



# Springfield Dragon Boat Festival

## 2019

## General Rules

### Team Registration Includes:

- Team campsite at North Riverfront Park
- Three 200 meter races on race day. Racing begins at 9:00 a.m.
- All necessary equipment, including boats, paddles, and life jackets

*Dragon Boat CHALLENGE Teams also receive a one-hour professionally coached training session, in the week prior to the race, and a qualified steersperson for their races.*

## Registration and Waivers

- Team Captains or their representatives must go online to [www.pvrriverfront.org/db-fest-reg](http://www.pvrriverfront.org/db-fest-reg) to register the Team for the Springfield Dragon Boat Festival (SDBF).
- A \$250 non-refundable deposit may be paid at the time of registration until May 1. After that date, full payment is required to register a Team.
- An Early-Bird discount is available to Teams that choose to pay the full amount before April 1.
- All registration payments should be paid by June 1.
- All individual Team members must complete individual online registrations and fill out the online waiver prior to participating in the event.
- All Team members must appear on the roster in order to participate on race day.
- 22Dragons (Montreal, Canada) is our event partner and their staff serve as our Race Officials for the Festival. They are responsible for running Team practices and race operations. The 22Dragons tent will be at the finish line.
- On race day, Team Captains will be responsible for checking in at the Registration Tent, for distributing wristbands to Team members, and attending the pre-race Captains Meeting.
- The wristbands are not transferable and must be worn at all times during the event.

- Challenge Team paddlers may compete on only one Team. Note: Each Team has three alternates.
- For non-ERDBA-qualifying club Teams, all paddlers must be listed on the Team roster at beginning of the Festival.
- For ERDBA-qualifying club Teams, the Team must provide photo rosters, and 22Dragons will provide necessary “Peer checking protocols” to verify eligibility.
- All participants must be at least 14 years old on the day of the event.
- Swimming Requirement: All paddlers must be able to swim 50 meters in light clothing while wearing a PFD.

## Club Teams

- Club Teams competing for ERDBA must comply with the ERDBA rules as outlined for this race by the chief official. The chief official will have a captains meeting before racing begins.
- All Club Team boats may carry up to 20 paddlers with a minimum of 16 paddlers. Club Team rosters may not exceed 25 members consisting of 20 paddlers, three alternates, one steersperson, and one drummer. All Club mixed-teams must contain a minimum of 8 female paddlers.

## Challenge Teams

- Challenge Team boats must carry a minimum of 16 in each boat, including 8 women. Each Challenge Team roster may not exceed 24 members including 20 paddlers, three alternates, and one drummer.
- Challenge Teams will be provided a steersperson from 22Dragons. They will need to provide their own drummer.

# Challenge Team Practices

- The Challenge Team registration fee includes a one-hour practice during the week before the race. Each Challenge Team will be contacted by the Festival Registrar with available times after registration closes on June 1. Teams must respond to [springfielddragonboat@gmail.com](mailto:springfielddragonboat@gmail.com) as soon as possible with their preferred time. SBDF will do its best to accommodate team preferences.
- If fewer than 10 paddlers for any one Team show up for practice, SBDF will make every effort to accommodate them, but cannot guarantee a practice session.
- Paddlers should arrive 30 minutes before their practice session begins to check in at the registration tent and be fitted for PFDs and paddles.
- Team members should wear athletic clothing and water shoes. Paddlers should bring a water bottle and a spare set of dry clothes. Sunblock, a hat, and sunglasses are all recommended.

- Participants should leave valuables locked in their vehicles. SDBF is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

## Race Day Information

- The event is rain or shine. In the event of unsafe weather racing may be delayed and/or shortened.
- North Riverfront Park will open at 7:00 a.m.
- Team captains need to check in at the Registration Tent to pick up wristbands for their Teams before the start of racing at 9:00 a.m..
- The Registration Tent will also have locations for all Team campsites.
- All Teams should have full rosters on site by 8:00 a.m.
- Opening ceremony will take place at 8:45 a.m.
- Parking is available off Route 20 between Pride gas station and North Riverfront Park. For GPS use 121 West Street Springfield MA. Overflow parking is available on Avocado Street.
- Each Team should bring a 10' x 10' tent for the Team's assigned campsite. Weather may be very hot or it may rain on the day of the event. You will be outside all day long. Please bring what you need in order to be comfortable.
- Breast Cancer Survivor (BCS) Teams and All Cancer Survivor (ACS) will take part in the Rose Ceremony at the end of racing.
- There will be vendors on site selling food or you may bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.
- Dogs and other pets will not be allowed on site on race day. We ask that you leave your pets at home.
- Lost and found will be at the Information Tent.
- If equipment is damaged or lost through the willful, reckless or negligent actions of a person or Team, that person or Team is responsible for reimbursing 22Dragons or PVRC.

## Racing Information

- Boats, PFDs, and paddles will be provided. If anyone wishes to use his or her personal PFD or paddle it must be approved by 22Dragons. Both can be checked in the marshalling area by a 22Dragons official. All personal paddles must be dragon boat paddles. Only USCG approved life vests will be approved, no waist PFDs or inflatable PFDs will be allowed.
- PFDs are required to be worn at all time while on the dock or in Dragon Boat.
- Teams must report to the marshalling area at least 15 minutes prior to the estimated start time of their race.
- Teams go to the dock when instructed to by Race Officials/Dock Staff to board the Dragon Boat assigned to them.

- Once paddlers are on the boat, the Steersperson is responsible for the boat. Everyone in the Dragon Boat will listen to and follow the instructions from the Steersperson.
- The Starter will have complete control of the race prior to the start.
- Only the Steersperson will communicate with the Starter.
- The starting line will be marked with buoys.
- Before each start, the Starter will align the boats. The starter will communicate with the steersperson and the steersperson will give paddlers commands.
- The commands the Starter will give to start the race are: We have alignment....Attention..... then horn will sound and that will start the race. (If a horn is not available a verbal command will be given). The time between the commands will vary, paddlers will need to be ready to go once they hear, “We have alignment.”
- If a false start occurs, the starter will sound the horn twice and raise a red flag. The Dragon Boats will return to the start line. The Team that had the false start will be given a **2-second penalty**. Two false starts by the same Team in the same race shall result in a forfeit in that race.
- Each Dragon Boat drummer must be engaged in active drumming for the duration of the race. *Active Drumming is defined as the drummer actively and audibly striking the drum skin at approximately the same rhythm as the paddlers in their boat.* The race officials may assess a Team a **3-second penalty** for absence of active drumming.
- Each Dragon Boat must maintain a proper course during the race. The proper course is a straight line from the starting position to a corresponding point on the finish line with at least two meters of clear water between Dragon Boats. Each Dragon Boat must remain in its lane and must not interfere with other Dragon Boats.
  - Teams will be assessed a **5-second penalty** or disqualified if they deviate from their racing lane or impede other Teams. Race officials have final say.
  - If there is a collision or a lane violation between two or more boats and it materially affects the results of the race the race officials may order one or more Dragon Boats to re-race with or without the offending Team. The offending boat may be disqualified if the race officials deem it necessary.
- The race officials have complete discretion to assess a **5-second penalty**, or disqualify a time for any of the following:
  - Violating rules
  - Demonstrating poor sportsmanship, conduct, or behavior
  - Willfully, recklessly, or negligently damaging or losing equipment
  - Disobeying reasonable requests or instruction made by official or their designees
- If a participant [Team] wishes to challenge or object to anything that happens *during* a race, this challenge must be communicated by the Team Captain to the chief official at the finish line tent within 20 minutes of the time of the incident they wish to protest.
- If a participant [Team] wishes to challenge anything that happens *after* a race, this challenge must be communicated by the Team Captain to the chief official at the finish line tent within 20 minutes of the time of the incident they wish to protest.

## Awards

Awards will be given out for:

- Challenge Teams: *First, Second, Third*
- Club Teams: *First, Second, Third*
- Top ACS/BCS Team (Winner of ACS/BCS Race)
- Best Site
- Best Drummer
- Spirit Award

Additional awards may be added depending on registration. For example a women's division, open division, student division, and so on.