



Rhode Island Chinese Dragon Boat Races 2015 Rules

1. CONDITIONS OF RACE ENTRY

- A. Abide by the instructions of the race officials.
- B. Sign a waiver prior to the race regarding any claims against the Rhode Island Dragon Boat Races and 22Dragons.
- C. Use only the equipment provided by the Race Committee, including boats, paddles, and drum.
- D. Wear a personal floatation device either supplied by the Race Committee or a personal one so long as the it is USCG approved.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

New in 2015 are two race divisions, mixed and open.

- A. Teams racing in the **mixed division** must have a minimum of 6 female PADDLERS.
- B. Teams racing in the **open division** have no gender restrictions.
- C. Teams in both divisions shall consist of a maximum of 23 members and a minimum of 19 members.
- D. Each team must have a:
 - i. drummer.
 - ii. flag catcher.
 - iii. steersperson.
- C. Each team must have a minimum of 16 paddlers and a maximum of 20 paddlers.
- E. All teams are allowed 4 alternate paddlers. Alternate paddlers may be rotated into the race.
- F. If members of any team are absent on race day, the team captain may fill the vacancies with alternate or substitute paddlers, including paddlers from other teams, as long as a waiver of liability is on file. However, no team may race with more than 4 alternate or substitute paddlers. This substitution rule also applies to clubs with multiple crews at the races.

3. AWARDS

- A. Awards, medals, trophies and cash prizes will be distributed at the conclusion of the last race of the day.
- B. The awards are as follows:
FOR THE MIXED DIVISION.
In the mixed division there are three finals. The Dragon final (A), Lion final (B), and Tiger final (c). Rules on progressing to finals are found below in section 5.

Dragon Final	Lion Final	Tiger Final
<p>1st place receives a championship trophy, 25 medals, and \$10,000.</p> <p>2nd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p> <p>3rd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p>	<p>1st place receives a championship trophy, 25 medals, and free entry to the 2016 Boston dragon boat festival.</p> <p>2nd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p> <p>3rd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p>	<p>1st place receives a championship trophy, 25 medals, and free entry to the 2016 Pawtucket dragon boat festival.</p> <p>2nd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p> <p>3rd place receives a trophy and 25 medals.</p>

Additional awards for the MIXED division.

The top ranked MIXED Rhode Island team (based on final results only) will receive a **\$5000** award.

If a Rhode Island teams wins 1st place in the Dragon final and collects **\$10,000** they will NOT be eligible to win the additional **\$5000**. The **\$5000** award would go to the next highest ranking Rhode Island team.

Awards for the OPEN division.

The **1st place** team will receive a championship trophy, 25 medals and a free entry to the 2016 Pawtucket dragon boat race.

The **2nd place** team will win a trophy, and 25 medals.

The **3rd place** team will win a trophy and 25 medals.

4. RACE INSTRUCTIONS

A. Race officials will call teams to report for their heats 25 minutes before the start of the race. Failure to report in a timely manner may result in disqualification and that team will be given last place in their heat.

B. Steerspersons should get their crews onboard and move their boat into a starting position as quickly as possible.

C. Boats are to travel to the starting line in the transit lane, the lane closest to the Pawtucket Pier. Crossing onto the active race course is considered interference, resulting in the interfering boat being disqualified.

E. When the starter is satisfied that all boats are properly aligned, he/she shall say "Paddles ready", followed by "attention please", followed by the air horn.

F. Any boat that crosses the start line prior to the sound of the air horn will be assigned a 15 second penalty. No heat will be restarted for a false start.

5. PROGRESSION AND RULES.

- A.** All teams will race in two qualifying heats and one final.
- B.** All race progression will be based on time.
- C.** Each team will receive two times (one for each heat). The slower of the two times will be dropped, and the faster of the two times will be used to seed the teams into their final.
- D.** The three fastest teams will race in the 'A' final; the next three fastest teams will race in the 'B' final and so on. All teams will race in a final. The slowest seeded final will be the first race of the afternoon; the fastest seeded final (the 'A' final) will be the last race of the day.
- E.** Each team will be assigned their own lane (lanes 1,2,3).
- F.** Teams are required to race the entire race in their lane.
- G.** Teams must attempt to race the entire race in the center of their lane.
- H.** The referee may ask a team to stop paddling if a boat is, or is, about to impede the progress of another team.
- I.** Teams that leave their assigned lane at any moment during the race will be given a five second penalty.
- J.** Teams that ignore the referee's instructions to move to any side of their lane will be given a five second penalty even if the team does not leave their assigned lane.
- K.** The referee may stop any crew during a race.
- L.** If a team ignores a referee's call to stop during a race that team will be disqualified for the remainder of the event.

6. FLAG CATCHING RULES.

- A.** Each lane will have a flag installed **near** the center of their lane at approximately 50 meters from the finish line.
- B.** Each team is required to have one person designated as the flag catcher.
- C.** The flag catcher is identified as the person closest to the bow of the boat.
- D.** Each team can only have one flag catcher on their boat.
- E.** Only the flag catcher is allowed to attempt to catch the flag.
- F.** Other members of a crew are not allowed to assist the flag catcher in any way in their attempts to catch the flag.
- G.** If any other person other than the flag catcher assists in catching the flag or catches the flag the flag will be deemed NOT CAUGHT.
- H.** If the flag catcher successfully catches the flag and keeps possession of the flag until the head of the dragon crosses the finish line the flag will be deemed CAUGHT.
- I.** If a flag catcher successfully catches the flag but loses possession before his/her team's dragonhead crosses the finish line the flag will be deemed NOT CAUGHT.
- J.** If a flag catcher does miss the flag the flag will be deemed NOT CAUGHT.
- K.** A team's time will be calculated from the moment the race is

started until the head of the dragon crosses the finish line.

L. Teams that successfully catch and maintain possession of the flag will be given their time with no penalty.

M. Teams that are deemed to have NOT CAUGHT the flag will be given a three (3) second penalty.

7. RACE CONDUCT

A. All team members must remain in the boat from start to finish.

B. If any member falls overboard during the race, the boat must stop. Failure to stop will result in disqualification.

C. If race officials determine that any team has deliberately swamped or capsized another boat, that team will be disqualified, get last place in the heat and may be refused further participation in the races.

D. At the conclusion of each heat, the head judge will determine the official order of finish.

E. After crossing the finish line, team members shall remain in their boats and return to the dock immediately.

F. In the event of a collision, the following course official may stop the race, disqualify the offending team, and restart the race with the remaining teams.

8. SAFETY

A. If a paddler breaks or drops his/her paddle, he/she should not attempt to retrieve it.

B. If a boat swamps, team members should stay with the boat until the water safety officials arrive.

C. If a steerspersons' steering oar breaks before the halfway buoys, he/she should raise his/hand and the race will be restarted with a new oar.

9. PROTESTS

A. Only the team captain may file a protest.

B. Protests must be filed with the Protest Committee* within 15 minutes after the completion of the disputed race. The Protest Committee shall consist of the chief official, referee and starter. Their decisions are final.

C. The protest must be in writing and secured by a \$25 cash bond. If the protest is upheld, the bond is returned. If the protest is denied, the bond goes to the support of the regatta.

X _____

Team Captain Signature

____/____/____

Date