

# **Stratford Dragon Boat Festival – September 19, 2026**

## **1. Waivers**

All team members must sign and accept a waiver, stating that they have read the conditions of the waiver and are aware of the risks associated with the event, and thus waive any right that they may have to any course or action against any or all the sponsors or organizers for injury to the person(s) or loss/damage to personal property.

- a) Prior to participating in any practice sessions or race activities, the team manager or captain must complete the "WAIVER FORM updated January 2024" and make the crew aware of the conditions of the waiver.
- b) Crew members are then to sign and complete the 'Team Waiver of Liability Signature Form'. (The long form requesting contact information for each team member.)
- c) Team members 18 years and under are required to have the "WAIVER FORM updated January 2024", signed by a parent or guardian.

Team managers are responsible for submitting signed waivers from all his/her team to The Stratford Dragon Boat Committee at the beginning of race day.

## **2. Safety**

- a) Each crew member should be able to swim 100 metres while wearing light clothing.
- b) Each crew member is always solely responsible for his / her own safety while engaging in activities relating to practicing and racing in dragon boats.
- c) Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) are mandatory for all practices and races, inflatable PFD's will be allowed.
- d) Team Managers must be fully aware of crew members' swimming abilities.

## **3. Equipment**

- a) All boats, paddles, PFD's and drums will be provided.
- b) All equipment, including boats, used during the practice sessions and races will be returned intact. The replacement cost or repair of such equipment will be charged to the responsible team should negligence be determined.
- c) The "Grey Owl Carbon Shaft" paddle may be used in the Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival.
- d) The "Cowan Canoe Paddy" will NOT be allowed for use during the Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival

# **Team Rules and Regulations**

## **GENERAL**

- a) A registered team member is any person who is at least 12 years of age or who will turn 12 in the year of competition. No team member under the age of 18 will be allowed to practice or race without written consent and waiver signed by their parent or guardian.
- b) A registered team member is anyone who is listed on the practice or team roster and has completed a waiver. A registered team member may compete on more than one team provided that they are listed on each completed team roster.
- c) Team rosters must be declared no later than race day when you register.
- d) The Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee reserves the right to check the crew members in the boat with the names recorded on the team roster prior to all races.
- e) Team rosters for races will be composed of a maximum crew of 27 members: 1 team manager, 20 paddlers, 1 steers person, 1 drummer, and 4 spares. All members are eligible to be part of the paddling crew.
- f) If a Steersperson is needed for race day, they must be requested on the registration form.
- g) Teams using ineligible paddlers may be disqualified.

## **DEFINITION OF TEAMS**

### **1 – Mixed Teams**

- a) During a race Mixed Teams require 16 to 20 paddlers, with not less than half the paddlers female. Members of mixed teams may compete on more than one team, provided that they are listed on the roster of each team.

### **2 – Breast Cancer Teams**

- a) Members of a Breast Cancer Survivor team may compete on one additional team provided that they are listed on the completed roster of each team.
- b) The BCS Division is for a team comprised of only Breast Cancer Survivors (including the drummer). However, the team, to make up numbers may have up to two breast cancer supporters. The steersperson may be male and does not have to be a Breast Cancer Survivor.

### **3 – Women's Teams**

- a) All members and caller must be female. The steersperson may be male.

## **Team Sponsorship**

The Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship, and commercial representation for the event. The Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee is under no obligation to individual team sponsors and may refuse any commercial representation at the Dragon Boat Festival site and on the water venue. Representation of the organization responsible for the team and its' sponsor(s) shall be limited to:

- a) Clothing such as team clothing.
- b) One team flag not exceeding 6 feet in any direction.
- c) Other items deemed appropriate by The Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee.

## **Penalties**

- a) All penalties will be announced when the race results are published.
- b) Teams that have been penalized have 15 minutes to protest. Teams will not be informed of penalties while they are on their boat.

## **Disputes, Protests and Appeals**

- a) Disputes that arise during a competition between crews shall be addressed to the Chief Official and dealt with by the Competition Committee. They must address the Competition Committee within fifteen (15) minutes of the end of the race in question.
- b) A protest against a race result must be made no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the result is officially posted.

## **Boat Starting Alignment**

- a) Line-Up Officials will attempt to align all boats at the start line by instructing the Steerspersons. It is the steersperson's responsibility to perform the requests of the Line- Up Officials. Failure to perform a task in an appropriate time will cause the team to be subjected to an additional 2-5-second penalty pending the severity of the infraction and at the discretion of the Line-Up officials. The penalty will be added to the team's race time.

## **Stratford Dragon Boat Advancement Rules**

First round of racing all teams race for time. Results are sorted based on time. The fastest 8 teams proceed to division A semi finals, the next 8 to division B semi finals etc.

The fastest two teams in each Division race in different semi-finals to ensure that each team has the same opportunity to reach the Division final.

In each Division, the winners of each semi-final race proceed to the division final. The remaining times are sorted and the fastest two times proceed to the division final. The remaining 4 teams proceed to the division consolation final.

The final and consolation final race results are awarded based on the finish order by which the teams cross the final line, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

The teams with the top eight times of the first heat will be eligible to race in the 2,000 metre race at the end of the day.