the team tent. Any more branding will be subject to prior approval from the event organizers.
- 8.2 Teams with corporate branding/sponsors shall only display their sponsor's branding per restriction set forth in Cl. 8.1.
- 8.3 Corporate branding shall not be a competitor to the Grand Hyatt venue.
- 8.4 Dragon boat club corporate sponsorship, if displayed, shall be announce to the organizer for prior approval in the registration form.