



Dragon Boat SA

Policy and Procedures

Subject Including People with Disability

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DragonBoat SA welcomes all members of the community, regardless of their abilities. We will include people with disability in sport in both paddling and non-paddling roles to the greatest extent that we can.

We will endeavour to make our organisation as accessible as possible, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Play by the Rules and the ability of individuals involved in our organisation, the type and level of competition (e.g., junior versus senior competition and social versus competitive paddling) they want to join and our capacity to make modifications that promote inclusion.

What we will do

- Put people first, focus on what they can do and find out how they want to participate.
- Ask each individual – and their parents if the participant is a child – for their advice about what modifications would help them to participate.
- Where possible, adjust our coaching, equipment, rules or playing environment and modifications to our premises (e.g. putting in a ramp).
- Be honest and explain if certain modifications or adjustments are not currently possible.
- Communicate with people and share DBSA information in appropriate ways and formats.
- Expect all members of DBSA to accept and welcome people with disability.
- Make sure people of all abilities are included in DBSA social activities and are recognised for their contribution and achievement.
- Have strong policies to ensure that people can play sport and participate without discrimination, harassment or bullying.
- Provide information about other options for participation outside DBSA; for example, letting people know about sports that are primarily or only for people with disability, sports where major modifications have been made to increase opportunities for participation.

What we ask you to do

If you have a disability:

- tell us what we can do to help include you in DBSA
- understand that we will do our best to make any necessary adjustments or modifications
- talk to us if you have any concerns or ideas to help us make the sport of dragon boating more inclusive.

Disability Awareness for our Members

- Focus on the person – not the disability.
- Always ask if they need help – do not assume that they need it.
- Deaf/hearing impaired - face the person for lip reading, use normal tone of voice.
- Vision impaired - identify yourself by name, explain what you are doing and where you will be going.
- Always address the person with the disability - not the Carer or interpreter.
- When addressing anyone in a wheelchair - bend, sit and address them at eye level.
- When speaking to a person with an intellectual disability - use clear language and give time to ask any questions [Source - 2000 Olympics Games Force Manual/Handbook]
- There are different learning styles - visual, oral, verbal, kinaesthetic (physical), intrapersonal, interpersonal & logical. Everyone has a mix of learning styles however a person with a disability may not be able to use one style, so alternatives have to be found - like teaching paddling to a person with a vision impairment (low vision partial- total loss of sight).
- Assessing requirements vary widely and are not always evident. When approaching, name the person and introduce yourself and discuss directly with them their individual requirements. Always ask first. Teaching dragon boat paddling relies on verbal cues and physical movement and feeling the action of paddle, and the rhythm of the boat.
- Use accurate and specific language when giving directions - ie 1,2 count when paddling, and let them have and enjoy the experience. If they come with a companion get them involved in paddling as well. Importantly for them have fun learning a new skill.

DBSA respects the rights of Clubs to restrict active on water participation when it is believed that there is undue risk to other participants.

POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure that the document remains current, practical and relevant for DBSA. The next review date being October 2020.



Dated: Thursday 11 October 2018 Signed: _____

President DragonBoat SA