



***Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival
Official Rules and Regulations***

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Revised 3/31/08 from Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival

Section 1 – Eligibility

- 1-1 Each team must compete with a minimum of eight women paddlers per Boat.
Each team must race with a minimum of 16 paddlers per Boat.
- 1-2 Each team must race with a drummer.

Section 2 – Teams

- 2-1 A person shall be a registered team member of only one team unless volunteering to race with another team under the guidelines of section 3.2.
- 2-2 All team members must be registered.
- 2-3 A registered team member must be 14 years old prior to the first practice session.
- 2-4 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 Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival organization.
- 2-5 Teams are allowed a maximum of 24 registered members, comprising of: one drummer, one Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival qualified Steersperson, 20 paddlers and 3 alternatives. Of any of the above, one person must be registered as the **Team Manager**.
- 2-6 Each team must have a drummer.
- 2-7 The Steersperson will be provided by the Festival unless the team has an experienced Steersperson who has competed in a previous dragon boat race. At its discretion, the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival may at any time replace any team's Steersperson with another Steersperson, despite that replacement not being a registered member of that team. At its discretion, the Starbuck 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.
- 2-8 At its discretion, the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival may at any time require a check of crew members against their team rosters.
- 2-9 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 may be prohibited from further on-water participation, subject to the discretion of the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival.
- 2-10 At the discretion, the Starbuck 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.
- 2-11 Each team and each team member is required to follow these rules.

- 2-12 The Team Manger shall be responsible for: team conduct, communication and distribution of information to the team, communication with the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival, collection and filing of all requisite information and forms with the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival, liaison with race officials, and attendance at the Team Managers' meetings. All Team Manager from the Starbuck area should attend such meeting. Information will be mailed to Team Managers representing team from out of town.

Section 3 - Registration

- 3-1 The registration fee is \$500 per team. Each team must register and pay the non-refundable registration fee due by July 1st of 2008. As the number of teams able to participate may be limited, registrations will be accepted based on the order that complete registration from with either full payment or \$100 deposit are received. Checks shall be made payable to the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival. Completed forms and payment shall be mailed to: Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival, P O Box 234, Starbuck, MN, 56381. Registration can also be made on line
- 3-2 Final team rosters shall be submitted the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival prior to each team members participating in any practice, race or other on-water activity. Teams may replace or fill out rosters after that date under these guidelines:
- 3-2.1 Drawing from a pool of volunteer paddlers or borrowing paddlers from another team on race day: Any team that replaces paddlers or adds paddlers on race day will be able to race in each of its initial heats but won't be eligible for finals. Teams loaning paddlers to another team won't be penalized.
- 3-2.2 Borrowing drummers from another team is allowed without penalty or disqualification from finals.

Section 4 – Waivers

- 4-1 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 sponsor, their volunteers and employees, the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival, its volunteers and employees, the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival organizing committee, its volunteers and employees, the Starbuck Area Chamber of Commerce, its directors and volunteers, and any other person, partnership, corporation or association in any way associated with the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival, for injury or death, or for loss or damaged to property, howsoever caused. For participants less than 18 years of age, parents or guardians must also read, understand and sign the waivers.

- 4-2 Team Managers should submit to the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival properly signed, dated and witnessed waivers for each team member prior to each team member participating in any practice, race or other on-water activity. The Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival may accept late submission of waivers at its discretion.

Section 5 – Dragon Boats and Equipment

- 5-1 The Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival shall provide dragon boats, paddles, drums and life jackets.
- 5-2 All equipment shall be returned in good condition immediately following practices and races. In the event that the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival determines negligence, replacement or repair costs shall be charged to the team responsible.
- 5-3 Any teams or members wishing to use paddles or personal flotation devices not provided by the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival must first have these items approved by the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival at its discretion.
- 5-4 Only the drum and drumsticks provided by the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival shall be used to signal the stroke rate in addition to non-electrically assisted voice commands.

Section 6 – Race procedures

- 6-1 Each team member shall wear a personal flotation device during all on-water activities, including practices and races.
- 6-2 Individuals or teams deemed unsafe by the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival or its designated may not be permitted to continue on-water activities, including all practices and races.
- 6-3 The Steersperson is responsible for the dragon boat and the team. The Steers person shall communicate the safety procedures and emergency procedures to each team member before each practice and before each race.
- 6-4 Each participant in the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival is responsible for his or her own safety at all times.
- 6-5 At its complete discretion the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival may dismiss at any time, including but not limited to from any practices and/or races, any person or team for: violating safety principals and/or procedures, participating or attempting to participate in on-water activities while under the influence or in possession of drugs and/or alcohol, violating rules, demonstrating poor conduct or behavior, willfully, recklessly or negligently damaging or losing equipment or disobeying the request or instruction made by officials or their designates.
- 6-6 Teams may be disqualified from competition if any team member purposely jumps out of the dragon boat and into the water.
- 6-7 If equipment is damaged or lost through the willfully, reckless, or negligent actions of a person or team, that person or team shall be responsible for financially reimbursing the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival.

- 6-8 The starting order for all races will be determined prior to race day by the Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival and will be issued to Team Managers.
- 6-9 Each race will start as soon as possible following the race preceding it. The order of the races shall remain constant, though start times are approximate. Team Managers are responsible for monitoring the progression of the races and insuring their team is ready to race when called upon. The Starbuck Dragon Boat Festival may not wait for teams which are not ready to start,, regardless if early or late of the posted start times.
- 6-10 Teams shall report to staging areas at least 45 minutes prior to the estimated start time of their race. Team Managers are responsible for reporting in their team to the staging area before each race.
- 6-11 The Referee and Starter shall have control of the race from prior to the start to the completion of each race. Only Steersperson may communicate with the Referee and such communication shall be kept to a minimum.
- 6-12 Upon completion of the race, all teams shall approach disembarking docks at a very slow pace.

Section 7 – Race Penalties and Protests

- 7-1 Teams missing the start of their race will be given a time of 10 minutes for that race for progression purposes. No race official is obligated to wait for late teams.
- 7-2 Any team with a false start may be given a warning, time penalty or disqualification as determined by the race officials and Chief Judge.
- 7-3 Any crew that affects the progress of any other crew may be asked to immediately stop paddling. Penalties may include a time penalty or disqualification as determined by the Referee or Chief Judge.
- 7-4 Protests must be lodged by the Team Manager with the Chief Judge within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the protested race. There is a \$100 Protest Filing Fee, payable at the time of protest. The fee would be returned if the protest is granted. The on-water race official and Chief Judge will review all protests and render a decision.
- 7-5 If there is circumstance that does not have a specific rule designated, it will be up to the discretion of the Chief Judge. Should this decision be disputed, a team may protest by following the protocol listed in 7-4.