



OUR MISSION

To connect people with dragon boating across Australia.

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ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REVIEWED	APPROVED
Previous	DBWA Competition and Racing Rules	Oct 2022	DBWA	Nov 2022
Current	Formatted	Sep 2023	DBWA	Sept 2023
Review		2024		

DBWA Competition and Racing Rules

SCOPE

These Rules apply to DBWA Grand Prix regattas, State Championships and DBWA sanctioned events.

The intent of these Rules is to ensure the sport is inclusive, safe and maintains integrity.

The Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing are as published by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) and as amended from time to time by the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) to suit conditions in Australia - [AusDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing](#)

Where there is a conflict between DBWA's Competition and Racing Rules specified below and other published rules, DBWA Rules are to prevail.

It is recommended that DBWA sanctioned events use these Rules and make amendments where required to suit local conditions.

Participants in DBWA events must abide by:

- All published Rules and requirements.
- The AusDBF Integrity Framework [National Integrity Framework](#).
- Rules and requirements relevant to the event.

Clubs can make written application for exemption to these Rules prior to the event and DBWA may approve, part approve, include conditions or decline the request.

OTHER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

In addition to the Rules contained in, or linked to, this Policy, DBWA has other Policies and Guidelines that are relevant and applicable to DBWA events, and the requirements of these must be adhered to;

- DBWA Rules of the Association (Constitution)
- Alcohol Policy
- Participant Pregnancy Policy
- Taking Images of Children Guidelines

SAFETY

All DBWA events must be run in accordance with the DBWA Safety Manual [DBWA Safety Manual - 2022](#).

The following must wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) when within three (3) metres of the water:

- Anyone who cannot swim 50 m or has not successfully completed the 50 m annual swim test as per clause 8.4 of the DBWA Safety Manual.
- All competitors under 12 years of age.
- Officials and Volunteers on the judge or Rescue boats.
- All Sweeps and Drummers must wear PFDs.

All competitors must wear compliant footwear with an ankle and heel strap when walking to and from their allocated dragon boat.

VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS

Each club attending an event must provide two (2) volunteers to officiate and assist for the entire day, unless advised otherwise by the event organisers.

Clubs must provide names of volunteers and their preferred roles to DBWA at least 48 hours before the event to allow the DBWA Volunteer Coordinator to allocate roles for the day.

Clubs who fail to comply with this Rule will not be permitted to compete unless they have received prior written approval from DBWA.

Volunteers must report to the Volunteer Coordinator for the pre-event briefing at the location and time specified in the event program.

DEFINITIONS

“Athlete” is a member or Dragon Pass participant who competes as a Sweep, Drummer or Paddler.

“Category” is a racing class defined by age, gender and Crew size (i.e., Junior, Mixed, 10s).

“Club” is a Club member as per the DBWA constitution.

“Combined Crew” is a Crew who borrow more than two athletes from another Club.

“Composite Crew” is a Crew who borrow two (2) or more athletes from more than one Club.

“Dragon Pass participant” is a person who is registered with DBWA under the Dragon Pass Program and is not a financial member of DBWA.

“Event” is a DBWA organised or DBWA sanctioned regatta.

“Member” is A person who is an Ordinary Member as per DBWA constitution.

“Regional” is as per regional boundaries designated by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

“Second Club Member” is a member of a Second Club within WA and has been approved by DBWA under the Second Club Policy.

“Sister Club” is where two (2) Clubs are approved annually by DBWA under the Sister Club Policy to combine as one (1) Club for the purpose of competing at DBWA events.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be able to compete at a DBWA event the following must apply;

- The Club must be a registered & financial member of DBWA.
- An Athlete must 10 years or over, be a registered and financial member of DBWA or a Dragon Pass participant.

BOATS AND EQUIPMENT

All Clubs must supply current model boats and boat accessories (sweep oars, drums, drum seats, heads, tails, bailers etc.) for use at events as specified by DBWA as per the boat roster circulated prior to season commencement.

Any Club unable to supply their boat on rostered dates must make their own arrangements for a replacement boat to be supplied by another Club.

All boats and boat accessories supplied must be clean and well maintained.

All paddles used at DBWA events must be IDBF 202a compliant paddles.

All Personal Floatation Devices must comply with current Department of Transport requirements [Lifejacket requirements](#).

Any Club or Athlete who causes damage to boats or equipment willfully, maliciously or through neglect may face disciplinary action and be charged for the cost of repair or replacement.

Any damage to supplied boats and accessories caused accidentally while utilised at a DBWA event will be repaired at DBWA's cost.

BRIEFING

Prior to a DBWA event, a briefing/s will be held for team managers, sweeps, coaches, volunteers and race officials.

Attendance is compulsory as instructions and information about the event will be provided and attendees will be able to ask questions.

The briefing location and time will be confirmed on the Official Event Program.

CLUBS

Rule	Grand Prix	State Champs
Borrowing paddlers	Permitted	Not permitted
Sister Club can compete	Permitted	Permitted
A Sister Club is not permitted to borrow Athletes from other Clubs.	Applicable	Applicable
When competing with a Sister Club competitors must wear the race top of their primary Club.	Applicable	Applicable
Second Club member can compete	Permitted	Permitted
If an Athlete is approved to compete with a Second Club, they must wear the race top of the second Club.	Applicable	Applicable

CREWS

Rule	Grand Prix	State Champs
Clubs can nominate two Crews in the same category, but acceptance of the second nomination is subject to availability of sufficient boats, lanes and DBWA approval.	Permitted	Not Permitted
For Tens (10s) racing all Crew Athletes must be from the same Club.	Applicable	Applicable
With DBWA approval, a Twenties (20s) Crew can borrow a maximum of two paddlers from one other Club, but; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if there are 22 or less competitors on the Crew List, including the borrowed Athletes. Cannot borrow a Sweep so their Club Sweep can paddle. Must wear the race top of their primary Club. Be identified as a borrowed paddler on the Crew List. 	Permitted	Not permitted
A 20s Crew which borrows more than two (2) paddlers from one other Club will be a Combined Crew and Grand Prix points will be split 50/50 between the two Clubs.	Permitted	Not permitted
Where Athletes are borrowed from more than one other Club, the Composite Crew may compete but will race "Do Not Qualify" (DNQ) subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of sufficient boats and lanes. Grand Prix Points will not be awarded. Must be approved by DBWA. 	Permitted	Not permitted

Crew Compositions

The following table lists the restrictions and requirements for the various crew categories that may be racing.

Crew Number	Restrictions and requirements
Tens (10s)	Minimum of 8 paddlers to a maximum of 10 paddlers , plus drummer and sweep.
Twenties (20s)	Minimum of 18 paddlers to a maximum of 20 paddlers , plus drummer and sweep.
Crew Composition	Restrictions and requirements
Open crew	No gender restrictions.
Mixed crew (20s)	Minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 paddlers who identify as male (excludes drummer and sweep).
Mixed crew (10s)	Minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 paddlers who identify as male (excludes drummer and sweep).
Women's crew	All paddlers, drummer and sweep must identify as female.
Junior crew	Crew composition is as per applicable Crew category above, however all paddlers must be a <i>minimum</i> 10 years of age and <i>maximum</i> 17 years of age on the day of competition. Drummer must be a <i>minimum</i> of 12 years of age at the time of competition; and a <i>maximum</i> 17 years of age on the day of competition. Sweep must be 14 years and older. PFDs must be worn at all times by members under 12 years.

SWEEPS AND DRUMMERS

All Sweeps must attend the pre-event Briefing.

All Sweeps and Drummers must wear a PFD when within 3 meters of the water.

Only L3 and above Sweeps can compete at WA State Championships.

L2 Sweeps are permitted to compete at DBWA Grand Prix regattas, but must:

- Ensure the Coaching Director or a Sweep Assessor is assessing their sweeping performances.
- Advise Marshalling Officials that they are only L2 Sweeps and ensure it is recorded on the Marshalling Sheet.
- Wear a yellow high visibility vest whilst sweeping.

At the discretion of the Coaching Director, a Sweep may be required to cease sweeping at an event if they are involved in an unsafe occurrence or perform unsafe practices.

CREW LISTS

Each Club must provide a separate written Crew List for each Crew racing at the event.

An athlete who is non-gender specific must compete as one gender for that event as specified by the athlete and be recorded as such on each Crew List.

All crew Lists must be given to Marshalling Officials prior to or at the pre-event Briefing, with names in alphabetical order from the revSPORT database.

- Maximum of 16 crew members to be listed for 10s crews.
- Maximum of 26 crew members to be listed for 20s crews.
- Must indicate which competitors cannot swim 50 m or have not completed the annual swim test as they must wear a PFD.
- Must indicate which competitors are from another Club.

Once the Crew Lists have been submitted to DBWA Officials the list of names cannot be altered.

STARTS

A Crew Manager or Coach or Captain must check in their Crews at Marshalling prior to proceeding to the loading area.

Toggle Start equipment must be used by Crews when installed in their racing lane unless advised otherwise by DBWA Officials.

Failure to use the Toggle equipment or use it incorrectly may result in disqualification.

Crews will promptly respond to the Aligner and Starter's instructions and failure to do so may result in disqualification.

When Toggle equipment is not installed the Aligner and Starter will instruct how to approach the start line and complete the race start.

POINT SYSTEM FOR GRAND PRIX REGATTAS

This Point System is not applicable to WA State Championship (see WA State Championships section).

Club Crews, Sister Club Crews and Combined Crews are eligible to earn points.

Combined Crews points will be allocated 50/50 between the two (2) Clubs.

Composite Crews who race DNQ are not eligible to earn points.

Each heat will be treated as a final and will be worth points based on order of finish (i.e., 1st place earns more points than 2nd place, which earns more than 3rd, etc.).

At the end of the event, the points will be tallied for each Category of racing. For example, if one Crew wins all three heats, they will receive the maximum (24) points for that race Category.

Points system

Placing	Points
First	8
Second	7
Third	6
Fourth	5
Fifth	4
Sixth	3
Seventh	2
Eight	1

Should two Crews cross the finish line together and are deemed to be a tie, both Crews earn maximum points for their placing (i.e., if they both finish 2nd they both earn 7 points and the next Crew earns 5 Points for being the fourth Crew to cross the finish line).

Where Clubs enter two Crews in the same Category, only the Crew which earns the most points at that event will have their points tallied towards the Grand Prix Champion.

Each Grand Prix regatta points are tallied for the end of season Grand Prix Champions in the following Categories.

- Women
- Mixed
- Open
- Juniors

PROTESTS

A Club that wishes to lodge a protest must do so within 10 minutes of the finish of the protested race. The fee to lodge a protest is \$100 which will be invoiced by DBWA.

The Protest must be in writing outlining the reasons for the protest and include any supporting evidence and refer to the relevant Rule/s.

The Jury will comprise of three members appointed by DBWA and who are not members of the Clubs involved in the protest.

The Jury's decision will be based on creditable evidence from all parties involved and decided by simple majority with each member having one vote.

The ruling by the Jury is final and not subject to appeal.

If the protest is successful DBWA will not charge the \$100 Protest fee.

RACING FORMAT GRAND PRIX REGATTAS

These Grand Prix racing rules do not apply to WA State Championship (see below).

There will be three (3) heats for each category, each treated as a Final, except when there is a 1,000 m or 2,000 m race, then only one race will be held.

Two Categories of racing may be in the same race, but times and results are kept separate.

Points are awarded based on results (see Grand Prix Points System above).

WA State Championships

The WA State Championship racing rules apply as per Grand Prix events except as follows:

ELIGIBILITY

For an Athlete to be able to compete at the DBWA State Championship they must;

- Be a registered and financial member of DBWA; and
- Have competed at a minimum of one (1) DBWA Grand Prix regatta during the current Grand Prix season as a member of DBWA.

Dragon Pass participants are not eligible to compete at the WA State Championship.

Rule	Grand Prix	State Champs
Borrowing paddlers	Permitted	Not permitted
Sister Club can compete	Permitted	Permitted
A Sister Club is not permitted to borrow Athletes from other Clubs.	Applicable	Applicable
When competing with a Sister Club competitors must wear the race top of their primary Club.	Applicable	Applicable
Second Club member can compete	Permitted	Permitted
If an Athlete is approved to compete with a Second Club, they must wear the race top of the second Club.	Applicable	Applicable

The following Grand Prix Rules are NOT permitted at WA State Championships:

- Borrowing paddlers, Combined Crews and Do Not Qualify (DNQ) Composite Crews
- Three heats per Category and Grand Prix Points System.
- Entering two (2) Crews in each racing Category.

Clubs are only permitted to enter one (1) Crew in each racing category.

Only L3 and above Accredited Sweeps are permitted to sweep.

There will be one heat and a Final in each Category; except where there is 1,000 m and 2,000 m races then one Final race will be held for each distance.

If there are more than 8 Crews in one Category, heats will be run. The fastest eight (8) crews progress to the Final.

Medals will be awarded based on results of the Final.

- 1st – Gold.
- 2nd – Silver.
- 3rd – Bronze.

If there is a tie in a Final those two Crews will be awarded medals based on their placing (i.e., if two Crews tie for second both Crews will be awarded 2nd place medals and 3rd place medals will not be awarded).