

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

PHARMASAVE Woodstock Rotary Dragon Boat Festival

Event Date: August 8, 2026

CATEGORIES TO BE CONTESTED

Festival Mixed 500m

BCS Challenge 500m - Fastest team in 1st heat.

Youth Challenge 500m - Fastest team in 1st heat.

Women's Challenge 500m - Fastest team in 1st heat.

Festival Mixed 2000m for the top 8 teams at the end of the day

PRIZES

24 Medals will be awarded to each 1st and 2nd place team in each Championship Division. 24 gold medals will be awarded to the 1st place team in each Consolation Division.

This is a fun event designed to promote community spirit and friendly competition.

RACE COURSE

Length - 500 metres, 2000m

Number of lanes - 4

Lane Width – 15 metres

Number of boats – 8

SAFETY

1. Each crew member should be able to swim 100 metres while wearing light clothing.
2. Each crew member is solely responsible for his/her own safety at all times while engaging in activities relating to practicing and racing in the Dragon Boats.
3. Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) are mandatory for all practices and competition and are available for all teams. ***Inflatable PFD's are allowed provided they are Canadian Coast Guard or Transport Canada Approved.***
4. Contact with other boats should be avoided at all costs. Steerspeople must anticipate when a collision is imminent and instruct the team to hold the boat immediately. The festival reserves the right to assess for damages if teams are negligent.

WEATHER

Dragon boating is an outdoor sport and as such is subject to natural forces beyond the control of the organizing committee. In the event of weather interfering with the festival the organizing committee will work with the race officials to determine how best to provide a full day of racing. If this is not possible the race may be cancelled part way through the day. No refunds will be given in the event of the festival being modified or cancelled due to weather.

WAIVERS/ TEAM ROSTER

1. All team members must sign and accept a waiver stating that they have read the conditions of the

waiver and are aware of the risks associated with the event, and thus waive any right that they may have to any course of action against any or all of the sponsors and organizers for injury to the person(s) or loss/damage to personal property.

2. All team members must sign and return the waiver prior to participating in any practice sessions or race activities.

3. Team managers are responsible for submitting signed waivers from all members of his/her team to The Woodstock Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee on the morning of the event before the first race.

DRAGON BOAT RACES AND EQUIPMENT

1. All boats, paddles, and drums will be provided. Our supplier is Great White North Communications.

2. All equipment used during the practice sessions and races will be returned intact. ***The replacement cost or repair of such equipment will be charged to the responsible team should negligence be determined.***

TEAMS

A registered team member must be at least sixteen (16) years of age or will be sixteen (16) in the year of competition. No team member under the age of sixteen (16) will be allowed to practice or race without written consent and waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

Team roster for practice and races will be composed of a maximum crew of twenty-seven (27) crew members. One (1) team manager, twenty (20) paddlers, one (1) steersperson, one (1) drummer, four (4) spares. All register on one (1) Festival team. ***Maximum of 10 male paddlers in the boat.***

The Race Marshall reserves the right to check the crew members in the boat and the names recorded on the team roster prior to all races.

The Team Manager will be responsible for:

- team conduct
- communicating and distributing information to the team
- gathering and submitting all necessary forms and waiver for the team
- being the liaison with the Marshall and officials

TEAM SPONSORSHIP

The Woodstock Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee retains all rights to advertising, sponsorship and commercial representation for the event. The Event Organizer is under no obligation to individual Team Sponsors, and may refuse any commercial representation on the Dragon Boat Festival site and on the water venue. Representation of the organization responsible for the Team and its Sponsor(s) shall be limited to:

- clothing such as team uniforms (T-shirts, sweat suits, hats, head bands, athletic bags)
- one team flag not exceeding six feet in any direction
- other items deemed appropriate by the Woodstock Rotary Dragon Boat Festival Committee

STARTING PROCEDURES

Rules regarding starting and racing conduct will be announced to Team Captains or Managers on the morning of the event.

LOADING DOCK/ MARSHALLING AREA

Races will run every 11 minutes. Be prepared to report to the marshalling area 30 minutes before your race or face disqualification. Be prepared if we get a little behind or ahead of schedule. A race marshal will coordinate teams at the docks and regular announcements will be made to keep your team aware of your loading order.

JUDGING AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Judging and disqualifications shall be the sole discretion of the Rotary Club of Woodstock in coordination with Referees and Race Officials.

PROTESTS

Must be made at dock on or before race or before teams are out of boat. Teams using ineligible paddlers (not on their Team Roster) will be disqualified. Teams using less than required number of women will be disqualified. Teams may paddle with as few as 16 but at with a maximum of 10 male paddlers.