



# RAINIER DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Presented by Tacoma Dragon Boat Association

May 18, 2024

## OFFICIAL RACE RULES & REGULATIONS

### SAFETY

The first priority of all competitors is the safety of your team and other teams you are racing.

1. Should a boat be in apparent distress, appropriate aid will be rendered as required.
2. No standing in the boat while the boat is on the water. All team members must remain seated at all times. **No adjusting paddlers due to balance once your boat leaves the dock.**
3. Life vests must be properly buckled/zippered while the team is in the marshalling area prior to entering the boats going down the ramp. Life jackets must be worn until back on land off the dock/ramp. All life jackets must be Coast Guard approved (Inflatable PFDs are not allowed).

### RACE DETAILS

1. Crews must contain a minimum of 16 paddlers and a maximum 20 paddlers.
2. Crews competing in the mixed division/class, at least half of the crew shall be comprised of paddlers identifying as female.
3. Community/Corporate Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 club crew paddlers
4. All team members must have signed a waiver before they are allowed in the boat.
5. All team members in the boat at the start line must be in the boat at the finish line or they will be disqualified.
6. The course is 300 meters in length.
7. Teams will be assigned numbered lanes and must line up and stay within their assigned lanes during the entire race.
8. Teams must complete all assigned race heats to be eligible for awards.

### STARTING THE RACE

1. The Race Starter will provide instructions when lining up for the start. It is imperative to listen carefully and follow these instructions.
2. Drummers may not drum before the start signal. Drummers must stop drumming should a false start be called. A false start is signaled by 3 short blasts after the start signal.
3. Starter instructions may include procedures for the boats to "hold", "back up", and "one

minute to start” as boats are lining up to start the race.

4. Once the Starter believes the boats are evenly aligned, the warning signal of **“we have alignment”** will be the cue to paddlers to prepare for the start. The Starter may sound the start signal at any time following the warning of **“Attention”**

### **RIGHT OF WAY RULES**

1. A boat changing lanes before a heat may not pass in front of any team on the course. Doing so will result in a penalty or disqualification.
2. Boats must avoid contact at all times while on the water. Contact between boats will result in a penalty or disqualification.
3. Non-competing boats must stay clear of the boats in competition.

### **FINISHING**

1. The finish line will be marked by a floating finish buoy but the finishing Tent is the true marker.
2. The dragon boat’s bow must cross the finish line to stop the clock.
3. When your boat crosses the finish line, stay in your lane and “let it ride”. Then check for clearance and turn toward the shore in a slow turn heading to the docks as quickly and safely as possible.

### **DISQUALIFICATION AND PENALTIES**

1. Teams deemed to have broken rules of racing or safety protocol may receive a time penalty or disqualification, depending on the seriousness of the incident.
2. Any team or competitor who attempts to win by other than honorable means or who deliberately breaks the race rules shall face disqualification from the competition.
3. Team members who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be disqualified from racing. Tacoma Dragon Boat Association has the sole discretion to deny any racer from entering a boat if it believes a racer has exhibited behavior to indicate alcohol or drug use.
4. The Race Director may disqualify any team or racer who behaves improperly or exhibits bad conduct or speech toward persons running, manning stations and or attending the event, including spectators and bystanders.
5. Removal of boat safety equipment (bailers, etc.) will result in a time penalty to the team.
6. Removal or unfastening of a life jacket prior to returning to leaving the dock/ramp will result in a time penalty to the team.
7. Time penalties assessed can range from 1 – 10 seconds and are at the discretion of the Race Official.

### **APPEALS**

1. Appeals must be made verbally by the team captain and made only to the Dock Marshall immediately following the heat in which the penalty was assessed.
2. The Dock Marshall will investigate the appeal and discuss with the Race Director and the Race Starter. The Race Director will make the final ruling, which is final without appeal.

### **RACE DAY**

All teams need to be aware of their scheduled race times. It is the responsibility of the team manager to have all team members in the marshalling area when their team has been called to race.

What to wear or bring on race day:

- Dress for the weather and prepare for wet conditions
- Team uniform or shirts with team names
- Tennis shoes, aqua sock style shoes or other appropriate water sport sandals
- Bottled water (not allowed in boats)
- Wallets, keys, jewelry, purses, or cell phones are discouraged in the dragon boat

Please Note: Life jackets and paddles will be provided by TDBA if any member of your team does not have one. You are welcome to use your own paddles. PFDs cannot be inflatable and must be Coast Guard approved.

### **MARSHALLING AREA**

1. Do not report to the marshalling area until your heat number and team name is called. Teams will be called to the marshalling area approximately 20 minutes prior to their heat.
2. When your team arrives, you will be asked to line up along with the **Steersperson and drummer.**
3. Remind all team members that they need to have been recorded on the roster and signed the waiver form.
4. Life jackets and paddles will be distributed in this area. You will remain in this area until docks are clear for loading.

### **DOCKS**

1. Team members are not to gather on the dock until instructed to do so. This is to ensure clear passage for teams needing to get into and safely out of their boats upon conclusion of their heat.
2. Teams will be directed to load the boats starting with the steersperson followed by the drummer then the remaining crew.
3. All teams are required to load in a safe, controlled, orderly fashion. Once the boat is loaded, wait for instructions to leave the docks.

### **FINISH**

1. Once the team is back at the dock after your race, make sure you unload your boat from the center.
2. Life jackets are to be worn until you are off the dock and up the ramp. **All team members must either hand off borrowed lifejackets and paddles to another team waiting in marshalling or place them in the designated area. DO NOT take them back to your tent.**

### **RESULTS**

Each race is based on finish times. There will be a results board located near Registration. Awards and closing ceremonies will follow all final races.

**SAFETY FIRST AND ENJOY THE RACE!!**  
**Paddles Up!**