



Battle on the Bay

RACE RULES and REGULATIONS

The following pages 1-4 are the dragon boat race rules and regulations for the Battle on the Bay. All Rules and Regulations are based on the International Dragon Boat Federation Members Handbook and local rules and regulations that apply to the Battle on the Bay event.

SUP race rules and regulations will be found on pages 5-6.

All rules are to be read and understood by all teams prior to taking part in the Battle on the Bay Stand Up Paddle and Dragon Boat races.

1. Dragon Boat Team and Paddlers Details

For all dragon boat races, including all distances:

- a. A minimum race team consists of sixteen (16) paddlers, one (1) drummer, one (1) flag catcher, and (1) steersperson.
- b. A maximum race team consists of eighteen (18) paddlers, one (1) drummer, one (1) flag catcher, and one (1) steersperson.
- c. All mixed year-round and/or competitive teams must have a minimum of eight (8) female paddlers and eight (8) male paddlers.
- d. All Corporate and non year-round teams must have a minimum of four (4) female paddlers.
- e. Teams in Female divisions (if applicable) may race with male drummers or steers, but with no (0) male paddlers.
- f. All teams are required to have a drummer and flag catcher.
- g. Only team members on a registered roster will be allowed to paddle with that team.
- h. For breast cancer survivor (BCS) teams: the addition of cancer survivors, friends and caregivers is allowed as long as it fits the spirit of the understood BCS rules.
- i. In case of time conflicts for your races (e.g., back to back races, concurrent races), please notify the officials at the marshaling area before your race. There will be no changing of drummers, steerspersons between continuing heats (back to back races). Please prepare and coordinate for sufficient drummers and steerspersons for all your heats.
- j. All team members must sign the event waiver/roster form prior to entering a boat (including practices).
- k. It is up to the discretion of the race director to determine if any team is considered year-round and/or competitive. The race director also has discretion to determine if BCS teams fall within the spirit of the rules.

2. Finish Line/Timing Tent/Start Line Tent

- a. No paddler or team representative may approach the Timing Tent or the Start Line Tent. These areas of the race site are out of bounds to all race attendees. Any paddler or team representative that approaches the Timing Tent or Start Line Tent will receive a verbal warning and may be assessed a penalty.



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- b. When the Start Line Official is in the process of aligning boats for the start of a race any boat heading to the start must stop prior to reaching the Start Line Tent until the race is officially under way. A boat heading to the start of a race that crosses in front of the Start Tent while another race start is in process will receive a verbal warning and may be assessed a penalty.

3. Meetings

- a. Captains, Coaches and Steers are expected to attend all Captains Meetings held during the race weekend.

4. Race Details

- a. Teams will be assigned lanes by number, and must line up and stay within these lanes during the start, race and finish.
- b. A team will not be considered to finish unless all crew members who started the race are present in the boat.
- c. Standard races are 400 meters in length, unless otherwise stipulated.
- d. All teams must complete all assigned race heats to be eligible for Awards.
- e. Team Captains and Coaches must read and follow the race grid to be on time for races. In order to keep races on schedule, the dock crew will not wait for any teams. Make sure your entire crew is ready to marshal and check in at the loading area. It is your responsibility to check the race grid and be aware if races are running ahead or behind the times posted on the schedule.
- f. There will be no changing of drummers, steerspersons between continuing heats (back to back races). Please prepare and coordinate for sufficient drummers and steerspersons for all your heats.
- g. When heading to the starting line, stay close to the shore as other teams may be racing. Your team must stop paddling 50 meters before the lead racing boat. Restart paddling immediately after the racing boats pass.

5. Starting

- a. Boats must listen to the Start Line Official and follow instructions when lining up for the start.
- b. Starters instructions will include procedures for boats to 'hold', 'back up', while boats are lining up for the start.
- c. The race official will start the race when boats are in position at the start line. We will make all attempts to start the race from a stationary position, but this is not a guarantee because of the currents.
- d. A warning signal of "Attention" will cue all paddlers of every competing boat to prepare for the start.
- e. The Race Start Official will sound the start signal at any time after the warning signal.
- f. Drummers may not drum during Start procedures. Drummers must stop drumming if the Starter calls a False Start.

6. Right of Way Rules



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- a. All boats must stay in their designated lane
- b. A boat changing lanes during a heat may not pass in front of any team on the course. A penalty or disqualifications will be assessed at the time of race completion.
- c. All boats must avoid other boats
- d. Any contact between boats may result in penalty or disqualification.
- e. All boats must attempt to avoid contact at all times on the water.
- f. A boat which is not competing must keep clear of all boats which are competing.
- g. When heading to the start of the race, boats must stop to prevent wakes when any race is in progress.

7. Finishing

- a. Buoys on the finish line will indicate the position of the finishing line but are not the official line.
- b. For the Finish Line Officials to stop the clock, the flag must be pulled by the designated flag catcher.
- c. Steersperson should steer boats to the designated area after each race.
- d. Follow loading official's commands to return the boat to a specific location. When returning, WAIT for boats leaving the loading area as they have the right of way. Not following the official's commands may also result in penalties.

8. Safety

- a. Crew members who are inebriated or under the influence of any drugs or drink will be disqualified from racing. The Organizing Committee has the sole discretion to deny any racer from entering a boat who they feel has been drinking or using banned substances.
- b. All Life Vests must be fully zipped up and properly buckled from the time the paddler enters the marshalling area to when the paddler leaves it. These life jackets MUST be kept on until all team members have returned to the marshalling area after their race heat. All life jackets must be Coast Guard Type III approved. Inflatable Life Vests will not be permitted. All clothing must be worn under PFDs for easy visual confirmation of proper PFD usage.
- c. All life jackets and paddles must be returned and must not leave the marshaling area after each race. Penalties will be applied to offending parties in the form of added seconds to their race time.

9. Disqualifications and Penalties

- a. Any Team determined to have broken a rule, as defined in these Rules and Regulations, or any team not complying with safety protocols may receive a time penalty or disqualification, depending on the seriousness of incident.
- b. Mixed year-round and/or competitive Teams with less than 8 female paddlers, or corporate and non year-round Teams with less than 4 female paddlers in a Race crew will be assessed a time penalty.



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- c. Any alteration or damage to festival equipment may result in a penalty to be assessed by race officials.
- d. Any switching positions or teams, standing, rocking or leaving the boat once the boat has left the dock may result in a penalty.
- e. Discipline - The Chief Race Director shall be responsible for implementing the Disciplinary Code and additionally may penalize any crew or competitor who behaves improperly or shows contempt by bad conduct or speech towards the Race Officials or any other persons, including volunteers and on-lookers.
- f. All roster changes on the day of the event must be approved by the Festival Team Coordinator.
- g. Disqualified teams will not be allowed to compete for awards in that set of races.
- h. Signaling devices including radio communications or any other electronic items and/or any noisemaking devices or GPS devices are prohibited unless approved by the Chief Race Director.

10. Appeals/Protests

- a. Appeals must be made by the team Captain or Manager only.
- b. All protests must be made in writing to the Volunteer Tent within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the race heat in which the penalty was assessed.
- c. The Chief Race Director will investigate the written appeal and discuss appeal with other Race officials. The Chief Race Director will make the final ruling.
- d. The ruling of the Chief Race Director is final and without appeal.

Notes:

Adjustments to race course, times, race schedule and cancellation of race heats may occur due to a number of circumstances including weather, daylight, water conditions, safety, etc. These adjustments are a part of the event and are at the sole discretion of the Race Officials and are final, without appeal and without refund.

The Galveston Beach Patrol will be the event water safety authority. The Galveston Island Beach Patrol & event waterside safety team reserves the right to cancel or modify any race at any time. All decisions made by the Galveston Island Beach Patrol and / or event waterside safety team are final.



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Stand Up Paddling RULES / REGULATIONS / AWARDS:

RACE COURSES:

- 5K
- 10K

5K and 10K races will be at different times. SUP Paddlers can enter both races with dual registrations.

- SPRINT RACE: SUP vs DRAGON BOAT:

Final race is the Battle on the Bay's sprint race, which features SUP's vs dragon boat(s). Up to 25 Stand Up Paddlers will compete against up to 2 dragon boats in a straight out-and-back race course. Sprint race is included with any 5K and/or 10K registration.

BOARD CLASS:

There are 4 awarded board classes:

- SUP Surfboard – any board type below 12'6"
- 12'6" – any board type measuring 12'6"
- 14'0" – any board type measuring 14'0"
- PRONE - any board size - must paddle prone

A registered paddler must race with the board size that the paddler registered with. Board size can be verified by any event staff member at any time during event to confirm correct board classification.

AGE BRACKETS:

There are 3 awarded age brackets:

- Juniors – 14-17 (5K only)
- Open Class – 18 to 49
- Legends – 50 and above



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AWARDS:

5K RACE CATEGORY

- Men's - SUP Surfboard (All Ages Combined)
- Women's - SUP Surfboard (All Ages Combined)

- Men's Prone (All Ages Combined)
- Women's - Prone (All Ages Combined)

- Junior's - All Board sizes Combined + Boys/Girls combined (12.6 max board length)
- Men's 12-6' (Open Class 18-49)
- Women's 12-6' (Open Class 18-49)
- Men's 14' (Open Class 18-49)
- Women's 14' (Open Class 18-49)

- Men's Legends 50+ (All board classes combined)
- Women's Legends 50+ (All board classes combined)

10K RACE CATEGORY

- Men's 14' (ALL AGES COMBINED)
- Women's 14' (ALL AGES COMBINED)

- Men's 12.6' (ALL AGES COMBINED)
- Women's 12.6" (ALL AGES COMBINED)