



**INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION**

**DRAGON BOAT  
RACING  
COMPETITION RULES**

**2015**

Taking effect from 1 January , 2015

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules that govern the way of running Dragon Boat Racing ICF competitions.

## **LANGUAGE**

The English written language is the only acceptable language for all official communications relating to these Competition Rules and the conduct of all Dragon Boat Racing ICF competitions.

For the sake of consistency, British spelling, punctuation and grammatical conventions have been used throughout.

Any word which may imply the masculine gender, also includes the feminine.

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## List of Abbreviations:

<b>ICF</b>	International Canoe Federation
<b>NOC</b>	National Olympic Committee
<b>DBRC</b>	Dragon Boat Racing Committee
<b>GR</b>	General Rules (can only be changed by ICF Congress)
<b>TR</b>	Technical Rules (can be changed by ICF Board of Directors)
<b>COMPETITION</b>	All World Championships, all International competitions
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Dragon Boat men, women, mixed
<b>CLASSES</b>	20 paddlers and 10 paddlers
<b>EVENT</b>	Each Class in each distance and in each age group
<b>CREW</b>	Made up of the athletes in a boat and steerer/drummer
<b>TEAM</b>	National Delegation made up of the crews which are participating and officials
<b>STEERER</b>	Helmsperson who is steering the boat
<b>DRUMMER</b>	The drummer is beating the drum

# CHAPTER I - GENERAL REGULATIONS

## 1 AIM

[GR]

**1.1** The aim of a Dragon Boat Racing competition is for people to race each other in dragon boats over a clearly defined unobstructed course in the shortest possible time according to the rules.

## 2 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

[GR]

**2.1** All competitions announced as international are to be held in accordance with the regulations of the ICF. Competitions arranged by the national federations or their clubs are considered international if competitors of a foreign country are invited to participate.

**2.2** These competitions must be supervised or managed by at least one accredited official in possession of a valid International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat Racing Official card.

**2.3** The official events recognised by the ICF are the following:

For Men's Teams (only men), Women's Teams (only women), Mixed Teams (minimum 8 women), in the 10 boat classes minimum 4 women.

**2.4** The official distances of races recognised by the ICF are the following: 200 or 250 meters, 500 meters and 2000 meters. Further the 2000 meters, shall be conducted as a pursuit race, and achieved in the 500 meters race course by three turns in two laps.

**2.5** Special events of competitions may be organised after approval and under the supervision of the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee.

**2.6** There are World Cup competitions, the number of these competitions and the venue are proposed by the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee and agreed by the ICF Board of Directors.

**3.1** Only the members of clubs or associations affiliated to an ICF Member Federation have the right to participate in an international competition.

**3.2** A competitor(s) or a team is always allowed to take part individually in an international competition but must in each case obtain special permission from its National Federation.

**3.3** A competitor may take part on behalf of the Federation in a foreign country, if he/she obtains the authorisation of his/her Federation of origin. This authorisation has to be sent before 30th November prior to the year concerned to the ICF Headquarters with a copy to the Chair of the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee.

**3.4** If he/she has lived for 2 (two) years or more in this foreign country, the approval of his/her Federation of origin is no longer required.

**3.5** A competitor may not compete for more than one Federation in any calendar year in the sport of canoeing.

**3.6** The first year a competitor can compete in a junior category is the year that his/her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday falls in and the last year he/she can compete as a junior is the year that his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday falls in.

**3.7** The first year a master competitor can compete is the year that his/her fortieth (40<sup>th</sup>) birthday falls in.

**3.8** Each National Federation shall ensure that their competitors are in a good state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the competition level of the particular event and ensure each competitor, team official and the member federation carries appropriate health, accident and property insurance covering their persons, equipment and property.

## **4 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CALENDAR**

**[GR]**

### **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CALENDAR is different to the ICF COMPETITION CALENDAR (ICF events only)**

**4.1** Only a National Federation may apply a competition to enter the International Competition Calendar. Only fully paid up members of the ICF may apply for of competitions to the Calendar.

**4.1.1** An application will be made using a form established by the ICF and published on the ICF website.

**4.1.2** By the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the year before, the calendar of ICF Competitions (WCh and WCup) will be published. The deadline for applications for international competitions will be the 1st of March the year before (2 months after the publication of the ICF Competition Calendar).

**4.2** The Competition Commission will approve the complete calendar of competitions. Once approved the Calendar will be final.

## **5 MINIMUM PARTICIPATION**

**[GR]**

To be recognised as an International competition a minimum of 3 boats from 2 Federations must participate.



# CHAPTER II - CATEGORIES, BOAT CONSTRUCTION AND TRADEMARKS

## 6 CATEGORIES

[GR]

6.1 The official events recognised by the ICF are the following:

<b>Men</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>

## 7 COMPOSITION OF THE CREW

[TR]

7.1 A Dragon Boat Racing crew of boats with 20 paddlers is composed of:

- the paddlers (minimum 18, maximum 20),
- the drummer,
- the steerer,
- 4 substitute paddlers in the respective classes starting.

7.2 A Dragon Boat Racing crew of boats with 10 paddlers is composed of:

- a) the 10 paddlers (minimum 8, maximum 10),
- b) the drummer,
- c) the steerer,
- d) 2 substitute paddlers in the respective classes starting.

## 8 SPECIFICATION OF THE CATEGORIES

[TR]

8.1 The crews of the Men or Women's boats may only be composed of competitors of the respective gender. See exceptions in article 8.4 and 8.5.

8.2 Mixed crews must include a minimum number of 8 women (boat with 20 paddlers) or 4 women (boat with 10 paddlers) respectively. See exceptions in article 8.4 and 8.5.

**8.3** In the age category of Masters, all members of the crew must have reached the Masters age. See exceptions in article 8.4 and 8.5.

**8.4** The drummer can compete in this year that his/her fifteenth birthday falls in. The drummer need not be of the same gender or age of the respective category.

**8.5** The steerer can compete in this year that his/her eighteenth birthday falls in. The steerer need not be of the same gender or age of the respective category.

## **9 REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT RACING COMPETITIONS [TR]**

**9.1** The National Federation hosting the international competition is in charge of providing two boats for each lane established at the race course and two substitute boats. For international competitions ICF standard class boats are not required.

**9.2** The National Federation hosting the international competition has to take care and guarantees, that the same type of boats is provided for all crews and the difference of weight between the boats utilised in a race may not exceed **3%**.

**9.3** The National Federation hosting the international competition has to take care that sufficient repair material for the Dragon Boats included to the boat pool is provided.

## **10 THE DRAGON BOAT AND ITS ACCESSORIES [TR]**

**10.1** The limitation of the measurement of “ICF standard class” boat is:

Length: 12.49 m without head and tail

Width: 1.16 m measured from the outer margin

Height: 0.55 m measured from the middle of the boat

**10.2** The standard weight amounts 250 kg minimum without drum, drum chair, steering paddle, dragon

head and dragon tail. Equalisation weights must be attached in the boat in the case of weight differences from the minimum weight of dragon boats.

**10.3** Modifications regarding the form and measures of the Dragon Boat are not allowed.

**10.4** The “ICF standard class” boat is existing as a one-piece and two-piece version.

**10.5** A Dragon Boat in principle is wearing the Dragonhead, the Dragon tail, the drum and the drum chair. Exemptions i.e. due to technical reasons on the race course must be applied for by writing to the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee and approved at least 4 weeks prior to the start of the competition.

**10.6** ICF is providing an authoritative technical specification sheet of the Dragon Boat.

## **11 THE PADDLE**

**[TR]**

**11.1** The paddle must fit the respective ICF norm provided in the authoritative technical specification sheet of the paddle.

**11.2** The paddles of all competitors must fit the ICF paddle standard.

**11.3** The length of the paddle amounts to between min. 105 cm and max. 130 cm.

**11.4** The material of which the paddle is made may be chosen freely (wood, carbon etc.).

**11.5** Snatch bands and edge protection made of adhesive tape are allowed, also the adaptation of the shaft to the body height.

## **12 BOAT AND PADDLE CONTROL**

**[TR]**

The boat and paddle control shall be conducted by the Boat Measurer as mentioned in the list of officials prior to the competition. Only equipment approved by this official may be used in the competition.

## **13 TRADEMARKS**

**[GR]**

**13.1** Boats, accessories and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols and written text.

**13.2** All advertising material should be placed in such a way that it does not interfere with competitors' identification and does not affect the outcome of the race.

**13.3** The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks will not be accepted.

# CHAPTER III - ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

## 14 OFFICIALS

[GR]

### 14.1 Officials:

International competitions are to be supervised by:

- 1) Chief Official
- 2) Technical Organiser
- 3) Competition Manager
- 4) Boat Marshal
- 5) Starter/s
- 6) Aligner/s
- 7) Course Umpire/s
- 8) Turning Point Umpire/s
- 9) Finishing Line Judge/s
- 10) Timekeeper/s
- 11) Boat Measurers
- 12) Announcer
- 13) Medical Officer
- 14) Media Officer

14.2 If circumstances permit, one person may function in two of the above positions.

14.3 Unauthorised person must not enter any official's area unless the Competition Committee or the Jury sends for officials or team officials in order to solve problems.

14.4 Competition is managed by a Competition Committee consisting of:

Chief Official  
Competition Manager  
One additional person

14.5 The additional person may be one of the officials listed in 14.1 providing their duty is at or near the finishing line at all times. This person is appointed by the Competition Manager. Two members of the Competition Committee must be in possession of a valid International Dragon Boat Racing Official card.

Procedure for becoming an ICF Dragon Boat Racing Official:

### **15.1 Examination:**

#### **1. Examination Organisation**

- Officials Examination is organised at every World Championships if there is sufficient interest.

- In case out-of-World Championships examinations, only Continental Associations or National Federations are entitled to apply to hold an examination. This is done together with the application for the Competition Calendar using a form established by the ICF and published on the ICF website.

Application deadlines are the same as for the International Competition Calendar. The Examination Calendar is published on the same date as the International Competition Calendar.

#### **2. Examination Candidates**

Only National Federations are entitled to nominate candidates for examination at least 30 days before the examination.

The applications must be sent to the ICF Headquarters on the special form designed by the ICF and published on the ICF website. ICF Headquarters is forming a database and forwarding the list of names to the Respectful Committee Chair.

#### **3. Examination Procedure**

A sub-committee consisting of two members, appointed by the ICF Technical Committee Chair, will hold this examination.

The examination will be carried out in English language for officials who wish to be considered as officials for ICF Competitions and will be based on the knowledge of the ICF Statutes, the ICF Competition Rules and practical experience.

If people take the examination in one of the other official languages, they may not be considered to officiate at ICF Competitions.

#### **4. Officials' Cards**

After completion of the examination the Respective Chair completes the ICF Official Examination Report and sends it to the ICF Headquarters, where the Official's

cards for those who passed the exam are issued and sent to the National Federations.

## 5. Validity and Renewals

Validity and renewals are subject to the Technical Chairs' criteria. If the Officials' Card expires, is lost or destroyed a 20 euro fee for renewal will be charged.

### 15.2 Financial Responsibility

National Federations are financially responsible for their Officials (before and after the examination).

For every candidate applied for the examination, a National Federation will be charged 20 €. Total Invoice will be sent to a National Federation in the period between 30 October and 30 November for the current year.

If a National Federation is applying for an examination out of World Championships, the Federation concerned will cover the examination organization costs including living and travelling expenses of the examiners.

### 15.3 Nomination and Appointment of the Officials for ICF Events

Only National Federations are entitled to nominate Officials for ICF Events.

The deadline for submitting proposals is the 1st of January in the year of the event.

The nominations are submitted to the Respective Technical Committee Chair (with a copy to the ICF Headquarters). The Chair will present a list of Officials to the Competition Commission for their approval by the 1st of March.

## 16 DUTIES OF THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

[TR]

### 16.1 The Competition Committee must:

- a) supervise the competition,
- b) in the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out the competition, postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held,
- c) hear any protests that may be made and

settle any disputes that may arise,

d) decide matters concerning disqualification in cases where the regulations are broken during a race,

e) base its decisions on the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Rules,

f) before any decision is made regarding an alleged infraction of the rules, hear the opinion of the Umpire who controlled the race in which the infraction was said to have occurred. The Committee is to seek the opinion of other officials supervising the race, if it is felt to be of importance in clearing up the alleged offence.

**16.2** The Competition Committee may impose penalties in accordance with the ICF Statutes i.e. disqualification for a longer period than the duration of the competition in question.

## **17 DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS**

**[TR]**

**17.1** The *Chief Official*, who is also the Chairperson of the Competition Committee, decides on all matters arising during the actual contest, which are not dealt with in these rules. The chief official is appointing the chief positions of officials prior to the competition.

**17.2** The *Technical Organiser* deals with the complete technical electronic equipment of the Regatta-Course. (Automatic start system / Photo/Timing system / Scoreboard / Radio connections / Boat traffic before and during the races / Boat checking, etc.)

**17.3** The *Competition Manager* supervises the races and is responsible for ensuring that the programmes are followed without unnecessary delay. He/She shall inform the officials concerned punctually before a new race starts. He/She has to deal also with the good function of the competition administration of the races. (programme, drawings results, technical documents, boat control, press, protests, etc.) He/She shall make certain that the announcer gives all necessary information about the races such as the start order, the



name of any competitor failing to start and the results.

**17.4** The *Boat Marshal* is dividing the crews into the respective boats and announcing the race lanes. He/She ensures that the teams are directed to enter the boat at least at the end of the deadline prior to the start of the respective race as fixed on the day prior to the competition by the competition committee and published officially to the team leaders and are undocking.

**17.5** The *Starter* decides all questions concerning the start of the races, and is alone responsible for decisions as to false starts. His/Her decision is final. He/she will communicate in the English language. He/She shall see that the starting equipment is in good working order. He/She shall communicate with the Competition Committee and after having received a signal from them that all is ready, he/she shall order the competitors to their places and carry out the start according to the racing rules.

**17.6** The *Aligner* brings the boats to the starting line with least possible delay, to check the competitor's attire and the competition number of the boats. When all boats are aligned he/she shall notify the starter by raising a white flag. He/She will communicate in the English language.

**17.7** The *Course Umpire* supervises the compliance of the rules during the race. If the rules are broken, the Umpire shall report immediately the infraction to the Competition Committee.

a) If the Umpire has to report an infraction of the rules he/she shall show a red flag after the race and shall make a written report before the next race takes place. In such a case, the Competition Committee shall make known its decision about a disqualification immediately and before the result of the race is announced.

b) If there is no infraction to report, the Umpire shall show a white flag.

c) In races of 200m, 250m and 500 meters the Umpire shall follow the race in a motorboat.

d) In case of hindrances, the Course Umpire must stop the competition passing all boats in the race and waving the red flag or using a sound signal until all boats have stopped paddling. After this all boats shall return to the start. The Course Umpire shall report immediately the infraction to the Competition Committee.

**17.8 Turning Point Umpires:** when a race is run along a course with one or more turning points, one or more umpires and one recorder must be stationed at every turning point where they gain the best view of the turn. The Turning Point Umpire shall see the boats turn according to the rules. The recorder shall make a list of all who pass the turning point.

Immediately after race, the Turning Point Umpire shall report to the Competition Committee as to who has turned and if any infraction of the rules has taken place.

**17.9 Finishing Line Judges** decide the order in which the boats have passed the finishing line. The judges shall be placed in a position where all lanes at the finish line can be clearly seen.

If the judges differ regarding the placing of two or more boats, the dispute, in the absence of photo finish, shall be decided by a simple majority. In the case of equal voting, the Finishing Line Chief Judge has the casting vote.

When a photo finish is used the result determined by the Finish Line Judges shall be compared with it, with the photo finish or video-finish being decisive. Video films are not a substitute for photo finish or video-finish.

**17.10 The Timekeepers** are responsible for recording the times. This shall be done by means of stopwatches or suitable electronic equipment.

a) It is the responsibility of the Chief Timekeeper to ensure that the timing equipment is working correctly. The Chief Timekeeper shall divide the work amongst the timekeepers.

At the end of each race, he/she shall compare the official times with the other Timekeepers and immediately inform the Competition

Manager on them.

b) Timekeepers may also officiate as Finish Line Judges.

**17.11** The *Boat Measurer* shall assist the Technical Organiser prior to the start of the competition to test the boats taking part in the races. Should any of the boats not fulfil the ICF requirements concerning classification, they shall be excluded from the competition. He/She is responsible to oversee that the boats are in proper condition during the competition and conduct the boat and paddle control during the competition.

**17.12** The *Announcer* shall, on the instructions of the Competition Manager, announce the start of each race, the order of starting and the position of the competitors during the race. After the race is finished, he/she will announce the results.

**17.13** The *Media Officer* must supply all necessary information to the representative of the media about the races and its progress. He/she is authorised therefore to ask information from the different officials who must also procure for him/her as soon as possible copies of the official results and official communications.

**17.14** The *Medical Officer* supervises the Anti-Doping procedures during the competitions and is responsible for medical matters occurring during the competitions.

**17.15** In World Games and World Championships all officials must be recognised International ICF Dragon Boat Racing Officials, with valid Dragon Boat Racing International Official card.

## **18 INVITATIONS**

**[GR]**

**18.1** An invitation to an international competition shall contain the following information:

- a) Time and place of the competition
- b) Situation and plan of the course(s)

c) Classes, categories, events and distances of races

d) Sequence and starting times of races

e) Minimum depth of water

f) Address to which entries should be sent including electronic mail contacts

g) Last date for receiving preliminary and nominated entries

h) Information about accommodation opportunities including costs

i) Information about registration fee

**18.2** An invitation shall be sent two (2) months before the competition latest.

## **19 ENTRIES**

**[GR]**

**19.1** Entries for an international competition can only be made through the National Federation in accordance with the regulations given in the invitation.

**19.2** An entry shall always contain the following information:

- the name of the club or National Federation to which the competitor/s belong,
- the classes, categories, events and distances in which the team proposes to compete
- first name and surname of each competitor together with the date and place of his/her birth and his/her nationality. On the entry form for Junior Championships in addition to the name and surname, nationality, sex, also the date and place of birth, name of his/her club must be given by the team leader who must produce documentary proof such as passport, identity card or similar document with photograph, confirming the age of the competitor.

**19.3** All entries must be in writing.

**19.4** Late entries cannot be accepted.

**19.5** When making their entries Federations must give the colours of the clothing worn by the competitors and these colours must not be changed during the competition.

## **20 ACCEPTANCE OF ENTRIES AND PROGRAMME**

**[GR]**

**20.1** Applications for entry must be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

**20.2** The entry is valid only if the payment of the entry fee is received until the deadline set.

**20.3** No later than 24 hours before the first race of the competition, the programme shall be available at the competition venue, including the names of the crews, the starting time and order, the race schedule and the division system.

**20.4** At least 12 hours before the first race of the competition, the team leader's meeting is to be held. The organisers will describe the competition course and all other arrangements, which should be adhered to for the duration of the competition. The Chief Official will describe the competition programme and ask for any changes to the entries.

**20.5** After the team leaders' meeting has been closed no modifications in the final entry list including the names of the competitors including the names of the substitutes will be allowed.

## **21 ALTERATIONS OF ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS**

**[TR]**

**21.1** The composition of the crew may be chosen from the final entry list without any restrictions during the event.

**21.2** The withdrawal of an entry is allowed at least

during the team leaders meeting and is considered final and no renewed entry of the same crew is allowed. The entry fee will not be reimbursed in the case of withdrawal.

## **22 ALTERATIONS IN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS [TR]**

**22.1** The sequence of races given in the invitation, and the intervals between the races as given in the racing Programme, are binding on the organisers. In international competitions alterations cannot be made unless the Chief Official, then competition committee and respective team managers or national representatives at the competition give their consent.

**22.2** Alterations during World Championships and World Games rest within the authority of the ICF jury.

## **23 RACE COURSE / TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS [TR]**

**23.1** The race course:

For races up to 500 meters, the course shall be straight and in one direction.

The depth of the water at the entire course shall be at least two (2) meters.

The width of the lanes shall be minimum 9 meters, maximum 13.5 meters.

There must be a number of 6 lanes.

An area minimum 10 meters to both sides must be included.

**23.2** The race course must be marked by a clear routing. The marks (balloons, buoys etc.) must not exceed a distance of 50m. The last respective mark must be set at or at/and 1m behind the finish line and marked especially (e.g. flag or great buoys). Both start and finishing lines shall be marked with red flags at the two sides.

**23.3** In the 200m, 250m and 500 meters races, the lanes shall be marked with buoys or floats. The distance between the buoys along the length of the course shall not exceed 25 meters.

**23.4** The last buoys must be marked from No 1 to 6 from left to the right as seen in the direction of the race, with the number placed on the buoy in such a way as to be clearly visible from the finish tower. The numbered buoy is to be on the corresponding competitor's right hand side as he/she passes it and also clearly visible to him/her. The buoys should be fixed no closer than 1 meter and not further than 2 meters behind the finish line

**23.5** The start and finish lines must run at 90 Degrees to the lanes.

**23.6** The National Federation hosting the competition must take care that all technical installations for the competition committee and their supporters are available and serviceable.

**23.7** The race course and its installations must be checked two days prior to the competition at latest by the chief official or a representative appointed by the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee and a member of the ICF Dragon Boat Racing Committee.

**23.8** There must be start pontoons occupied with starting assistants' boat holders. Alternatively there may be fixed starting cords or starting pontoons to be held by the steerer.

## **24 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**[TR]**

**24.1** Rescue boats occupied with qualified rescue professionals must be present supervising the race course during the complete competition.

**24.2** The entrance and exit on the catwalks must be designed in that way that any risk of injury is excluded.

**24.3** During the competition one physician minimum with emergency education and ambulance vehicles with respective rescue staff regarding the number of

participants must be present.

**24.4** During the competition an ambulance station must be prepared and manned permanently.

**24.5** The team leaders undertake to pass the safety instructions received during the team leaders meeting to the members of their teams and take care of their observation.

**24.6** The athletes are responsible themselves to fit sanitarily the sport-specific requirements of the competition.

**24.7** Participants who have not yet reached the age of 18 years must present a written declaration of agreement of the legal guardian and a medical certificate of their health. The respective heads of delegation are responsible for that.



# CHAPTER IV - RACING REGULATIONS

## 25 MEANS OF PROPULSION

[TR]

**25.1** Dragon Boats shall be propelled solely by means of single bladed paddles.

**25.2** The paddles may not be fixed on the boats in any way except the rudder-paddle at the helm of the boat.

**25.3** A Dragon Boat must be paddled in a sitting position.

## 26 BOARDING PHASE

[TR]

**26.1** After the call of the chief boat marshal but 20 minutes prior to the official starting time the team must notify to the chief boat marshal.

**26.2** After this timeline each team must stand prepared for attendance and ID control by the boat marshal.

**26.3** The teams must make their appearance in equal sports clothing.

## 27 STARTING PHASE

[TR]

**27.1** The starting phase includes the justification of the boats up to the starting signal and confirmation of the correct start by aligner or the starter.

**27.2** Each crew must arrive at least five minutes prior to starting time in the range of vision and earshot to the starter and on instruction bring the boat to the starting position.

**27.3** To control the presence of the teams by the starter the teams must attract attention to themselves by raising the hand of the respective steerer.

**27.4** The crews must follow the instructions of the starter.

**27.5** The crews must not delay the start. In other cases

they will be warned and then disqualified by the starter.

**27.6** The starting command sounds: Attention, Go". Alternatively to "Go" there may be used a starting pistol or horn.

**27.7** If a crew for technical reasons is not ready for the start, the drummer must signalise this by waving both arms with the drumming sticks. The starter will decide about a delay of the start.

**27.8** Beginning to paddle prior to the complete ending of the start command is considered to be a false start. In principle such a race must be stopped and re-started again.

**27.9** If a race is stopped this must be shown obviously by several signal tones. In addition the judges' boats will cross the race course as long as all boats have stopped.

**27.10** The crews must immediately paddle back to the start in the case of a race having been stopped and prepare themselves for a new alignment.

**27.11** After a false start every crew of the respective heat will be warned. If there is a second false start in the same heat, any crew causing this second false start will be disqualified. If a crew is causing a second false start in the next heats of the respective event it will be disqualified.

**27.12** A proper start will be signalised by the starter by raising a white flag.

**27.13** Two substitute paddles may be carried and be substituted during the race.

**27.14** The steerer has the duty to check in the marshalling area prior to the race the helm. Damages of the helm must be reported to the chief boat marshal.

**27.15** Starting phase 2000 meters pursuit race:

a) The starting order complies to the order in the starting list.

- b) The boats start each every in a 10 seconds interval
- c) The starter speaks in a loud voice the countdown and starts the boat each 10<sup>th</sup> second with a "GO" (alternatively a horn or starting pistol can be used, see 27.6)
- d) If the boat crossed already the starting line with 1% to 50% of its length in the moment of the "GO"-command, the crew is penalised with 10 seconds additional time.
- e) If the boat crossed already the starting line with more than 50% of its length, the crew will be disqualified for this event.

## **28 RACE PHASE**

**[TR]**

**28.1** The race phase includes the passing of the race course from the starting line up to the reaching of the finish line.

**28.2** The course umpires are controlling the race progress.

**28.3** All races must be supervised followed by two umpire boats minimum.

**28.4** The crews must keep the centre of the lanes. The crew will be called to order two times and then finally be warned if a strong deviation from the course occurs. If the team is not correcting the course after the final warning the respective team may be disqualified by the Competition Committee after receiving the respective report by the course umpire.

**28.5** The Competition Committee will decide in the case of collisions of two or several boats during a race about non-certification or new start and/or disqualification of one or several crews. In principle every race must be finished as long as there is no danger for the participants.

**28.6** A crew must conduct and finish its race in the same lane in which it started.

**28.7** During the race the drummer has to actively beat the drum.

## **28.8 Race phase 2000 meters pursuit race:**

- a) Boats can be overtaken from the left as well from the right side.
- b) Crews falling short of the minimum distance between two boats and causing therefore an obstruction of the continuation of paddling of the other crews are penalised with 10 seconds additional to the race time.

## **28.9 TURNS in the Race phase 2000 meters pursuit race:**

- a) Boats arriving first at the turn have the right to enter into the turn first, independently they are on the right or left position
- b) Boats cutting the turning point buoys are disqualified
- c) Boats crashing into another boats are disqualified

## **29 INTERRUPTION**

**[TR]**

**29.1** The Course Umpire has the right to interrupt a correctly started race if unforeseen hindrances arise. Such an interruption may be effected by the course umpires with a red flag and sound signal. Competitors must immediately stop paddling and await further instructions.

**29.2** The Competition Committee shall decide about the starting time of the new race.

## **30 FINISH PHASE**

**[TR]**

**30.1** The boat has finished the race when its dragonhead crosses the finish line with all crew members in it.

**30.2** The chief finish judge evaluates the order of the finish running in.

**30.3** The crossing of the finish line must be signalled by an acoustic signal. The correct race will be

confirmed by the course umpires by raising a white flag. The incorrect race will be signalled by the red flag.

**30.4** If two or more boats reach the finishing line at the same time they are awarded the same classification in the final. In case of a dead heat finish for any position, which determines the advance to the next level of the competitions, the following rules will apply:

**30.5** Whenever there are sufficient number of lanes available in the next level of the competitions, drawing of lots will determine to which race these boats will advance. If it is possible it may use also the outside lane.

**30.6** Wherever there are not enough lanes available there will be a re-race between the boats.

**30.7** In case of a dead heat in a re-race, drawing of lots will determine the outcome.

**30.8** The exit of the complete crew must be in the marshalling area.

## **31 EXTERNAL HELP**

**[TR]**

**31.1** External help may not be used during a race. Processing the race with external help may lead to disqualification.

**31.2** Pace making services may not be used during a race. They may lead to disqualification. A Pace making services is considered to be the use of electronic amplifiers from landside (e.g. megaphone). In addition the connection by voice radio is not allowed. An intercom connection within the boat is allowed.

## **32 WARNINGS**

**[TR]**

**32.1** Warnings are valid for the complete event.

**32.2** Warnings are allocated in the case of:

- a) crews showing up to the start too late,

- b) crews leaving their lane during the race,
- c) crews not observing the instructions of the Officials,
- d) crews causing a false start,
- e) crews disturbing the process of the race by unsports manlike or hindering behaviour,
- f) crews falling short of the minimum distance between two boats and causing therefore an obstruction of the continuation of paddling of the other crews.

**32.3** A crew receiving the second warning during the same event will be disqualified.

## **33 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**[GR]**

**33.1** Any competitor or crew who or which attempts to win a race by any other than honourable means, or who or which is breaking the racing regulations, or who or which is disregarding the honourable nature of the racing regulations shall be disqualified for the duration of the event concerned.

**33.2** Should a competitor or crew have completed a race in a Dragon Boat, which is shown upon inspection not to conform to the ICF classifications he/she or they shall be disqualified from the race in question.

**33.3** It is prohibited to receive external assistance during a race.

**33.4** No crew may be accompanied along and adjacent to the race course by other boats while the race is in progress.

**33.5** No crew may receive assistance by using objects thrown into the course. Any of the above infractions will result in the disqualification of the competitor(s) concerned.

**33.6** The Competition Committee may discipline any competitor, crew or official whose behaviour is detrimental to the good order and conduct of the competition. The Competition Committee may after

repeated action by the offender disqualify him/her or them for that competition.

**33.7** All disqualifications by the Competition Committee have to be confirmed in writing immediately with the reasons. The team leader has to acknowledge the receipt of a copy with the exact time, which is the start of the protest time.

**33.8** In case of disqualification of a competitor due to a doping offense the complete crew shall be disqualified.

## **34 PROTEST**

**[GR]**

**34.1** A protest against a crew to compete in a race shall be advised to a member of the Competition Committee no later than one hour before the start of the race. A protest made later - within 30 days from the date when the race in question was held - is only permitted if the officials of the association making the protest can prove that the facts on which the protest is based came to their knowledge later than one hour before the start of the race.

**34.2** A late protest shall be referred to the ICF Board of Directors accompanied by the prescribed fee (see below).

**34.3** A protest made during a competition must be addressed to the Competition Committee no later than 20 minutes after the publication of the unofficial result or after the team leader has been informed on the decision against his/hers competitor or team and has signed the receipt.

**34.4** All protests must be made in writing and be accompanied by a fee of 25 Euros (or equal amount in the currency of the country in which the competition is arranged). The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

**34.5** When a protest or a report is made against an athlete or a team, the team leader of the athlete/team in question shall be presented the protest or report to read.

**35.1** Competitors have the right to appeal against a decision of the Competition Committee to the ICF through their National Federations against a decision of the Competition Committee, within 30 days from the date when the race was held.

**35.2** The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of 25 Euros. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The ICF Board of Directors must pronounce the final decision.



# CHAPTER V - SPECIAL RULES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 36 ARRANGEMENTS

[GR]

**36.1** World Championships may only be organised by National Federations affiliated to ICF. The National Federation must enter a contract with ICF regarding the provisions of the organisation to be eligible to be awarded the hosting of the World Championships. The National Federation must establish an Organising Committee and ensure that the OC may be controlled by the National Federation.

**36.2** World Championships may be arranged every second year with the consent of the ICF Board of Directors, at the place and time decided and in accordance with the ICF Dragon Boat Racing regulations. Championships shall be open only to National Federations, which are members of the ICF.

**36.3** The races shall be held on up to four (4) consecutive days, and entries for all events shall be limited to one per National Federation.

**36.4** A valid World Championship is held only if there are at least six (6) Federations in each event AND there must be at least three (3) Continents starting OVERALL in the competition. If during the course of the event some Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected.

## 37 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

[GR]

World Championships shall be held in the race distances of 200 (or 250 meters - never both), 500 meters and 2000 meters for the following events:

<b>Men</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Juniors 15-18</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Masters 40+</b>	<b>Masters 50+</b>

**38.1** Invitations to World Championships shall be issued by the organising National Federation and shall be made in accordance with the ICF rules and regulations. Invitations shall be sent out at least six (6) months before the first day of the championships.

**38.2** Entries for World Championships can only be made through the National Federation in accordance with the regulations given in the invitation.

Numerical entries: at least 45 days before the first day of the competition

Nominal entries: at least 14 days before the first day of the competition

**38.2.1** The entries will only be accepted from fully paid up members of the ICF.

**38.2.2** Entries for all World Championships will be done on the form designed and provided by the ICF, which will be available on-line for each discipline. The form for each discipline is designed in agreement with the respective discipline Committee.

**38.3** Entries will contain unique identity number of competitor according to following formula:

DIS NOC G ddmmyyyy 01

DIS - abbreviation of the discipline (SLR, FWR, MAR, WWR, DBR, FRE, CAP, CAS)

NOC - National Olympic Code

G - Gender: 1 for Male, 2 for Female

ddmmyyyy - Date of Birth (date, month, year)

01 - Number of athletes born on the same day in the same country

**38.3.1** In crew boats the names of the competitors must be in order that they race in the boat. The first name at the top must be the competitor at the front of the boat (except for Dragon Boat).

**38.4** All entries should be made using the on-line system approved by the Technical Committee and provided by the competition organiser. In any case the

entry form provided must be completed and sent through the on-line system, e-mail or typed form by fax (handwriting not accepted).

**38.5** Late entries or entries that are not on the official entry form cannot be accepted.

**38.6** A Programme giving the starting time for each race and the names of the Federations entering in each event must be forwarded to each Federation concerned at least one month before the first day of the Championships.

**38.7** At least 3 days prior to the Championships a Programme must be issued containing the following details:

- a) The starting time for each race.
- b) The name of the crew in each race.

**38.8** World Championships shall be held under the direction of a Chief Official appointed by the ICF Board of Directors with other officials as required.

## **39 JURY, COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS**

**[GR]**

**39.1** During the World Championships the supreme authority rests with the Jury.

**39.2** The Jury consists of up to five persons, including a member from the organising Federation. These are appointed by the ICF Board of Directors.

**39.3** One of these persons - either the President of the ICF or another member of the ICF is named Chair of the Jury. Subordinate to this Jury are the Chief Official and other officials and proposed by the Dragon Boat Racing Committee for the approval by the Board of Directors.

**39.4** The Competition Committee shall consist of three officials who shall be in possession of a valid International Official cards. They shall belong to different National Federations. They shall be called Chief Official (Chair of the Dragon Boat Racing Committee or his/her deputy from the Dragon Boat Racing Committee), Deputy Chief Official (from the

Dragon Boat Racing Committee), Competition Manager (from the Organising Federation).

**39.5** The maximum number of officials (excluding the Jury and Competition Committee) to officiate at the World Championships shall be:

Technical Organiser	1
Starters	3
Boat Marshal	3
Aligners	2
Course Umpires	4
Finishing Line Judges	3
Boat Measurers	2
Medical Officer	1
Media Officer	1

## **40 PROTEST**

**[GR]**

**40.1** A protest made during the competition must be handed to the Competition Committee not later than 20 minutes after publication of the unofficial result.

**40.2** The Chief Official must notify immediately all parties involved in the protest. After 20 minutes the Chief Official closes the case and starts the deliberation on the protest. The decision of the Competition Committee on the protest must be confirmed in writing, not later than 10 minutes after closing of the protest, giving reasons for the decision. The decision must be handed to the team leaders by the Chair of the Competition Committee. The team leaders must acknowledge receipt of it by signing the Competition Committee's copy and recording the time for the case of any further appeal.

**40.3** All protests shall be made in writing and be accompanied by a fee of 25 Euros (or equal amount in the currency of the country in which the championships are arranged). The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

**40.4** When a protest or a report is made against an athlete or a team, the team leader of the athlete/team in question shall be presented the protest or report to read.

## **41 APPEAL**

**[GR]**

**41.1** An appeal against a decision of the Competition Committee must be addressed to the Chair of the Jury in writing and be accompanied by a fee of 25 Euros (or equal amount in the currency of the country in which the championships are arranged). The appeal must be handed to the Chair of the Jury no later than 20 minutes after the team leader has been informed with a written communication of the decision against the competitor or team and has signed the receipt given. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

**41.2** The decision of the Jury is final.

## **42 AWARDS**

**[GR]**

**42.1** The championships medals shall be given according to ICF protocol.

**42.2** The championships medals shall be given in three values, golded, silvered and bronze and shall be furnished by the ICF at the expenses of the Organising Federation.

**42.3** Four cups will be awarded as follows:

One for Men

One for Women

One for Mixed

One for “Over-All” winning Federation

Cups will be awarded to the Federation according to the point system defined by the Dragon Boat Racing Committee.

In case of a tie the Federation with the highest individual position will win the cup in that event.

## **43 ANTI-DOPING**

**[GR]**

Doping as defined in the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code is strictly forbidden. Anti-Doping control shall be conducted in accordance with the ICF Anti-Doping Control Rules under the supervision of the ICF Medical & Anti-Doping Committee.

The results of World Championships must be sent to the ICF Secretary General and the participating National Federations by the organising National Federation no later than 30 days after the end of the championships races. Report of any protest made and other documents concerning the races must be sent by the organising National Federation to the ICF Secretary General.