



2026 CHARLOTTE DRAGON BOAT RACE RULES & REGULATIONS

IMPORTANT HEALTH/SAFETY INFORMATION: Participants having had any symptoms related to COVID-19 in the three days prior to any dragon boat event (practice and/or race) or having been around someone with the virus, should not participate. Symptoms include fever or chills, muscle and body aches, sore throat or runny/stuffy nose, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, coughing, shortness of breath, and/or sudden loss of taste or smell.

Registration

TEAM

- The team registration fee is \$880 for corporate teams and \$780 for non-profits (non-profits require a valid 501(c)3 certificate) if the fee is paid in full by April 16, 2026. For registrations after April 16, 2026, the fee is \$980 and \$880 respectively.
- Your registration fee must be paid before you are allowed to schedule one team practice.
- Team captains will be contacted to schedule practice after receipt of the Registration Fee and Team Registration Form.

INDIVIDUAL or SMALL GROUP

- Any person or small group not associated with a team may register to race and will be assigned to a team by the festival organizers.
- Before being allowed to practice or participate, each individual must complete the Individual Registration Form.
- Your registration fee must be paid before you are allowed to attend practice. The registration fee is \$40 per person.

Crew and Crew Composition

- Each team should consist of 20 paddlers, 1 drummer. Up to 2 additional alternates are allowed.
- NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.
- Team members must be at least 13 years of age.
- Mixed Teams must have a MINIMUM of 8 male and 8 female paddlers, and a MAXIMUM of 12 male paddlers for a full boat.
- For an all women's team, the drummer and steersperson may be a male.
- A steersperson will be provided.

Safety

- PFDs (Personal Flotation Device) will be provided and must be worn in practices and races. No inflatable device is allowed as a substitute.
- Shoes must be worn at all times by all paddlers, drummers and steerspersons.
- Each crew member is solely responsible for his or her own safety during practice sessions and the race itself.
- Team Captains are encouraged to promote team warm-up activities prior to marshalling.
- Team Captains are required to participate in the Captain's Meeting and safety briefing prior to the race commencement.
- In case of emergency, a first aid station at the team loading/unloading area.
- Team Captains are responsible for setting their own team's hygiene guidelines. These guidelines may include, for example, but not limited to: providing masks, sanitary wipes, hand sanitizers, and other PPE.



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Practice Session

- Practice sessions can be scheduled once the [Registration Form](#) has been submitted and registration fee has been paid.
- Each team is allotted one 90 minute practice session time slot.
- The practice session will be held at Ramsey Creek Park.
- Please do not park in lot 3.
- Each team will have one scheduled 90-minute block to practice with the Charlotte Dragon Boat Association volunteer coaches and a steerer. The practice session will cover:
 - Sign online waivers, if not completed (10 mins)
 - Warm-up and Land training (15 mins)
 - Load boat (5 mins)
 - Paddling (45 mins)
 - Unload boat (5 mins)
 - Closing Remarks and Q&A (10 mins)
- Because paddlers will need to walk through the water when boarding and exiting the boat, it is strongly recommended that paddlers wear footwear suitable for getting wet.
- Paddlers will be provided with paddles and PFDs. PFDs must be correctly worn at all times on the boat.

Waivers and Identification

- All team members must complete the online “Non-Member Waiver” stating they have read and understand the risks of injury associated with Dragon Boat racing and knowingly and freely assume all such risks.
- A waiver must be completed by each participant prior to the practice session or race, whichever comes first.
- Copies of identification are not required but must be available if requested by race management.

Parking

- Only one car per team is allowed to park at the event location and there is no drop-off pass. Parking pass will be mailed to the team manager as per the Team Registration Form.
- Crews should park at the designated parking area and shuttle to the venue. Equipment may be loaded on the shuttle.
- Optional team setup is allowed in designated areas on the Friday before the event AFTER 5pm.

Shuttle

- Prior to 9:00 a.m., the shuttle is solely for the use of Dragon Boat participants.
- Each team will be given a scheduled time to take the shuttle from the parking lot located at 8900 North Pointe Executive Park, Huntersville, NC 28078.
- The shuttle schedule is based on the race schedule. Participants racing in early races will be scheduled for an early shuttle time. Please be mindful of the shuttle schedule and make every effort to arrive early so you can board the shuttle at your team’s designated time. This ensures that all dragon boat participants are onsite before 9:00 a.m.
- If family members will be accompanying the participant before 9:00 a.m., please drop off family members at the entrance to Ramsey Creek Park prior to boarding the shuttle at your team’s scheduled time.
- After 9:00 a.m., the shuttle will be open to the general public.



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Check-in

- Team Captains must check-in the day of the race before 8am to confirm their Team Roster and completed Waivers.
- Team Captains will receive a full set of wristbands based on the number of crew listed on the Team Roster and waivers completed.
- Only individuals with wristbands are allowed to walk to the boat loading/unloading area.

Race Plan

- Race organizers will direct teams on procedures for marshaling, loading, starting procedures during team practices and Captain's meeting.
- Race organizers reserve the right to determine placement of teams.
- Each team will race three times. In the event of inclement weather, the race may be delayed or cancelled to ensure all participants safety.
- The pace of the race can be accelerated or delayed based on many external factors. Approximate Marshaling times for Round 2 and Final Round will be posted after completion of prior Round but Team Captains should listen for Heat announcements for confirmation.
- Specified community teams will be grouped in a separate division and only race among each other in the final round, regardless of where they place in the first two heats.
- All matters not specifically addressed in the "Rules and Regulations" will be determined by the Event Organizer.

Award Ceremony

- The Award Ceremony will follow the last race of the day.
- The top three teams from the Division A, B and C Championships and Consolation finals will be awarded medals. Additional awards may be extended as warranted.