2023 Lao Boat Racing Festival Rules & Regulations

Official Race Jury: San Diego Dragon Boat Team (SDDBT)
Committee Race Jury: Kasey Kunstmanas; Paulette Luangviseth; Vong Ariyasai

DAY OF RACE:
7:00AM – Check-in for wristbands at the gazebo area
7:30AM – Captain’s meeting at the gazebo area
8:30AM – Team parade & start of ceremony
9:30AM – First race
Noon to 1:30PM – Lunch & entertainment
4:00PM – Awards ceremony

RACING RULES:
1. All races are approximately 250 meters; all paddlers wear appropriately fitted, US Coast-Guard-approved PFDs.
2. Each team registers 18 paddlers (with 4 alternates); team captain; 1 drummer if any, 1 certified steerer if any (if no drummer or steerer, Festival will provide).
3. Must have a minimum of at least 16 paddlers in a boat to race.
4. There must be a minimum of 8 women in a boat.
5. No participant may paddle in more than one team.
6. Each participant must sign a waiver and release of liability form before participation. An electronic link to the form will be provided a couple of weeks prior to the event.
7. Any crew that fails to observe the Rules and Regulations herein may be disqualified.
8. Event Operator reserves the right to waive, amend and add to any of the Rules and Regulations.
9. Wristbands will be checked and time deduction penalties for infractions.
10. Team members with special medical conditions (especially heart conditions or asthma) must always carry their medication with them.
11. All paddlers must be 12 years or older. All paddlers under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian sign the waiver form. There is no restriction on paddler recruitment such as gender, ethnicity, religion, disability (or ability), etc.
12. Wristbands will be provided for all paddlers. Wristbands will be available Saturday morning. From rule #9 above, 5 seconds per paddler will be applied if a delay is caused by not having a wristband during loading.
13. From rule #5 above: No participant may paddle in more than one team. If a paddler is caught paddling on more than one team, both teams will be disqualified for the entire race.
14. In order to keep races on schedule, the dock crew will not wait for any teams. Make sure your entire crew is ready to check in 30 minutes before your race at the loading area. It is your responsibility to check the posted schedule.
15. In case of time conflicts for your races (e.g., back-to-back races, concurrent races), please notify the officials at the loading area before your race.
16. Teams will be disqualified if they are not prepared to load as a full team from back to front on time.
17. During the marshaling process, teams should line up in two straight lines from back to front facing the launching area.
18. From rule #1 above: All persons on the boat must properly wear an approved PFD at all times. Inflatable for any of the races, please contact the organizers at the loading area before your race.

Additional points:
- No paddler may exceed 300 pounds.
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19. After the boat leaves the beach, it cannot stop for any personnel changes. All launched boats are required to head immediately to the starting line. Detours are not permitted. **Boats that delay the starting of a race will be disqualified.**

20. The starter commands will be “Paddlers are you ready?” “Attention please” and horn. If your team is not ready at the “Paddlers are you ready?” command, your drummer should wave both arms to get the starter’s attention. There is no guarantee that the starter will wait.

21. Disregard of starter’s or umpires’ instructions may result in disqualification.

22. Upon finishing a race, each team must promptly return back to the boat launching area without causing delay for the next heat. A penalty of 5 seconds may be imposed to the boat causing the delay.

23. All **SDDBT** life jackets and paddles must be returned and must not leave the loading area after each race (penalty: 5 seconds per item).

24. All other penalties are decided by the race jury. Teams ignoring official’s call will be penalized by 5 seconds or will be disqualified.

25. A captain has before the start of the award ceremony (September 16th, estimated around 3:30 PM) to report an infringement or dispute a call, along with any supported evidence.

**SCORING:**
The race heats, timing, scoring and all other related administration will be under the support of the **San Diego Dragon Boat Team**.

**Race Heats:** Each team will compete in a minimum of 3 heats. Please check the schedule board during the festival for an updated schedule.

**Crossing the Finish Line:**
- A boat has finished the race when the foremost part (head) of the boat crosses the finish line.
- The buoys will serve as a visual indication for the paddlers as the **approximate** finish line. Since they tend to drift with the tide and current, the race official and cameraman will use a pre-determined line between the two shores as the finish line – such as a stick in the sand from one shore and a tree on the other side of the bank.

**Scoring:**
- The combined time from the 3 heats will be used to determine the overall score for each team.
- The top 3 teams with the best combined time will advance to the Division A final. “Best” is defined as the shortest combined time. The next top 3 teams will advance to the Division B final. The next top 3 teams will advance to the Division C final. The next top 4 teams will advance to the Division D final.
- During the final races, all times from the heats will be disregarded and the teams will simply race for first, second, and third place.

**Trophies and Medals:**
- Division A – Trophies and medals will be awarded. Each winning team in Division A will receive 1 trophy and 24 medals.
- Division B – A trophy and 24 medals will be awarded to the first-place winner. The second and third place winners in Division B will receive 24 medals.
- Division C – Medals will be awarded. Each winning team in Division C will receive 24 medals.
- Division D – Medals will be awarded only to the winning team. The one winning team in Division D will receive 24 medals.