

Race Rules
13th Annual San Diego International Dragon Boat Race
October 19 – 20, 2024

Paddling Equipment*

1. U.S. Coast Guard certified PFDs will be required for all race participants, including drummer and steersmen, and must be worn properly at all times while in the boat. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed.
2. Paddles must be IDBF certified.
3. Seat pads shall be made of a soft material, such as neoprene, of an approximate thickness of 15mm that will compress easily when squeezed between finger and thumb.
4. Active drumming is required and drumsticks will be provided.
5. Bailers will be provided, although teams may also use their own sponges or bailers.
6. Microphones and speakers are allowed. Teams must set up and remove them quickly to avoid delaying the race. If the setup or removal of audio equipment is causing a delay, the team will be given a warning on the first occurrence and a time penalty on the second occurrence.

*** Race officials retain the right to use their judgment on the legality of all paddling related equipment.**

Safety and Fairness

1. A strong cross breeze is common at the Mission Bay race course. Therefore, teams should practice maintaining their position against the wind while waiting for the start of the race. If the wind conditions pick up and you feel your steersperson cannot safely steer the race, you should let an official know when your team enters the marshaling area.
2. Teams must attempt to follow a straight course down the middle of their lanes. If a boat deviates from this path, the personnel on the chase boat will immediately warn them to steer back on course. If such warnings are ignored, the crew(s) concerned risk disqualification from the race if, in the opinion of the Umpire, the crew has impeded another crew or has gained an advantage thereby, which has materially affected the result of the race. Alternatively, a time penalty of 5 seconds may be awarded.
3. Per IDBF Rules of Racing, teams are required to maintain 2 meters of open water between the paddle blades of neighboring crews. If a collision occurs (including the clanking of paddles), the race official has the right to disqualify any team that did not

actively seek to avoid the collision, even if that team was just holding its course in its own lane.

4. If a team unintentionally leaves its lane, a penalty of 5 seconds may be awarded if the race results (order of finish) were materially affected. The race may be re-run if the race official determines that this is the most fair and practical course of action. If the steering error was involuntary and the race results (order of finish) were not materially affected, then no penalty will be assessed and the race will not be re-run.

An example situation (for clarification):

Boat A leaves its lane and enters the lane of Boat B, impeding their path

- Boat A will get a 5s time penalty or disqualification, depending on the situation

Boat B must attempt to avoid collision, even if it means leaving their lane

- If Boat B maintains course in its lane and there is a collision, Boat B will also be given a 5s time penalty or a disqualification, depending on the situation
- If Boat B enters lane C and there is no collision, Boat B will not be penalized for leaving their lane
 - If there is a collision in lane C, Boat C may be penalized for failure to avoid a collision

5. Weather permitting, teams will be using the 10man boats for 10man racing. If the conditions, such as strong winds, make it difficult for teams to safely operate boats, the Race Officials may choose to continue the 10man racing divisions using the larger 20man boats. Should this happen, all boats in the same race will use the same type of boat. The decision to use 10man or 20man boats will be up to the Race Officials and no refunds will be given to any teams based on this safety decision.

(Updated 03/16/2024)