

## POPOLICY: THE ROLE OF THE DRAGON BOAT DRUMMER

<b>Policy No</b>	9	<b>Issue</b>			10
<b>Board Approval</b>	November 2023	<b>Review cycle</b>	3-yearly	<b>Next review</b>	November 2026

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the role of a dragon boat drummer.

### Policy

Listed below are the various regulations and rules which govern the role of the Drummer as per the current version of AusDBF Competition Regulations & Rules of Racing and local rules:

- R4.4 The Drummer shall sit on the drummer seat provided and must actively and audibly beat the drum throughout the race, once the boat has cleared the starting area which is deemed 50 metres from the start line. Failure to actively beat the drum as seen by the Race Officials will result in disciplinary action being taken against the crew concerned.
- R6.6. When aligner is satisfied that all the boats are correctly aligned, the Starter shall alert the crews by saying "Are you ready". If the crew is not ready the Drummer must immediately raise a hand above head height to indicate the situation to the Starter. (The Drummer is forbidden to take such action prior to this instruction, especially in crews under Starter's orders when moving to the start line).
- R6.11. It is incumbent upon the Drummer to watch the race aligner and umpire to instruct the crew to stop when a false start has been called.
- R6.15. Equipment failure off the start. In the event of a crew experiencing equipment failure, for example a broken drummer seat or steering arm/oar (but not a paddle) off the start line and up to 50 metre mark, the race will be restarted, providing the crew concerned stops paddling immediately and both the front two paddlers and Drummer raise their hands fully in the air. In this case the Starter will carry out the same procedure as for a false start and in addition the course umpire boat will proceed quickly down the course and stop any crew who may not have heard the recall signal.
- R7.8 Distress Signal  
If a crew is in distress for example if someone is overboard, or medical event then the Drummer shall alert the Umpires/safety boat by using the International Distress Signal. The Drummer places their arms in the outstretched position horizontal to the sides of the body then raise the arms to a vertical position and crossing the arms above their head then return the arms to the horizontal position. The action is repeated until the Safety boats respond. If a distress signal is given by a crew without just cause will result in disciplinary action being taken against the crew concerned.  
The International Distress Signal is taught as part of the Sweeps & Drummers course in SA.
- DBSA 005 1.2 Drummer must be twelve (12) years of age or older (that is have turned 12 as of 31 December in the year of the event) and must have a demonstrated knowledge of the safety requirements for drumming.



In addition to the above the Sweep has other responsibilities in relation to safety:

- The Drummer is number 1 in the head count.
- If the Sweep falls from the boat, the Drummer takes on the leadership role and takes control of the crew and boat.
- The Drummer should sit in the centre of the drummer's seat in a balanced boat but can be used to assist in balancing by moving left or right.
- The Drummer has a vital role to ensure communications are effectively relayed from the Sweep to the Strokes and the rest of the crew.

Additional information: [AusDBF- Drummer Master Class doc DN- 0011\(version1\)](#)