

POLICY: CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO RACES (Eligibility, Fixtures & Team Composition)

Policy No	005	Issue			20
Board Approval	November 2025	Review cycle	annually	Next review	November 026

Introduction

DragonBoat (DBSA) oversees and encourages member Clubs to participate in a competitive competition.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the rules for conditions of entry to races.

Policy

Member Clubs will organise the competitions through membership of the Racing Committee under the guidelines set out in the DBSA Regulations.

The Procedure and Functions of the Race Committee are set out in DBSA Regulation 006.

1. Participant Eligibility

DBSA reserves the right to make decisions as to a person's physical ability to undertake what can, at times, be a demanding sport.

- 1.1 All participants, regardless of Category or Division, must be ten (10) years of age or older by 31st December in the year of the event to take part in dragon boat racing within South Australia.
- 1.2 Drummers must be twelve (12) years of age or older by 31 December in the year of the event and must have a demonstrated knowledge of the safety requirements for drumming.
- 1.3 Sweeps must be a minimum of fourteen (14) years of age by 31st December in the year of the event.
- 1.4 An approved Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) must be worn by all persons 18 years and under whilst on the water. No exemptions shall be granted from this requirement.
- 1.5 An approved Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) must be worn by all Sweeps and drummers whilst on the water.
- 1.6 An approved Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) must be worn by all participants whilst on the water unless an exemption has been provided by the relevant government department (there will be no exemptions for clauses 1.4 and 1.5)
- 1.7 Participants must be registered with RevSport and be a member of a club.
- 1.8 Participants can only race with any one club during any race season.



2. Event Fixtures

- 2.1 Fixtures will be advised, where possible, at least one month prior to the start of the season.
- 2.2 Any changes to fixtures will be forwarded to Clubs in writing by DBSA.
- 2.3 Race results will be published on the DBSA website.

3. Team Composition – Number of Participants required for an Event

- 3.1 A Standard boat crew consists of a maximum of 26 participants on the crew list – 20 paddlers plus drummer, sweep and 4 reserves (a minimum of 16 paddlers is required to race in a DBSA Regatta excepting State Championships where the minimum is 18).
- 3.2 A Small boat crew consists of a maximum of fourteen participants on the crew list - 10 paddlers plus drummer, sweep and 2 reserves (a minimum 8 paddlers is required to race) .

4. Racing Categories and Crew Composition

Each racing age division (Junior, Premier, Snr A, Snr B, Snr C) is made up of three categories, open, women and mixed, in addition to options of either Standard or Small Boats.

Races are organised for the following racing categories, based on gender:

- 4.1 **Open Category** This is the primary category of racing. There are no restrictions on crew gender composition.
- 4.2 **Women's Category** This is for crews (drummer, sweep and paddlers) who identify as female or non-binary. CR 2.1.3
- 4.2 **Mixed Category** For **standard** and small boats, a mixed crew must consist of:
 - a) Standard boat, 20's crew – A crew consists of a minimum of 16 paddlers (refer 3.1), 1 drummer and a sweep. A minimum of 8 to a maximum of 10 paddlers of either gender.
 - b) Small boat, 10's crew – A crew consists of a minimum of 8 paddlers, 1 drummer and a sweep. A minimum of 4 to a maximum of 5 paddlers of either gender.

The drummer and sweep can be any gender. In Mixed competition class races, non-binary participants may compete in the gender category they identify with at the commencement of the regatta. This identification will only be used for the purpose of counting crew members.

Non-Binary (Pride in Sport definition)

For the AusDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing where gender criteria are specified, gender is determined by self-definition/identification at the commencement of the regatta. This determination must match the one listed on an individual's current membership profile within revSPORT.



Event Team Sheets

All crew sheets must be presented to the Race Secretariat a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the first race on any race day.

5. Event Team Divisions

Four divisions of teams are used for dragon boating events in South Australia:

5.1 **SPORTS.** Designated for regular competition paddlers.

5.1.1 Sports Division will be either A or B Grade.

- a) Sports B Grade will cater for 10s crews, race distances of 200m and has no age classifications.
- b) Once a Sports B Grade paddler has competed in 3 (three) Sports A Grade race days, they are no longer eligible to compete as Sports B Grade without special exemption from DBSA.
- c) This excludes invitation races where Sports B Grade could be invited to participate in a composite crew (such as Round the Island or Lunar New Year) and/or longer distance.

The following age classifications may be raced in Sports A Grade:

- Junior – 18 years and under
- 24 years and under
- Premier – any age
- Senior A – 40 years +
- Senior B – 50 Years +
- Senior C – 60 years +
- 40 years – 40 years +
- 55 years – 55 years +
- Note age classification is at 31 December of the year of the event

5.1.2 Any Sports A grade paddler who wishes to race Sports B must apply to DBSA for reclassification.

5.2 **SCHOOLS.** Designated for regular or occasional school paddlers

5.2.1 All paddlers must be current students of a recognised educational institution, notwithstanding the allowance for up to two (2) teachers to be members of that team.

5.2.2 On race days, school team members may elect to paddle with a Sports team.

5.3 **CORPORATE.** Designated for occasional social paddlers.

5.3.1 A maximum of two (2) paddlers in a corporate team in any race can be regular Sports (A or B Grade) paddlers.

5.4 **BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS.**

Refer to Policy # 016 – Breast Cancer Challenge Races.



5.5 **COMBINED CREWS.** Combined crews support participation of paddlers in Standard Boat racing (20s) in Sports A and in Small Boat racing (10s) in Sports B.

Sports A Criteria - standard boat:

- Will be comprised of equal numbers from two clubs.
- Can only race in regattas and not at State Championships.
- Can participate in all distances, will race in an outside lane (200m and 500m) as an unseeded crew.
- Can participate in 2000m and will start as non-seeded crew.
- Will start first for the Peter Bristow Long Course.
- Will be discussed and agreed upon at the preceding Race Committee meeting.
- Can be made up of metropolitan or regional paddlers.
- Will be eligible for prizes and treated as a fully qualified crew.

Sports B Criteria - small boat:

- Can only race in regattas and not at State Championships.
- Will be discussed and agreed upon at the preceding Race Committee meeting.
- Can be made up of metropolitan or regional paddlers.
- Will be comprised of equal numbers from two clubs

5.6 **COMPOSITE CREWS**

Support participation of paddlers in 20's crew racing in Sports A and 10's crew racing in Sports B, within specific criteria.

Criteria:

- Composite crews can only race in regattas and not at State Championships.
- This does not impact on the existing informal arrangements where regional Clubs combine at regional events such as Wallaroo or Round the Island and qualified.
- Sweeps support regional Clubs.
- That composite crews relate to all distances for 20's crews in Sports A and 10's crews in Sports B.
- The crew will race as 'non qualifying' and will race in an outside lane for 200m and 500m and start last in the 1000m or 2000m.
- There can be no more than three composite crews in any one race category.
- Participation can only be if there are lanes in the heat / final available without creating additional races (doesn't extend the program).
- All composite crews must be notified and discussed at the Race Committee meeting so that the program can be finalised (no composite crew late entries will be accepted).
- Composite crews support regional participation at all distances:
 - Where a metropolitan Club cannot fulfil a full crew minimum of 16 paddlers, the shortfall can be represented by regional paddlers.
 - Any number of regional paddlers can combine.