

# Montreal Challenge 2014

*Rules of racing*



# 1 General

- 1.1 The language of creation for these rules is English. In the event of a discrepancy between the French and English versions the English version shall be used.
- 1.2 The overall management of the Montreal Challenge shall rest with the executive committee who shall be the supreme authority over all matters pertaining in any way to the Festival. The executive's decisions and rulings shall be final on any group or individual concerned with the decision.
- 1.3 The Dragon Boat Races shall be under the supervision and control of the Chief Race Official who shall retain authority over all matters related to racing.

# 2 Team Categories

- 2.1 There are two categories: Sport and Community
  - 2.1.1 The sport category is restricted to Dragon Boat Canada Members or the equivalent in the country of origin of the teams (i.e. USDBF). All paddlers must be registered with DBC and have a valid card as a proof of their registration.
  - 2.1.2 The Community categories are open to all teams who are not members of Dragon Boat Canada.
- 2.2 There are three classes in the sport division: Open, Women's and Mixed. The DBC guidelines for crew composition will apply:
  - 2.2.1 The drummer and paddlers of an open crew may be of any sex.
  - 2.2.2 A mixed crew will have a minimum of 8 female and 8 male paddlers. The drummer may be any sex.
  - 2.2.3 The drummer, and paddlers of a women's crew must be women.
  - 2.2.4 The steersperson of a sport women's crew must be a female.
  - 2.2.5 The steersperson for any other crews may be of any sex.
- 2.3 A community mixed team has a minimum of 8 female paddlers.
- 2.4 A paddler may not race for a community mixed and a sport mixed team.
- 2.5 A steersperson may steer for more than one crew; however, do so at their own risk.  
**Races will never be held to accommodate a steersperson in two different crews.**

### 3 Safety

- 3.1 All participants in the community category must wear a certified PFD (Personal Flotation device). All participants in the sport division have the option of wearing a lifejacket.
  - 3.1.1 Belt inflatable lifejackets are forbidden for the community divisions.
- 3.2 Unless absolutely necessary and under the control of the coach, it is strictly forbidden for a paddler to stand up in the boat for risk of capsizing (especially at the finish)
- 3.3 In the event of a boat capsizing all paddlers are to remain with the boat and await instructions from the referee who will check for injury and make sure everyone is present.
- 3.4 It is strictly forbidden to consume alcohol before or during racing. Any paddlers caught consuming alcohol before having completed all his or her races will be immediately barred from further racing and risk their elimination of their team from the festival.
- 3.5 Any participants injured or who become ill during the festival are to report to medical staff immediately. If the condition is serious, medical staff may restrict a participant from continuing in the festival. Their decision is final.
- 3.6 All participants must sign a waiver form before being allowed to step in the boat. **It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that all participants in his or her crew have signed a waiver form.** Any paddler caught racing who has not signed a waiver form will have a 0.25s penalty awarded to their crew's time, and risks the disqualification of his or her crew from the race.

### 4 Equipment

- 4.1 Only IDBF spec paddles can be used for racing. A paddler may use a personal or festival paddle.

### 5 General Rules of Racing

- 5.1 All races shall be 500m and 2000m unless otherwise specified
- 5.2 Teams are to report to the marshalling 25 minutes before their scheduled race time.
- 5.3 The starting procedure shall be "All paddlers ready" followed by "Attention" followed by an "air horn". Any team caught jumping the start will receive a 3 second penalty.

- 5.4 **IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO WASH RIDE.** Crews must remain in the center of their lane for the duration of the race. Any crew that does not respond to the officials warning to stay in the middle of their lane may be assessed a 3 second penalty and may risk disqualification if non-action to the official's call is persistent. Leaving your lane may result in a 3 second penalty.
- 5.5 A collision between crews will result in a re-race with the crew causing the collision to receive up to a 5 second penalty. The race referee will then determine whether or not the steersperson is competent enough to continue. If the referee feels the steersperson is unfit to steer then the festival will provide an alternate.
- 5.6 2000m
- 5.6.1 Teams will race 2000m on a 500m course with turns
- 5.6.2 Teams will start at 10-second intervals according to their 500m final times. (Seeded slowest to fastest) Divisions may be combined for scheduling purposes at the discretion of the organizing committee.
- 5.6.3 Teams are to keep in lanes 00, 1 and 2 when paddling up the course and lanes 6 and 0 when coming down the course. It is forbidden to leave this area.
- 5.6.4 **Teams must maintain 6m between themselves and the innermost lane markers** when racing to allow for passing on the inside.
- 5.6.5 On the final leg of the race teams may finish in any lane.
- 5.6.6 Right of way must be given to the overtaking crew. A crew is considered to be overtaking when the bow of their boat reaches the stern of the boat being overtaken.
- 5.6.7 **Upon entering a turn the crew with the right of way may take the turn as tight as they want.** All other crews must maintain their position in a turn. It is forbidden to pass during a turn unless clear water is present. Right of way in a turn is decided when the bow of the leading boat reaches the turning buoy. (example: If Crew B's bow has not reached Crew A's stern when Crew A reaches the turning Buoy then crew A has right of way throughout the turn. If Crew B's bow has reached Crew A's stern then Crew A must allow room for Crew B to pass on the inside.)
- 5.6.8 If a crew with the right of way provides clear water to an overtaking crew during the turn, then the crew with right of way must maintain the clear water provided to the overtaking crew.
- 5.6.9 Safety shall be the single most important guiding principle when racing the 2000m. All steerspersons are to avoid collisions at all costs, even if the fault lies with the other crew. Failure to do so may result in immediate disqualification of the negligent crew.

5.6.10 It is forbidden to purposely slow down or obstruct a fellow competitor.

5.6.11 Infractions to the above rules (5.6.1-5.6.10) may result in up to a 20 second penalty or disqualification at the discretion of the officials.

## **6 Etiquette**

- 6.1 All participants are expected to treat the officials, organizers, volunteers, their fellow competitors and spectators with respect. Any abuse of this fact witnessed during the festival is to be reported to the organizing committee who will review the situation and take appropriate action that may include expulsion of a participant or crew from the festival.
- 6.2 All crews are expected to respect the rules and regulations of racing and the judgment of the officials. Un-sportsmanlike towards the officials in this regard may bring about further penalty and risk disqualification the infracting crew.
- 6.3 A crew may decide to protest a race within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the contested race at a cost of \$50. Protests won by a protesting crew will have their money refunded.