



**Greater Vernon
Dragon Boat Festival
2008**

**GREATER VERNON DRAGON BOAT
RACE & FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

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Mission Statement:

The Greater Vernon Dragon Boat Race & Festival's desire is to create competitive dragon boat racing through participation and exposure of the sport to all communities throughout British Columbia and Canada.

Intention of Rules:

The intention of these rules is to provide a safe and fair race to all the participants. The participants include all the teams, officials and spectators.

Definitions:

The Race is the collective term for all competition (all heats, whether preliminary or final).

The Race is organized and carried out by the Race Technical Committee to run the race in accordance with the official Rules and Regulations.

SECTION A – ADMINISTRATION

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Any team conforming to the registration criteria and the Official Rules and Regulation.
- 1.2 The number of teams participating in the Race shall be determined by the Race Technical Committee.
- 1.3 The Race Technical Committee reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry of a team or individual to the Race.

2. Registration

- 2.1 Each team must submit a completed team registration form to the Registrar's Office (online).
- 2.2 Fees are payable to the Vernon Dragon Boat Race & Festival aka GVDBRF (payment must be received before a team is officially registered and allowed to practice).
- 2.3 All teams will be notified of their entry status by the Registrar's Office.
- 2.4 Teams withdrawing from the race must submit a notice in writing to the Registrar twenty eight days prior to the first day of the event. No refund, in whole, or in part will be made if it is less than 28 days.
- 2.5 Changes to the Team Registration Form such as team name, team description and team participants will not be accepted after the 'twenty eight days prior to the event' deadline.

3. Race Categories

- 3.1 Race Categories are:
 - a. Mixed
 - b. Women
 - c. Breast Cancer Challenge
- 3.2 Division placement is determined by seeding races.
- 3.3 A minimum of three entries are required for each category division for a race to occur.
- 3.4 Placements into the initial races and the divisions are determined by the Race Technical Committee.
- 3.5 Final heats will be determined by race results in preceding races.
- 3.6 The Race Technical Committee reserves the right to move teams between divisions/categories to provide for a more balanced race.

4. Safety

- 4.1 Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) will be provided to all crew members and must be worn in the proper manner at all times while in the dragon boats and on the docks. Teams may use their own DOT approved PFD's however, a full team set of similar PFD's MUST be used.
- 4.2 Each crew member is water competent and ideally able to swim 50 meters while wearing a PFD in wet competition clothes unaided. It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all members of the team are able to comply with this rule.

- 4.3 Each crew member is solely responsible for his or her own safety at any time while engaging in activities related to practicing and racing in the dragon boats.
- 4.4 Any injuries occurring as a result of participating in the practices or races must be reported immediately to the race officials. The team manager or captain must submit an incident report to the race officials following the injury. Incident Report Forms are available from the GVDBRF.
- 4.5 The "Dragon Boat Safety Guidelines" must be observed at all times during practices and where applicable during the race.
- 4.6 A steersperson should be responsible for standing at all times at the boat steering station and keeping a proper lookout for other marine traffic, floating debris, fixed obstacles, lines and tethers, rocks and shallows and all other hazards to navigation and dangerous marine/weather conditions.
- 4.7 Any other safety precautions are announced by the Race Technical Committee shall be observed.

5. Waivers

- 5.1 All team members must be registered and sign a waiver prior to their first practice covering all practice sessions and race activities.
- 5.2 Only participants who have submitted a properly completed waiver form will be allowed to participate in the race.

6. Dragon Boats and Equipment

- 6.1 All boats, paddles, drums and PFD's used by all crew members will be provided by the GVDBRF. No additional equipment will be authorized without prior approval from the Race Technical Committee.
- 6.2 Personal equipment such as gloves and kneepads are permitted within reason. Seating pads made of foam or other materials greater than ¼ inch thickness are not allowed to be used or taken on board any dragon boat by any crew member.
- 6.3 Equipment used during the practices and races must be returned to the GVDBRF intact and in full. Replacement costs or repairs of such equipment will be charged to the responsible team should negligence be determined.
- 6.4 Only the drumsticks provided shall be used to signal the stroke rate. Whistles, rattles, air horns or any other noise making are prohibited. In the event of inclement weather, drumsticks may be prohibited to protect drum skins.
- 6.5 You can only wax or place tape on your own personal approved IDBF 202A paddle, GVDBRF paddles must not be waxed.

7. Team

7.1 A registered team member is any person who is listed on the team roster and has signed a waiver.

(Random checks will be made to ensure Crew Members are properly listed.)

7.2 Team roster for practices shall be comprised of:

- a. One (1) Team Manager (non – crew member) Note: A team manager can manage up to ten (10) teams, but all of those teams must be within the same club.
- b. A minimum of twelve (12) paddlers.

7.3 Team roster for Races shall be comprised of:

- a. One (1) Team Manager (non – crew member) Note: A team manager can manage up to ten (10) teams, but all of those teams must be within the same club.
- b. Twenty Six (26) Crew Members, maximum.

7.4 The final team roster must be drawn from the practice roster and submitted to the Registrar seven (7) days prior to the event date.

7.5 Each team is responsible for its own conduct and compliance with the official Rules and Regulations.

7.6 Each team member is required to read and abide by the official Rules and Regulations. Failure to comply with the Official Rules and Regulations may result in total team disqualification from the practices and race.

7.7 Any team member or team who allows a non-registered person to participate as a crew member will be subject to disqualification.

8. Team Manager and Team Captain

8.1 The Team Manager shall not be a crew member on any team. A team manager cannot manage more than one club. The Team Manager shall be responsible for:

- a. Team conduct covered under the Official Rules and Regulations.
- b. Communication and distributing information to the team.
- c. Gathering and submitting all necessary forms for the team.
- d. Liaison with the race officials.
- e. Team conduct while team is on land.
- f. In the event of an injury, submit an incident report to the GVDBRF.
- g. Ensure all waivers are signed.

8.2 The Team Captain shall be a crew member and shall be responsible for:

- a. Team conduct while the team is on the water or sand side.

- b. Communicating and liaisons with race officials while the team is on the water or dock side.
- c. Taking charge of the team during an accident or mishap while the team is on the water or dock side.
- d. Reporting to race officials on any damage to the boat and/or loss/damage of equipment.
- e. Reporting any on water infractions.

9. Crew Members

- 9.1 Each boat shall carry a crew consisting of a minimum of sixteen (16) and a maximum of twenty (20) paddlers. In addition, a boat must carry one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.
- 9.2 The drummer and steersperson can be of either gender for any team.
- 9.3 No women may participate as a paddler in any team entered in the Men's Division.
- 9.4 No man may participate as a paddler in any team entered in the Women's Division.
- 9.5 A mixed team shall be comprised of a minimum of eight (8) female paddlers, one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.
- 9.6 No paddler may paddle on more than one team, except as provided in section 9.7 and 9.8.
- 9.7 Where a club or company has more than one mixed team, they may use the male paddlers from those teams to form a team for the Men's Division.
- 9.8 No paddler may paddle on more than one mixed team; they may use the female paddlers from those teams to form a team for the Women's Division.
- 9.9 The steersperson and drummer on a men's or women's team may paddle on another team.

10. Team Sponsorship and Categories

- 10.1 The GVDBRF retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship and commercial representation for the Race. All photos taken by the GVDBRF photographer (or other sanctioned photographer) during the event may be used by the GVDBRF for marketing and/or advertising without the expressed permission of the individuals in the subject photos.
- 10.2 Festival and Race sponsors – sponsors directly supportive of the Festival and or the Race, will be acknowledged and represented as sponsors of the Dragon Boat Festival and or the Dragon Boat Races.
- 10.3 Team sponsors – sponsors supportive of an individual team, may not be considered as sponsors of the Race. The GVDBRF is not obligated to individual team sponsors, and may refuse any commercial representation on the Race site.
- 10.4 It is not a requirement for any team to be supported by a team sponsor.

- 10.5 Where the involvement of any individual team sponsor is determined not to be in the best interest of the Race, the GVDDBRF through the Race Technical Committee may refuse the entry of the supported team to the Race unless an alternate supporting team sponsor is found.
- 10.6 Except as provided by rule 10.7, commercial or promotional activities such as distribution or sales of material or goods for the benefit of any team sponsor or club will not be permitted without prior approval.
- 10.7 Team sponsorship – except as provided by the rule 10.8, representation and promotion of the team sponsor(s) will only be permitted subject to prior agreement with the GVDDBRF.
- 10.8 Representation of the organization responsible for the team and its sponsor(s) shall be limited to:
 - a. Clothing such as a team uniform, hats, head bands, pins, etc.
 - b. one free-standing team flag not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area.
- 10.9 The GVDDBRF will, where appropriate and possible, acknowledge the indirect support of the Race by team sponsors as relating to their teams(s).

SECTION B – PRACTICES

11. Attendance

- 11.1 Practice sessions will occur prior to the race date. The practice schedule will be determined by the Race Technical Committee.
- 11.2 Team attendance in a minimum of one (1) practice session is recommended unless rule 11.5 applies.
- 11.3 Crews must begin on time and return boats to their moorings within the allocated time limit. Allowance will not be made for late arrivals or unnecessary delays.
- 11.4 Scheduled practice sessions may be cancelled prior to or terminated by the race officials or team before the end of the session. Teams must inform Water's Edge at 604.657.7505 minimum 72 hours in advance of their scheduled practice, if they are unable to attend their practice session.
- 11.5 A minimum of twelve paddlers and one steersperson must be present before a team is allowed to practice in a dragon boat. Additionally, there must be a Safety Supervisor in attendance with the team at all times during the on water practice.

12. Marshalling

- 12.1 It is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure that the team arrives in time to allow crew members to check in and get their practice equipment. 20 minutes prior to practice time.
- 12.2 It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that the team leaves the docks at the scheduled time.
- 12.3 A team is considered late if they leave the docks more than 10 minutes after the start of their scheduled time.
- 12.4 A team is late if they have not returned to the docks by the end of their scheduled practice time.

12.5 Any Crew member who shows signs of intoxication will not be allowed to board the dragon boat.

13. Practice Conduct

13.1 During all practice sessions, each team member shall obey all instructions given by the GVDBRF and/or its officials.

13.2 Boats must maintain a safe distance from the other marine craft at all times and not hinder the progress of any other marine craft in its vicinity.

13.3 All crew rotations must be carried out from the dock as prearranged with the Team Manager and the GVDBRF officials.

13.4 Teams must observe all the procedures and course directions set forth in the Dragon Boat Safety Guidelines.

13.5 Infractions against the Dragon Boat Safety Guidelines have the same consequences as infractions against the Official Rules and Regulations.

14. Penalties

14.1 Penalties may be imposed by the GVDBRF officials on a team or its members for infractions made against the Official Rules and Regulations.

14.2 Penalties may include:

- a. A verbal warning or a written warning to the crew member(s) and/or to the team.
- b. Termination of the practice session for crew member(s) and/or for the entire team.
- c. Loss of the practice session for crew member(s) and/or the entire team.
- d. Disqualification from further practices and the race.
- e. Financial reimbursement for damage and/or loss of equipment.
- f. Disqualification of crew member(s) and/or the entire team from participation in future races.
- g. Fines from the City of Vernon, District of Coldstream and/or the North Okanagan Regional District for the by-law infraction(s).

SECTION C – RACE

16. Teams

16.1 Each boat shall carry a crew consisting of a minimum of sixteen (16) and a maximum of twenty (20) paddlers. In addition, a boat must carry one (1) drummer and one (1) steersperson.

17. Marshalling Area

17.1 Teams must check into the Crew Assembly Area **at least** 30 minutes prior to the start of their heat. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from participation in the heat and relegation to last place in the heat.

- 17.2 Crews must board in accordance with the race officials' instructions.
- 17.3 Crews are not permitted to choose the boat to be used and must race in the lane allocated to their boat.
- 17.4 After the crew has boarded, teams must proceed directly to the start area on the instructions of the race officials. Penalties may be assessed by race officials for delay in proceeding directly to the start area.
- 17.5 Teams may not leave the dock until permission is given by the GVDBRF.
- 17.6 Any crew member who show signs of intoxication will not be allowed to board the dragon boat. The team will not be permitted to replace the intoxicated crew member and must race without a full crew. If this adversely affects the balancing of the boat, the race officials may balance the boat by requiring another member(s) of the crew to leave the boat. This may cause the team to be disqualified for not meeting the requirements of rule 9 and relegated to last place in the heat.
- 17.6 Teams will be under the control of the referees as soon as their boat leaves the dock.

18. Starting Time

- 18.1 Starting time will be in accordance with the race schedule. That being said, races may run anywhere between 10 min early and 10 min late.
- 18.2 In general, the races start at 8:30 a.m. each day. However, these times may be changed by the Race Technical Committee.
- 18.3 If a time delay in the schedule occurs or a race must be re-run, subsequent races may not continue in the same sequence as stated in the Race Schedule, every attempt will be made to notify the Team Managers of the changes. Team Managers are responsible for notifying their crew members of changes.

19. Starting Procedure

- 19.1 The starting order for all crews will be determined prior to the race. A schedule will be posted as soon as possible at the end of each heat.
- 19.2 All teams in the starting area will obey the instructions of the start officials. Your team must be in the lane allocated to your boat.
- 19.3 Each crew will take up their position in the starting area in the correct lane allocated to them.
- 19.4 Crews arriving late to the start area or impeding the process of the race unnecessarily will be subject to disqualification.
- 19.5 Crews that do not follow the race official's instructions in regards to lane position and/or boat position in relation to the start line will be subject to disqualification.
- 19.6 The Start Line will be marked with buoys.
- 19.7 All boats must proceed along the outside of the course to the start line.
- 19.8 No part of the dragon boat may cross the start line before the start of the race.

19.9 The Starter will be positioned on or adjacent to the start line and will control the start sequence.

19.10 For the Starter sequence, two verbal cues will be announced:

“PADDLERS ARE YOU READY”

“PADDLES UP”

“ATTENTION”

<starting signal>or <air horn> from 1-5 seconds after “attention please”

19.11 A standing start is the normal procedure however, in the event of adverse weather a rolling start may be used by the starter or race official. The teams will be notified as they approach the start platform if it is a rolling start. Always anticipate a standing start.

19.12 Within 50m of the start, a restart can be called by an official.

19.13 Within 50m of the start, a team may request a restart due to interference beyond their control by stopping their boat in their respective lane and the steersperson will raise their arm indicating to a race official that they have been obstructed.

The race official, at their discretion, will either order a restart or allow the race to continue as per Article 20.2f.

20. Restarts / On Water Race Conduct

20.1 The correct course for each boat is a straight line from its starting position to the finish line. Each team must remain in the middle of its **OWN** lane and not interfere with other teams in the race. If interference causes a collision, the team causing the interference will be disqualified.

20.2 A Referee Boat will follow each race to observe the course taken by each boat. Above all other matters, the Referee on the course shall first be concerned with the safety of all participants.

- a. The Referee shall be the sole judge of a boat's proper position on the race course during the race.
- b. The jurisdiction of the Referee(s) extends over the race and all matters connected from the time of the start until its completion and their decision in all cases shall be final.
- c. All infractions of the rules (protest procedure), however they occur, must be reported immediately to the dock marshal, referee, or the Finish Referee (up in the timing tower) at the completion of the race.
- d. Any time it becomes necessary for an official to disqualify a team for an infraction of the rules, the crew disqualified shall be advised at the time of the infraction and subsequent disqualification.
- e. A Referee may, at his own discretion, disqualify a team without stopping the race, for leaving its own lane or interfering with other teams on the water.
- f. It shall be considered a foul when, after the race has commenced, any competitor by his paddle, boat or person comes in contact with the paddle, boat or person of another competitor; or who deliberately steers into another teams boat, whether such crew is or is not in its' own lane unless, in the opinion of the Referee, such contact is so slight as to not interfere with the race.
- g. In the event of a foul or other infraction of the rules during a race, a Referee shall have the power:

- 1) to stop the race, and at his discretion, disqualify the offending crew(s). If the race is stopped, the Referee shall order the teams in the heat; other than those which have been disqualified, to restart the race.
- 2) to allow the race to continue at his discretion despite disqualification, the Referee will notify the crew(s) involved, in which case the disqualified crew(s) must cease paddling and not impede the race.
- 3) to instruct crew(s) to stop paddling. Continuation of the race will be upon the discretion of the Referee. This option may be used once the race is underway if the Referee observes an impending collision.

h. Failure to comply with the referee's instructions may result in further disciplinary action including disqualification from the remaining competition.

20.3 Crews must comply immediately with the Referee's instructions.

20.4 All boats must finish in the same lane from which they started in. Failure to comply with this rule will result in DNF (Did Not Finish) and relegation of the team to last place in the heat.

20.5 If, in the opinion of the Referee, an outside boat interferes with a boat racing on the course and this interference would affect the standings in the race, the Referee shall order a Re-start.

20.6 If, in the opinion of the Referee, a boat is swamped or is deliberately capsized, the Race Technical Committee reserves the right to disqualify the crew from any official standings and may refuse such crew further participation in the race.

20.7 If, in the opinion of the race officials, a boat and its equipment is damaged deliberately by the crew, the Race Technical Committee reserves the right to impose a financial and/or disciplinary penalty.

20.8 Crews must remain in their boat upon completion of their race and must return directly to the dock from which they originally loaded. They must then disembark in an orderly fashion to the staging area.

20.9 In the event of capsizing, the crew must remain with their boat and await rescue.

21. Race Course

21.1 The Official Race course is a 200 m, 500 m with an exhibition 1000 m race with a turn. The course will be divided into 3 – 6 lanes.

21.2 The Starting Line and Finishing Line will be marked with buoys positioned between each lane.

21.3 The Finish Line will be marked by the Judges Stand located on land.

21.4 The Finish Lane is reached when the nose of the of the Dragon Boat passes across the Finish Line. All crew members must be aboard at the completion of the race or the team Result will be recorded as DNF (Did Not Finish). Finishes will be video recorded.

22. Scoring/Penalties

22.1 The Finish Referee will decide the order and the time for each boat as it crosses the Finish Line.

- 22.2 A visual recording will be taken to provide a record of the finishing order of each race.
- 22.3 A fair race is signaled by the Referee with a white flag at the conclusion of the race. A red flag is used to signal a foul on the course.
- 22.4 Except as provided by rule 23 or 24.1, the team standings will be determined by their race placement result from each heat in the race.
- 22.5 Each team will advance in accordance with the Official Race schedule.
- 22.6 Penalties may be imposed by the Race Technical Committee on a crew or its members for reported:
- a. Violation of safety procedures.
 - b. Infraction of stated rules and regulations.
 - c. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - d. Disobeying reasonable requests or instructions from Race Officials.
 - e. Willful damage or loss of equipment.
 - f. Violation of Sponsorship Rules.
 - g. Misrepresentation of the Event / Race or Event / Organizers.
- 22.7 Penalties may include:
- a. Disqualification from any official standing and/or awards.
 - b. Disqualification of crew member(s) or the entire Team from further participation in the race.
 - c. Financial reimbursement for damage or loss of equipment.
 - d. Disqualification of crew member(s) or the entire Team from participation in Future races.
 - e. Fines for City of Vernon, the District of Coldstream and/or the North Okanagan Regional District by-law infraction(s).
 - f. Change of race placement or a 1-10 second time penalty by offending team.
- 22.8 A crew which allows its dragon boat to go past the start line prior to the Starter's AIR HORN signal will be penalized.

23. Protests

- 23.1 Protests will be strictly limited to the conduct of teams during the race.
- 23.2 As per article 20.3(b) decisions by the Referee(s) are final and not open to protest.
- 23.3 A protest may only be lodged by the team manager immediately after the end of the race heat

and before the start of the next race heat (refer to start procedure for start protest).

- 23.4 The protest must be in writing and presented to the Protest Committee accompanied with a protest fee of \$50 Cdn.
- 23.5 The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final. Protest Committee consists of Finish Referee, Starter, Water Referee, and Race Director.

24. Awards / Trophies

- 24.1 Teams shall be eligible for the prizes in the divisions that they have been entered in as determined by their race performance and placement. The Race Technical Committee maintains the right to change placement of teams. In the event of a disagreement as to the change of a team's placement, the Race Director will have the final decision.
- 24.2 All trophies and Championship Cups, where provided by Race Sponsors, shall remain the permanent property of the GVDBR.