



Procedures for the Charleston Dragon Boat Festival

How Teams are Placed and Compete in a Heat

Each team may compete in three races. Our goal is for three races but weather may modify the race schedule. Based on the ratings you receive in the practice sessions, you will be placed in Heat One with teams of a similar skill level. Your time from Heat One will be recorded and used to seed you in Heat Two with teams with a similar time.

Your time from Heat One will also be used to determine which Division you will race in for the remainder of the day. In the Championship Heat Three there will be seven divisions (A through G) of 9-12 teams each. The fastest teams will be placed in Division A, the second fastest teams in division B and so forth. The top three finishing times in each division of heat three will medal in their division. Every team has the opportunity to medal in their division. However, you can only medal in the division you are seeded in. For example, if the first place team in division C has a faster time than the third place team in Division B, they cannot medal in Division B. These variances will most likely be due to changes in wind and tide which can vary from division to division but will have no measureable effect within the time frame of a single division.

Heat Three is a winner takes all finale. All women's teams and mixed teams (those having at least eight women) will compete for the overall festival championship and division medals based on the results of Heat Three. Division A will be competing for the festival championship. The men's division winner will be based on the cumulative time for all three races. Medals will also be awarded to Cancer Survivor teams and the Women's Division based on their combined times of all three heats. If we are unable to complete Heat 3 due to weather, the winners for a ALL Divisions will be decided based on their time in Heat II.

In summary, every team has the opportunity to medal based on their performance in the final heat. One-third of the competing teams will go home with a medal. Donor medals will also be awarded to those individuals who reach their fundraising goal of \$100 or more.

Team Make-Up

The drummer can be any gender for any team but must be 16yrs or older. A drummer can be a "club paddler". Cancer teams must have at least 12 cancer survivors.

Women's teams must be all female (Drummer Steersperson exempt)

No team can include more than 2 "Club Paddlers" (Cancer teams are exempt)

Mixed Teams must have at least 8 female paddlers (The drummer and steersperson do not count as a paddler)

Club Paddlers are those who have practiced/trained with a dragon boat club or under the direction of a coach and therefore have skills that exceed those of community teams which only practice in preparation for the Charleston Dragon Boat Festival. The intent of this rule is to keep our competition fair and avoid conflicts between teams with only community paddlers vs those who have recruited club paddlers. Club paddlers are allowed because in many cases the community teams have been recruited and led by a DBC member who can and should paddle with their team. It also allows us to throw a few DBC paddlers in a team boat if they are a few paddlers short on race day.

Disqualification and/ Time Penalites:

- 1) If your team fails to appear on the marshalling dock within 10 minutes of your race time. You may not be able to race. If you do not race your team will receive a race time of 2:00 for that heat.
- 2) If any member of your team stands up in the boat while it is underway. You will receive a race time of 2:00 for that heat.
- 3) If the official starter determines that your boat drifts out of the lane and interferes with the navigation of another boat, all boats impacted in that heat will be directed back to the start dock to race again.
- 4) If your team races with more than two "Club Paddlers". (Cancer teams are exempt from this rule.)

Ejection from the Festival

- 1) If the team fails to follow the commands of the steersperson or coach resulting in unsafe conditions.
- 2) If the team fails to maintain stable body position in the boat or engages in any behavior perceived to be an intentional attempt to swamp the boat.
- 3) Members of the team appear intoxicated.
- 4) If member of your team are disrespectful to the volunteers and refuse to change your seating order if directed to do so for safety concerns.

Protesting

If you wish to protest the outcome of a race, your captain must lodge the protest within 5 minutes after the race time is posted on the scoreboard and post a \$50.00 cash protest fee. The race management team has each race saved on video analysis software and those results are backed up with the use of two interval stopwatches. The results from all three independent sources are reviewed before the times are posted. To protest your results please report to the registration booth and fill out the protest form. They will alert the control tower and the race official will review your race and make a ruling.

Awards

The festival championship medals and the division winners will receive their awards on stage at the end of the day. The coveted "Dragon Cup" will be presented to the team and the individual who raise the most funds for the cancer programs of Dragon Boat Charleston during the mid-day break after heat two and at the end of the day.