

## Rules of Racing

These rules will apply to all DBNSW Inc events until replaced.

### 1. Crew Composition

- 1.1. **Age Restrictions.** Competitors must be 12 years of age or older to be allowed in the boat (whether they are drumming or paddling and must wear a life jacket if they cannot swim more than 50m fully clothed).
- 1.2. The term “CREW” refers to all people in the team including sweep and drummer.
- 1.3. **Minimum Crew Size** is 18 (16 paddlers plus drummer and sweep)
- 1.4. **Maximum Crew Size** is 26 (24 paddlers plus drummer and sweep)
- 1.5. **Drummers** are compulsory for all races.
- 1.6. **The crew size is set after the first heat – the crew size you paddle with in the first heat must be the same in the final, unless otherwise cleared.**

### 2. Crew Swapping & Borrowing

- 2.1. Clubs may swap paddlers within their own crew to form crews in different categories.
- 2.2. If a club has two (2) teams or more entered in the same category, a maximum of 4 paddlers can be interchanged between crews. **NB** They must be the same 4 nominated paddlers.
- 2.3. Crews must advise the Race Organisers, and other clubs at the Captains briefing, which 4 paddlers have been nominated to interchange. (Must be noted on team entry forms).
- 2.4. Crews can only borrow paddlers from another club to make to a minimum crew number (18 including drummer and sweep). E.g. If a club has 18 people then that it was they must race with (16 paddlers plus drummer and sweep).
- 2.5. Crews can borrow a maximum of 4 paddlers to make a total crew of 18 (16 paddlers plus drummer and sweep).
- 2.6. Borrowed paddlers must wear their own club uniform.
- 2.7. All borrowed or interchanged crew members must be specified on the crew list supplied to registration.
- 2.8. Crews are responsible for the paddlers in their boats (i.e. if a paddler is in a boat and they are not supposed to be, the crew will be disqualified).

### 3. Sweeps

- 3.1. From 2004/2005 Season all sweeps will be required to wear their photo accreditation on race days.
- 3.2. Must be members of DBNSW and of a club.
- 3.3. Mixed teams must provide their own sweep.
- 3.4. Women's and Open Crews (not combined crews) must provide a sweep from within their own club with 20 registered paddlers or less may borrow a sweep. This must be specified on the crew list at registration.
- 3.5. Borrowed sweeps will be allocated randomly by race day organisers not by individual clubs. List of accredited sweeps will be given to host club prior to race day.
- 3.6. Borrowed sweeps will be “Provisional Sweeps” as first priority if available. (This will allow them to get their accreditation of races up).

#### 4. Race Day Administration and Guideline

- 4.1. All crews must adhere to the race category conditions.
- 4.2. The total team must be listed on the registration (entry form) for every race – including drummer and sweep and borrowed paddlers.
- 4.3. Team list must be completed and handed in to registration within the specified registration time (see entry form details).
- 4.4. Individual team member registration (id numbers) must be included on each crew list. The database of membership will be emailed to each club directly prior to race day. A current database of club members can be requested at anytime for your own club. (To ensure privacy, database will only be supplied to club management or by request of club management).  
Contact Tanya White on 9482 4767.
- 4.5. Payment for the race day entry fee must be made prior to race day or at the time registration. Direct deposit facilities (internet banking) are available.
- 4.6. Bank Details are as follows –  
Dragon Boats NSW Inc  
National  
BSB: 082-080  
Acc no # 55-783-4600  
**Note:** please give description of what it's for .e.g. DSA – CNY
- 4.7. **Incomplete crew lists, partial or late payments of race entry fee's will incur an on the spot fine of \$100 payable on the day.**
- 4.8. Only people included on the crew list are entitled to paddle for the specified team. (I.e. any borrowed crew members must be specified on the crew list prior to registration).
- 4.9. All team members must be DBNSW Inc members. Individual memberships can be paid on the day. No team member can be a registered member of two (2) or more clubs DBNSW member **clubs.**
- 4.10. **All "finals" crews will be checked against the submitted crew list at marshalling prior to the final race. Any crew found to have a paddler not listed on the crew list will be disqualified.**

#### 5. Starts.

- 5.1. **Starters Commands:** When all the boats are correctly aligned, the Starter shall alert the crews by saying '**Are you ready**' if the crew is **NOT READY** then the Drummer must immediately raise a hand above head height to indicate the situation to the Starter. In the absence of a drummer the Sweep will raise his hand.
- 5.2. **Starting Signals:** When the Starter is satisfied that all crews are ready, the starter will issue the command '**ATTENTION**' followed by the word '**GO**' (or a gun or other start signal will sound).
- 5.3. **Jumping the Start:** When a crew 'jumps the start', which for the purpose of the Rules of Racing, means that a crew has anticipated the Starters word of Command GO to the extent that a 'False Start' cannot be called but in the opinion of the Starter a material advantage has been gained by the crew or crews, concerned over the others, the Starter may award 'Time Penalties' of from two (2) up to a maximum of five (5) seconds against the crew or crews in question.  
**Note:** The starter, or water umpire will sound the siren/hooter three times and all crews will be required to stop paddling immediately.
- 5.4. **Equipment Failure off the Start:** In the event of a crew experiencing equipment failure for example a broken Drummers Seat or Steering arm/oar (but not a paddle), off the start and up to fifty (50) metres after it, the race will be restarted, providing the crew concerned stops paddling immediately and both the paddlers and the Drummer raise their arms fully in the air.  
**Note:** The starter, or water umpire will sound the siren/hooter three times and all crews will be required to stop paddling immediately.
- 5.5. **Late Arrivals:** The Starter may warn a crew arriving late in the start area or award, if appropriate, a Time Penalty of up to five (5) seconds to any crew arriving late in the Start Area, or for failing to come up to the Start Line when called. The Starter may start a race without reference to absentees.

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- 5.6. **Paddles in the Water:** Crews may start with their paddles in the water. The boat must remain stationary at all times. If the starter sees movement from the boat, they may call the crew for “jumping the start”.

**Note:** This ruled is allowed at AusDBF Nationals and IDBF sanctioned events

### 6. Racing

- 6.1. **Correct Course and Clear Water:** The correct course for each boat is a straight 'line' down the course or down the middle of its marked Racing Lane, from the Start Line to the Finish Line. Crews are responsible for their steering and leave their Racing Lane, or deviate from their 'line' at their own risk. Even when crews are in their Racing Lanes or following a racing 'line', at least two (2) metres of clear water must be maintained around each boat. For the purpose of this Rule, the boat includes the crew's paddles and therefore the 'clear water' is between paddle blade and adjacent paddle blade. Crews must 'give clear water' when told to by the Course Umpire. Crews may deviate from their Racing Lanes or Lines without penalty, providing they do not impede other crews and clear water is observed around each boat.
- 6.2. **Penalties:** A Time Penalty of five (5) seconds may be awarded by the Chief Official/Race Jury against 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 penalised under this Rule unless another crew is impeded and the race result materially affected).
- 6.3. **Collisions/Materially Affected Races:** In the event of a collision between two (2) or more boats or where a race result has been materially affected by a boat not receiving clear water the Chief Official/Race Jury may disqualify the offending boat(s) 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. When in the opinion of the Chief Official/Race Jury one or more of the crews involved could have avoided the collision by taking corrective action, for example, **to stop paddling, but did not do so, then the crew or crews concerned may be disqualified from the competition class concerned and may face disqualification from the remainder of the competition.**
- 6.4. **Equipment Failure during the race:** In the event of a crew experiencing equipment failure for example a broken Drummers Seat or Steering arm/oar (but not a paddle), during the race, where the race result has been materially affected , the race may be restarted, providing the crew concerned stops paddling immediately and the Drummer raises their arms fully in the air.

**Note:**

(A) The starter, or water umpire will sound the siren/hooter three times and all crews will be required to stop paddling immediately.

(B) Discretion will be used (chief official and race committee) if there is equipment failure as a result of equipment supplied by the race organisers.

- 6.5. **Re-races.** In the event of a re-race not being possible the Chief Official/Race Jury shall have the authority to disqualify the offending crew(s) and/or, where in the Chief Official/Race Jury's opinion the result of the race has been, or was likely to be, materially affected to alter the finishing order.

**Note:** If there has been a major collision or mishap at some stage in the race after 50m that 2 or more boats have been involved in or there is a problem ahead of the boats on the course. The starter, or water umpire (under Race official's instruction) will sound the siren/hooter three times and all crews will be required to stop paddling immediately.

## 7. Finishes

- 7.1. **Crossing the Finish Line:** A boat has finished the race when the foremost part of the boat crosses the Finish Line. (The Dragons Head, when in position, forms part of the boat).
- 7.2. **Dead Heats.** If 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, but only if there are insufficient lanes on the racing course to allow the dead-heated crews to race again in the next round.

## 8. Protests, Race Jury and Chief Official

- 8.1. **Protests:** Protests must be lodged, in writing, with the Race Organiser no later than 15 minutes after the completion of the race and be accompanied by a **\$200 protest fee**. The protest fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. **Note:** Protests must be written on the Official Protest Forms or they will not be accepted.
- 8.2. **Race Jury:** The final authority relating to the Racing Rules, shall rest with the Race Jury. This Jury shall consist of a minimum of three (3) up to a maximum of five (5) members which will generally include 2 or 3 Board Members and 1 person from the hosting club.
- 8.3. **Chief Official:** At each DBNSW Inc race there will be a Chief Official. The Chief Official shall observe and supervise the races and ensure that the Race Programme is followed and runs to time. The Chief Official shall fully brief all Race Officials before the start of the competition, regarding their duties and shall:
  - Decide on all matters arising from the actual event which are not dealt with in the Racing Rules.
  - Consult with the Race Jury on matters where clarification of the Racing Rules is needed or where no Race Jury has been appointed shall perform the function of the Race Jury.
  - Disqualification – A team can be automatically disqualified if failure to observe the Rules of Racing.

## 9. Category Definitions.

### (A) OPENS

- Paddlers can be either male or female.
  - Drummer and sweep can be either male or female.
  - The drummer and sweep must be a member of the club or listed on the crew list at the beginning of each race day.
  - Maximum of two (2) clubs can combine to form a male crew (split must be 50/50) for any DBNSW Inc regatta's excluding State Championships. Combined crews may enter State Championships but will not qualify for placing in the finals.

### (B) WOMENS

- All paddlers must be female.
  - Drummer must be a female and a member of the club (with exception of Dragons Abreast)
  - Sweep must be female and a member of the club (with exception of Dragons Abreast)
  - Maximum of two (2) clubs can combine to form a female crew (split must be 50/50) for any DBNSW Inc regatta's excluding State Championships. Combined crews may enter State Championships but will not qualify for placing in the finals.

### (C) MIXED

- Paddlers must be 50/50 male/female ratio (no more than 50% male)

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- Drummer and sweep can be either male or female and must be a member of the club (with exceptions of Dragons Abreast).

### (D) YOUTH

- Paddlers must be 50/50 male/female ratio.
  - Drummer and sweep can be either male or female and must be a member of the club.
  - All 20 paddlers must be aged 23 years and under as of the 01<sup>st</sup> January.
  - Drummer and sweep can be over 23 years of age.

### (E) JUNIORS

- All paddlers must be 12- 18 years of age.
- Same race category rules apply for Open, Mixed, Women as listed above.
- Drummer and Sweep can be over 18 years of age.
- Drummer must be a member of the school/club.

### (F) MASTERS

- All paddlers must be over 40 years of age as of 01<sup>st</sup> January
- Sweep must be over 40 years of age
- Drummer can be under 40 years of age
- Same race category rules apply for Open, Mixed, Women as listed above
- Drummer must be a member of the club (with exceptions of Dragons Abreast)

### (G) DRAGONS ABREAST

- To be eligible to compete as a Dragons Abreast team, at least 16 out of the 20 paddlers must be breast cancer survivors.
- Sports paddlers **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to compete in a Dragons Abreast team unless they are breast cancer survivors themselves.
- In the event there are insufficient breast cancer survivors other cancer survivors are to have first priority in filling the boat.
- Dragons Abreast is a breast cancer survivor paddlers group – as such males are permitted in the breast cancer survivor division if they are survivors. Males may not compete in the women's race with Dragons Abreast.
- Dragons Abreast teams must follow and comply with all AusDBF and DBNSW regulations.

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### (H) CORPORATE (Business Organisation)

- If a team wins 2 years running, then the following year they must they must compete as a Sports Crew
- Teams consist of a minimum of 17 and a maximum of 24.
- A crew consist of;
  - A drummer, (either male or female)
  - Crew composition can be either;
    - 6 females and 10 males
    - 7 females and 11 males
    - 8 females and 12 males
- Teams must have a minimum of 16 employees from the business organisation the team represents. If the business organisation is a partnership or a sole trader, each partner, or sole trader will be deemed an employee for the purpose of this rule.
- Teams may have a maximum of four paddlers who are not employees, or deemed employees, of the business organisation.
- A team is not permitted to have any Sports Paddlers, unless those paddlers are employees of the business organisation.
- Steerers, known as “Sweeps”, will be provided by DBNSW.
- “Sports Paddler” means a paddler who;
  - Is a registered member of DBNSW or its interstate equivalent.
  - Is a member of a DBNSW registered club, or
  - Is a member of an established Dragon Boat or Outrigger Canoe Club.

### (I) COMMUNITY/SOCIAL (not registered as a Sports Club)

- If a team wins 2 years running, then the following year they must compete as a Sports Crew.
- Teams which do not meet the minimum number of employees requirement in respect of the Business Organisation category may, at the discretion of DBNSW, be included in the Social / Novice category. Social or Cultural organisations may qualify for entry into this category.
- Depending upon the number of teams entered in this category, separate trophies may, at the discretion of DBNSW, be awarded.
- Teams may be included in this category by invitation of DBNSW.
- Teams consist of a minimum of 17 and a maximum of 24.
  - A crew consists of;
    - A drummer (either male or female)
  - Crew composition can be either;
    - 6 females and 10 males
    - 7 females and 11 males
    - 8 females and 12 males
- Steerers, known as “sweeps” will be provided by DBNSW.
- “Sports Paddler” means a paddler who;
  - Is a registered member of DBNSW or its interstate equivalent.
  - Is a member of a member of a DBNSW registered club
  - Is a member of an established Dragon Boat or Outrigger Canoe Club.