

# 2017 Lao Boat Racing Festival Rules & Regulations

**Official Race Jury:** San Diego Dragon Boat Team (SDDBT)

**Committee Race Jury:** Kenny Xayavong; Vannasing Keodara; Sane Chanthaphavong; Phet Rassavong

## CAPTAIN'S MEETING:

Captain's meeting is on Saturday, 9/23/17 @ 8AM at the Gazebo Area

9AM – Team Parade Starts & Parade of Boat

Race starts at 10AM

## RACING RULES:

In addition to the 9 rules specified in the Registration Form:

1. All races are 250m; all paddlers wear appropriately fitted, Coast-Guard-approved pfd.
2. Each team registers 18 paddlers\* (with 4 alternates); team captain; 1 drummer if any, 1 steerer if any (if no drummer or steerer, Festival will provide).  
*\*Please contact Event Operator 14 days prior to the event if you need additional paddlers. Must have a minimum of at least 16 paddlers on a boat.*
3. Minimum 3 registered teams required to run a division.
4. Festival reserves right to move team from one division to another for race scheduling purposes.
5. Each participant must sign the group USDBF and Release of Liability Signature Page and follow general safety guidelines.
6. No participant may paddle in more than one team per Division.
7. Any crew that fails to observe the Rules and Regulations herein may be disqualified.
8. Event Operator reserves the right to waive, amend and add to any of the Rules and Regulations.
9. Wrist bands checked; time deduction penalties for infractions.
10. Team members with special medical conditions (especially heart conditions or asthma) must carry their medication with them at all times.
11. All paddlers must be 12 years or older. All paddlers under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian sign the waiver form. There is no restriction on paddler recruitment such as gender, ethnicity, religion, disability (or ability), etc.
12. Wrist bands will be provided for all paddlers. Wristbands are to be worn on the **right** wrist. **Wrist bands will be distributed on Saturday morning at the captain's meeting.** From rule #9 above, 5 seconds per paddler will be applied if a delay is caused by not having a wrist band during loading.
13. **From rule #6 above: No participant may paddle in more than one team per Division.** If a paddler is caught paddling on more than one team in the same division, both teams will be disqualified for the entire race.
14. In order to keep races on schedule, the dock crew will not wait for any teams. Make sure your entire crew is ready to check in **30 minutes before your race** at the loading area. It is your responsibility to check the posted schedule.

15. In case of time conflicts for your races (e.g., back to back races, concurrent races), please notify the officials at the loading area before your race.
16. Teams will be disqualified if they are not prepared to load as a full team from back to front **on time**.
17. During the marshaling process, teams should line up in two straight lines from back to front facing the launching area.
18. From rule #1 above: All persons on the boat must properly wear an approved PFD at all times. Inflatables are not allowed. All clothing must be worn under PFDs for easy visual confirmation of proper PFD usage.
19. After the boat leaves the beach, it cannot stop for any personnel changes. All launched boats are required to head immediately to the starting line. Detours are not permitted. **Boats that delay the starting of a race will be disqualified.**
20. The starter commands will be “Paddlers are you ready?” “Attention please” and horn. If your team is not ready at the “Paddlers are you ready?” command, your drummer should wave both arms to get the starter’s attention. There is no guarantee that the starter will wait.
21. Disregard of starter’s or umpires’ instructions may result in disqualification.
22. Upon finishing a race, each team must promptly return back to the boat launching area without causing delay for the next heat. A penalty of 5 seconds may be imposed to the boat causing the delay.
23. All **SDDBT** life jackets and paddles must be returned and must not leave the loading area after each race (penalty: 5 seconds per item).
24. All other penalties are decided by the race jury. Teams ignoring official’s call will be penalized by 5 seconds or will be disqualified.
25. A captain has before the start of the award ceremony (September 23<sup>th</sup>, estimated around 3:30 PM) to report an infringement or dispute a call, along with any supported evidence.

## **SCORING:**

The race heats, timing, scoring and all other related administration will be under the support of the [San Diego Dragon Boat Team](#).

**Race Heats:** Each team will compete in a minimum of 3 heats. Please check the schedule board during the festival for an updated schedule.

### **Crossing the Finish Line:**

- A boat has finished the race when the foremost part (head) of the boat crosses the finish line.
- The buoys will serve as a visual indication for the paddlers as the **approximate** finish line. Since they tend to drift with the tide and current, the race official and cameraman will use a pre-determined line between the two shores as the finish line – such as a stick in the sand from one shore and a tree on the other side of the bank.

### **Scoring:**

- The combined time from the 3 heats will be used to determine the overall score for each team.
- The top 3 teams from each division with the best combined time will advance to the final races. “Best” is defined as the shortest combined time.
- During the final races, all times from the heats will be disregarded and the teams will simply race for first, second, and third place in each division.

**Trophies and Medals:** Trophies and medals will be awarded to the top 3 teams from each division. Each winning team will receive 1 trophy and 24 medals.