

FAQ & Misunderstood Rules and Regulations

Team Composition/Roster

- Paddlers and drummers can only be on one Mixed team roster (Open and Women's Divisions excluded)
- A steersperson may steer for more than one Mixed team (but not paddle or drum). However, if there is a scheduling conflict, a team is required to provide an alternate steersperson or risk the chance of not racing
- An adult team (19 years or older) may not have a Junior on board
- The Team Manager of an adult team cannot be part of the racing crew and must be on shore (Local Teams only; Visiting Teams are exempt from this rule)

Gender Composition Basics

- Mixed Crews- boat crew must be comprised of at least 8 male paddlers and 8 female paddlers, with the balance of the crew being either gender
- Junior Crews- boat crew may include a maximum of 10 male paddlers i.e., the crew may be composed entirely of female paddlers
- Womens Crews- paddlers and drummer are all women with steersperson of either gender
- Open Crews- no restrictions

Equipment

- Competitors in CIDBF Championships shall be permitted to use their own paddles provided that they conform to the IDBF PS202a Racing Paddle specification (carbon fiber paddles will be allowed)
- 2 spare paddles are allowed on the boat
- Friction tape and wax may be used on your own personal paddles only
- Competitors in CIDBF Championships shall be permitted to use their own PFDs provided that they are approved by the Department of Transport (DOT), Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) or Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), except "manual or auto inflating jackets". U.S. citizens may also use U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs, except "manual or auto inflating jackets".
- All personally owned PFDs may be checked by the Race Officials at any time to ensure that they meet the approved specifications
- Seat pads made of foam or other materials are allowed up to 15mm or 9/16 inch thickness
- Water bottles are allowed on the boat
- Whistles, air horns or any other noise making devices are prohibited from use. Any team shall not use signaling devices including radio communications or other electronic items (GPS)

Race Course

- All races to be 500 meters distance
- Lanes will be numbered 1 to 8 with lane 1 closest to the South shore (Finish Line tent)
- The race runs West to East, with the Start Line near the Cambie Street Bridge and the Finish Line near Science World

The Start

- The Officials will signal the crews to line-up in their respective lanes in the boat staging area before the start of the race; the race will start without your team if you choose to ignore line-up instructions
- The Starter will start the race when all boats are relatively lined up (in the Starter's opinion, under the best possible conditions for a fair start)

- The start commands will be:
 - ◊ “ARE YOU READY” if the crew is NOT READY then the Drummer must immediately raise a hand above head height to the Starter.
 - ◊ “ATTENTION” (after “ATTENTION”, the Drummer CANNOT raise a hand to signal that they are not ready)
 - ◊ starting signal or air horn blast (from 1-5 seconds after “attention please”)

Re-Race Rules

- At the Official’s discretion, a re-race may be ordered when:
- There is a false start called by the Starter, or
- There is clearly a collision within the first 50 meters of the race, or
- There is an equipment breakage, other than paddle, within the first 50 meters of the race

There will absolutely be no grounds for re-races once all boats have passed the 50 meter mark, except one that is initiated by Officials under extraordinary circumstances.

Steering Accreditation (local teams only)

- To raise the level of safety, prevent injuries due to collisions and damage to the dragon boats and equipment, the Festival and FCRC have introduced a Steering Accreditation Clinic and Safety Manual
- Every team must have their steersperson take this clinic. It is recommended that each team have more than 1 person from their team take this clinic
- Every steersperson who takes this clinic will be “carded” and they will be the only people allowed to steer in the Festival Regatta and Festival Race Weekend
- In the situation that your carded steersperson is not available, your team may request a Festival supplied steersperson for the Festival race weekend. This is for emergency purposes only!
- If your steersperson has attended and passed the Steering Accreditation Clinic in the past 4 years, they do not have to take the Steering Accreditation Clinic again unless otherwise notified by the Race Registrar.

Protests

A team **may** protest:

- Illegal equipment used by another team
- A crew not complying with the roster rule
- Collision initiated by another team during the race

A protest must be lodged by the Team Captain to the Race Registrar prior to your team leaving the race staging area. Otherwise, the offence cannot be verified.

A team **may not** protest:

- Boat/lane assignment
- Interference from another boat that did not result in a collision

Penalties

At the Official’s discretion, a minimum 1 to 10-second penalty or team disqualification may be imposed for the following infractions; this time penalty can be applied to your following race:

- Verbal/physical abuse to any Official/Volunteer
- Crew does not comply with the Official Team Roster
- False starting
- Crew does not follow Official’s instructions to change course, resulting in impeding another crew or resulting in a collision with another crew
- The use of unofficial paddle/seat/PFD