



# LAKE SUPERIOR DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

## Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival – Rules – 2009 Festival

### ADMINISTRATION

#### 1. Eligibility

1.1 Each Team must compete with a minimum of eight women per boat per race. If any Team is short the required eight women, it shall race shorthanded to correspond to such deficiency. **For example: If a team has six women, it will be allowed to race with no more than 18 paddlers.**

Each team must race with a minimum of 16 paddlers per boat.

1.2 Each Team must race with a drummer.

#### 2. Registration

2.1 The registration fee is \$800 per team. Each team must register and pay the non-refundable deposit fee of \$100 with the balance of the non-refundable registration fee due by July 1, 2009 (early registration made by November 30, 2008 has a \$50.00 discount.) Checks shall be made payable to the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival. Completed forms and payments shall be mailed to:

Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival  
Registration Committee, c/o Mary Lou or Alan  
1627 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Superior, WI 54880  
Phone: (866) 336-1107  
Fax: (715)395-2853  
Email: [teams@lakesuperiordragons.com](mailto:teams@lakesuperiordragons.com)

Credit cards accepted include Master Card and Visa.

2.2 Final team rosters shall be submitted to the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival at Registration the Friday of the Festival. Teams may replace or fill out rosters after that date under these guidelines:

2.2.1 A paddler or drummer may be on more than one team roster. The completed Team Roster form will function as the official notification to the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival. The Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival will not be responsible for scheduling conflicts for paddlers on two or more teams.

2.3 Team captains will self seed their teams into one of three divisions (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) so that teams can race against other teams of the same caliber for the morning and afternoon races. Any team that finished within the top 30 in the last festival should enter the Gold division. New teams or teams that finished in the bottom 20 in the last festival should enter the Bronze division. Other teams that have had racing experience should be in the Silver division. However, this is just a guideline and it is up to the team captain to decide. Race times and lanes will be assigned within these three divisions by a random draw, unless there is a special request for teams to race each other (e.g. bank sponsored teams may want to race each other or teams from four different local university/colleges may want to race each other). Team captains must select which division they wish to race in and which authorized challenge category at time of registration. No team will be allowed to have a challenge category of one team. The Festival reserves the right to modify challenge categories and select and or move a team if appropriate. Note: this will not affect how teams are selected for the finals, which will be by best time in either race. A team that is racing division could get a time that puts them in the finals for the Silver Category. A team that is racing Bronze division could get a time that puts them in the low end of the Silver Category (and not in the finals).

2.4 Failure to pay fees on time or file requisite documents or information on time shall result in termination of registration subject to the discretion of the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival.

2.5 Teams withdrawing from the event after registering must submit notice in writing prior to July 1, 2009. All registration fees and deposits are non-refundable notwithstanding termination of team registration, team cancellation or disqualification, race cancellation, race re-scheduling, or any other reason.

### 3. Waivers

3.1 All team members must sign waivers stating that they have read and understand the conditions of the waiver and are aware of and accept all risks associated with the event, and wave all rights to take legal action against any of the sponsors, their volunteers and employees, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, its volunteers and employees, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival organizing committee, its volunteers and employees, the Duluth Boat Club, its directors and volunteers, and any other person, partnership, corporation or association in any way associated with the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, for injury or death, or for loss or damage to property, howsoever caused. For participants less than 18 years of age, parents or

guardians must also read, understand and sign the waivers.

3.2 Team Managers must submit to the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival properly signed, dated and witnessed waivers for all team members at Registration the Friday of the Festival. The Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may accept late submission of waivers at its discretion; however, waivers must be read, understood, signed and witnessed well in advance of any on-water activity.

#### 4. Dragon Boats and Equipment

4.1 The Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival shall provide Dragon Boats, paddles, drums and life jackets.

4.2 All equipment shall be returned in good condition immediately following practices and races. In the event that the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival determines negligence, replacement or repair costs shall be charged to the team responsible.

4.3 Any teams or members wishing to use paddles or personal flotation devices not provided by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival must first have these items approved by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival at its discretion.

4.4 Only the drum and drumsticks provided by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival shall be used to signal the stroke rate in addition to nonelectrically assisted voice commands.

#### 5. Teams

5.1 A person shall be a registered team member of only one team unless volunteering to race with another team under the guidelines in section 2.2.

5.2 All team members must be registered.

5.3 A registered team member must be 14 years old prior to the first practice session.

5.4 A registered team member must be listed on the team roster by the Team Manager, must have read, understood, signed, dated, and have had witnessed the waiver, and must have had such waiver filed by the Team Manager with the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival.

5.5 Teams are allowed a maximum 25 registered members, comprising of:

- \* 1 Drummer

- \* 1 Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival Qualified Steers-persons

- \* 20 Paddlers

- \* 3 Spares

Of any of the above, one person must be registered as the Team Manager.

5.6 Each team must race with a Drummer.

5.7 The Steers-person will be provided by the Festival unless the team has an experienced Steers-person who has competed in a previous Dragon Boat Race. At its discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may at any time replace any team's Steers-person with another Steers-person, despite that replacement not being a registered member of that team. At its discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may at any time direct that a team not participate further in on-water activity due to its Steersperson not being capable.

5.8 At its discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may at any time require a check of crew members against their team rosters.

5.9 Team Managers shall ensure that only registered team members participate in on-water activities. Any team permitting a non-registered person to participate in any on-water activity shall be subject to disqualification and be prohibited from further on-water participation, subject to the discretion of the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival.

5.10 At its discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may disqualify and prohibit from further participation any team member or team if such a team member or team displays unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct.

5.11 Each team and each team member is required to follow these rules.

5.12 The Team Manager shall be responsible for:

- \* Team Conduct

- \* Communication and Distribution of Information to the Team

- \* Communication with the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival.

- \* Collection and filing of all requisite information and forms with the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival

- \* Liaison with race officials

- \* Attendance at the Team Managers' meeting prior to the commencement of the Team coaching clinics. The meeting will be held at **5:00 p.m. on Friday , August 21, 2009** , at the Stage Area of the Festival Grounds on Barker's Island. All team managers or representatives from the team from the Duluth-Superior area should attend this meeting.

**Information will be mailed to teams from out of town.**

# SAFETY PROCEDURES, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND GENERAL SANCTIONS

## 1. Application

Safety Procedures, Emergency Procedures, and General Sanctions apply throughout the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, including but not limited to practices and races.

## 2. Safety Procedures

- 2.1 The Steers-person is responsible for the Dragon Boat and the team.
- 2.2 The Steers-person shall communicate the safety procedure and emergency procedure to each team member before each practice session and before each race.
- 2.3 Dragon Boats shall give way to each other and must give way to all other persons and vessels.
- 2.4 Each team member shall wear a personal flotation device during all on-water activities, including all practices and races.
- 2.5 Each team member shall be capable of swimming 50 meters while wearing a personal flotation device. The Team Manager shall ensure that all team members are capable of complying with this rule.
- 2.6 Each team member is responsible for his or her own safety at all times while engaging in activities related to practicing and racing in Dragon Boats.
- 2.7 Individuals or teams deemed unsafe by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival or its designate shall not be permitted to continue on-water activities, including all practices or races.
- 2.8 It is an unsafe practice for team members to jump out of the Dragon Boat and into the water. This activity will result in a team being disqualified from competition.

## 3. Emergency Procedures

In the event of a Dragon Boat swamping or capsizing, the following shall apply.

- 3.1 The Steers-person shall retain charge of the team until rescue personnel arrive.
- 3.2 The Steers-person shall immediately determine if any persons are trapped in the Dragon Boat, and act accordingly.
- 3.3 Each team member must ensure that the team members immediately in front, behind, and beside, are not trapped in the Dragon Boat.
- 3.4 Each team member must follow directions given by the Steers-person,

until such time as rescue personnel arrive, after which each team member must follow directions given by rescue personnel.

3.5 The crew must hold onto the Dragon Boat. Individuals must not swim to shore.

3.6 Upon ensuring that no persons are in distress, the rescue personnel shall direct the team to swim the Dragon Boat to shore, with or without towing assistance by the rescue personnel.

#### 4. General Sanctions

4.1 Participants are expected to compete in a sportsmanlike and safe manner during the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, including practices and all related events. Sportsmanlike and safe conduct includes:

4.1.1 Paddling in a safe manner, including obeying commands from steerpersons.

4.1.2 Maintaining sobriety and not carrying alcohol while participating or attempting to participate in on-water activities.

4.1.3 Obeying the rules of the festival.

4.1.4 Treating other competitors, officials and spectators in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner.

4.1.5 Handling and using equipment in a reasonable manner to avoid damage or loss.

4.1.6 Obeying request and instructions by officials or their designates.

4.2 At its complete discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival may dismiss at any time, including but not limited to any practices or races, any person or team from further practices or races for not complying with these guidelines.

4.2 When equipment is damaged or lost through the willfully, reckless, or negligent actions of a person or team, then that person or team shall be responsible for financially reimbursing the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival.

### PRACTICES

#### 1. Location

Practices will take place at Barker's Island Marina transient docks. Teams shall meet at the parking lot near the Barker's Island Ship's Store.

## 2. Schedule

2.1 As part of the registration fee, each team shall be granted two practice sessions during the evenings or weekends of the two weeks immediately preceding the race. Additional sessions may be available for a further fee, as scheduling and staffing may permit. Arrangements for scheduling practice sessions or extra practice sessions shall be made through Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival Team Training Coordinator Megan Kress or such persons as the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival shall otherwise designate.

2.2 All practices shall be limited blocked in 50-minute periods. Teams shall assemble twenty minutes prior to their scheduled practice start time.

2.3 All practices shall be coordinated by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival or such persons or organizations as it may designate, and team members and teams shall follow the directions given by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival or such persons or organizations as it may designate.

2.4 By the completion of its final practice, each team's manager shall either inform the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival of which two members on its roster it have been qualified as Steers-persons by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, or shall make arrangements with the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival for the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival to provide a Steers-person for the race.

2.5 Teams assembling with less than sixteen Paddlers plus Drummer plus Steers-person shall forfeit their practice without right to rescheduling.

## RACES

### 1. Location

Races will take place at Barker's Island on the north side of the Barker's Island inlet. Teams shall assemble at the designated areas noted on maps provided in the team packet.

### 2. Race Scheduling

2.1 The starting order for all races will be determined prior to race day by the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, and be issued to Team Managers. The starting order will also be posted at the marshalling area.

2.1.1 Team captains will self seed their teams into one of three divisions (, Bronze and Silver) so that teams can race against other teams of the same caliber for the morning and afternoon races. Any team that finished within the top 20 in the last festival should enter the

division. New teams or teams that finished in the bottom 20 in the last festival should enter the Bronze division. Other teams that have had racing experience should be in the Silver division. However, this is just a guideline and it is up to the team captain to decide. Race times and lanes will be assigned within these three divisions by a random draw, unless there is a special request for teams to race each other (e.g. bank sponsored teams may want to race each other or teams from four different local university/colleges may want to race each other). Team captains must select which division they wish to race in and which authorized challenge category at time of registration. Note: this change will not affect how teams are selected for the finals, which will be by best time in either race. A team that is racing division could get a time that puts them in the finals for the Silver Category. A team that is racing Bronze division could get a time that puts them in the low end of the Silver Category (and not in the finals).

2.2 Final heats for each racing division will be determined by the best single time for each team. Teams will be ranked according to their best race time and divided into three divisions (Gold, Silver, and Bronze). The four fastest teams in each division will race each other for the division championship.

2.3 Each race will start as soon as possible following the race preceding it. Although the order of races shall remain constant, the start times shall be approximate. Each team must be prepared to race significantly before its estimated race time. Team Managers are responsible for monitoring the progression of the races and ensuring that their team is ready to race when called upon, regardless of the estimated start time. In its discretion, the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival shall not wait for teams which are not ready to start prior to their estimated race times.

### 3. Pre-race Procedure

3.1 Teams shall report to the marshalling area at least 45 minutes prior to the estimated start time of their race. Team Managers are responsible for reporting in.

3.2 Teams members shall board in accordance with the instructions of the Chief Marshall.

3.3 Teams shall board the Dragon Boat designated to them and will

proceed to the start area on instructions from the Chief Marshall.

3.4 No more than two spare paddles may be boarded.

3.5 When proceeding to the start area, teams shall paddle beside the shoreline, without entering into the racing lanes, regardless of whether the racing lanes are in use or not, so that collisions can be avoided and so that congestion from turning Dragon Boats in the start area can be avoided.

3.6 Once in the start area, the teams shall hold in the start area, well back from the start, line facing down their lanes. Unless otherwise directed, teams shall not venture into the bay above the start area.

3.7 In the event of maneuvering difficulty caused by wind, the referee may direct teams to assemble in the bay above the start area, and then direct the teams to approach the start area as a group.

#### 4. Race Procedure

4.1 The Referee shall have control of the race prior to the start. Only Steers-persons may communicate with the Referee, and such communication shall be kept to an absolute minimum.

4.2 In the Referee's discretion, without waiting for stragglers or waiting for teams, which have ventured into the bay above the start area, the referee shall ask the teams to "Please approach the start line."

4.3 If, in the referee's opinion, a Steers-person is not capable, the referee shall direct that team withdraw from the race.

4.4 A false start shall be indicated by the Starter sounding the start horn a second time. The starting procedure will be determined by the officiating team and communicated to the teams before the race. Depending on conditions, the starting procedure may be changed and will be communicated to teams on race day. Managers are responsible for ensuring that all team members know and understand the starting procedure.

4.5 After a fair start, the Referee shall resume control of the race.

4.6 The Referee shall follow the Dragon Boats down the course, and if necessary and where possible, direct Steers-persons to maintain the middle of their lanes.

4.7 If a Dragon Boat appears to be losing directional control, is crossing out of its lane, is encroaching on the side of its lane, or is riding the wake of another Dragon Boat, the Referee, in the Referee's discretion, may either stop that Dragon Boat, or any or all other Dragon Boats, so as to avoid possible collisions.

4.7 If progress of a Dragon Boat is affected by another Dragon Boat, the referee shall halt the race and issue a re-start.

4.9 If, for any reason, circumstances arise such that the Referee, in the

Referee's discretion, determines that a race should be halted, then the Referee shall halt the race and issue a re-start.

4.10 If a Dragon Boat is not steering straight down the course, its crew shall immediately hold the Dragon Boat (jam their paddles into the water and stop the Dragon Boat) so as to prevent the Dragon Boat from crossing out of its lane or spinning out.

4.11 Restarts make take place immediately, or may be held later in the day, at the discretion of the Referee.

4.12 At the finish, the Referee will signal a clean race with a white flag, and a penalty with a red flag. Penalties shall be reported by the Referee to the Chief Official.

## 5. Post-race Procedure

5.1 Upon crossing the finish line, all teams shall proceed along the shoreline back to the docks, being very careful to not turn broadside into Dragon Boats still finishing.

5.2 Paddlers with access to bailing buckets shall bail continuously from the finish until back at the dock. Paddlers shall not splash or otherwise deliberately bring water into the Dragon Boat. Upon arrival at the dock, each Dragon Boat shall be substantially free of water and be ready for the next race.

5.3 Teams shall approach the docks at a dead slow pace so as to avoid collision damage.

## 6. Race Penalties

6.1 Teams missing the start of their race shall be disqualified from that race. Race officials are not obliged to wait for tardy teams.

6.2 Any Dragon Boat false starting will be penalized 5 seconds. Any Dragon Boat false starting for the second time in the same race will be penalized an additional 10 seconds.

6.3 Any Dragon Boat affecting the progress of another Dragon Boat will be penalized 20 seconds.

6.4 Any Dragon Boat crossing out of its lane but not affecting the progress of another Dragon Boat will be penalized 5 seconds.

6.5 Any Dragon Boat not obeying instructions from the Referee shall be disqualified at the discretion of the Referee. The onus is on the team, particularly the Drummer and Steers-person, to keep alert to such instructions, particularly while progressing down the course.

6.6 General sanctions continue to apply in addition to race penalties.

## 7. DISPUTES, PROTESTS and DISQUALIFICATIONS.

7.1 Disputes. Disputes that arise during a competition between Crews shall be addressed to the Chief Official and dealt with in the same way as a Protest.

7.2 Racing Protests. In the event of a crew wishing to make a protest following a race, concerning the conduct of another crew or the race result, the captain, and only the captain must lodge the protest with the Chief Official and post a protest fee within fifteen (15) minutes of the end of the race. The protest fee is \$100, which will be refunded should the protest be upheld.

7.4 Decisions. The Race Jury shall consist of the Chief Official, the onwater referee, and one other race official drawn from the officiating team. The Chief Official may consult with the Race Jury before reaching a decision. After reaching a decision the Chief Official must inform all the parties involved of the decision and of the reasons for the decision. The decision of the Chief Official is Final.

7.5 The officiating team shall consist of the chief official, an on-water referee, a starter/aligner, chief marshal and finish line judge.