



The Bradford Dragon Boat Festival 2017

Festival Overview

Festival details: **Saturday, 06 May 2017, Roberts Park, Saltaire. BD17 5JH**

The concept

1. Dragon Boating is both a fun and highly effective way to raise money for charity and you need a team of between 13 - 17 people (up to twenty if you include reserves) in order to make a team.
2. **No previous experience is necessary**
3. Both men and women can compete on equal footing.
4. Each Dragon boat will hold a maximum of seventeen team members (eight pairs of paddlers and a drummer – all teams must have a drummer). The eighteenth person is the dragon boat instructor who steers the boat.
5. Dragon boat races are run throughout the day over a competition length course of around 200 metres – which works out to around 1'- 1' 15" minutes of hard aerobic paddling per race.
6. Each team in the festival is given a guaranteed (weather permitting) three timed races.
7. Your **single best time** over those three races is then used to qualify the fastest teams into the final round using all the available dragon boats that can be safely raced together.

Entry fee and Fund Raising

1. Team entry fee = **£500** per team (416.67 + vat).
2. Each team member is *challenged* to raise a minimum **£50** in sponsorship for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Safety

- The Race the Dragon Ltd. instructors will provide a safety brief for each team prior to their first race as well as buoyancy aids for everyone. After the safety briefing, each team member at the briefing will be issued with a coloured wrist band.
- Only team members wearing wristbands will be allowed access into the dragon boats.
- The Race the Dragon Ltd. instructors will also provide the training, helm the dragon boats and ensure the safety of all crews whilst on the water.
- A safety boat will be on stand-by whilst the dragon boats are on the water.

"Race the Dragon" is, the soul of dragon boat racing in the UK. We specialise in providing charity, corporate and youth dragon boat racing events nationwide in the UK and offer novice crews the opportunity to compete in one of Britain's most unique water sport activities, where the emphasis throughout the day is on: ... challenge, team building, fund raising ...and FUN!

Terms & Conditions

Although Dragon Boating is not dangerous, safety is paramount and so everyone's agreement to the terms and conditions below is required from all team members before the team will be allowed on to the water.

If you need more information about the festival, please contact:

Race The Dragon Ltd.	Office:	0845 293 0897
	E-mail	events@racethedragon.com
	Website	www.BradfordDragonBoatFestival.co.uk

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Terms & Conditions.

1. **Crew Numbers.** Whilst crews may register up to 20 people in their team, a maximum crew of 16 people (subject to overall weight of the crew and the prevailing conditions) plus a drummer will be permitted to enter each race. In the opinion of the helm, where the weight of the crew or conditions on the day makes safe boat handling a problem, the boat's helm has the absolute authority to require the crew to reduce the number of paddlers. No refunds or reductions will be offered for crews competing or entering with less than the prescribed number.
2. **Drummers.** Every team must have a drummer for each race.
3. **Event safety – swimming.** All able-bodied crew members must be declared competent in deep water and capable of swimming 50 metres with the aid of an approved personal flotation device (buoyancy aid). Such buoyancy aids will be provided by Race the Dragon Ltd. for competitors use whilst on the water.
4. **Disqualification and race time cancellation.** In circumstances where any team member(s) are, in the opinion of any official from Race the Dragon (RTD) deliberately trying to capsize the boat or behaving in such a way that could result in either damage to the boats or a danger to the crew or RTD staff, then those officials can ask the Event Director to either cancel the time of the race concerned or disqualify the team member(s) from further participation in the day. The times of any races cancelled will not count towards Grand Final qualification. Where such person(s) are disqualified but refuse to leave the crew, it is the responsibility of the Team Captain to remove the disqualified person(s). If the disqualified person(s) still refuses to leave, then the whole team will be disqualified from further participation in the day. No refund will be due to any person or team disqualified.
5. **Special Needs / Disabled.** Where any team member(s) is either disabled or 'having special needs', then for safety reasons they must inform the boat's helm prior to each race. Persons such identified to the helm will then be given a 'day-glo' jacket which must be worn over their buoyancy aid whilst in the boat and must be handed back to the boat's helm or beach marshal when the crew member(s) disembark the boat.
6. **Previous experience.** No previous experience of Dragon Boat Racing is necessary in order to compete and all crews compete at their own risk.
7. **Safety Brief.** All team members are required to partake in the team safety brief before the start of their first race. Your safety brief will cover:
 - **How to hold the paddle correctly**
 - **The various commands you will hear from the Helm and what each one means,**
 - **How to move the boat forward and how to stop the boat,**
 - **How to stop the boat capsizing**
 - **The "Buddy Buddy" system and what to do in the event of a capsize.**

At the end of the safety brief, all team members present will be issued with a coloured wrist band and only people wearing these wrist bands will be permitted into the dragon boats.
8. **Minimum Age.** In the interests of safety a minimum age of sixteen years old is set for competitors and twelve years old for the drummer.
9. **Entry fees.** All entry fees are non refundable.
10. **Withdrawals.** Confirmed teams who later withdraw from the festival before Thursday 02 March 2017 will forfeit their £100 deposit or (where invoiced payment has yet to be received), have their invoice cancelled and be re-invoiced for the £100 deposit. For teams withdrawing after Thursday 02 March 2017, 100% of the entry fee will be due.
11. **Late Payments:** A £20.00 administration fee will be invoiced for all payments not completed by Thursday 27 April 2017 unless a written payment extension has been authorised by the organisers
12. **Head-to-Head Races:** For companies or organisations that have two or more teams entering, we will endeavour to organise (where possible) a Head-to-Head Race in Round 3 and seed the teams in such a way so they do not meet during rounds one & two. This then gives the teams the opportunity to experience several 'training' rounds before their big event.

We recommend any company or organisation with teams competing in a Head-to-Head Race get trophy shields organised for their teams. Come the award ceremony, we will then invite the most senior member of the company in attendance to come up and present the shield to their winning team, which would make a great photo opportunity for the company website / newsletter.



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Crew Information & Waiver

IMPORTANT! For insurances purposes, in the highly unlikely event of a member having a dragon boat related accident; only the persons listed on the Crew Declaration below will be covered by the insurance policy. It is therefore **essential** that all team members complete in full and sign the Crew Declaration form.

The completed declaration must be handed in to Registration on the day of the event.

CREW CONTRACT & WAIVER: In signing this 'crew contract' the crew listed here agrees to the conditions of entry as listed in the promoter's contract. Notwithstanding any of these conditions, the crew's statutory rights are not affected.

The crew certifies that:

- (a) All crew members are confident in water, and can swim unaided for a minimum distance of 50 metres whilst wearing a personal flotation device (buoyancy aid supplied by the 'Company'),
- (b) Crew members with disabilities have signed a separate waiver, and have satisfied the promoter this has been done,
- (c) That they are able to sit unaided in the boat, be capable of communicating with and or obeying instructions given by the Company's representatives both on and off the water and are confident in water whilst wearing a personal flotation device. There is no absolute requirement for such people to be able to swim 50 metres. In all cases a person with disabilities must be escorted by an able bodied helper (buddy) who will be briefed as to their duties whilst on the water. In the event no buddy can be organised from within the team, an additional charge may be levied for the supply of a trained member of the event team to act as a personal buddy.
- (d) The crew accepts that in the interests of safety, the Company has the absolute right to remove a whole crew or individuals within that crew from a race or races, if he/she or they are deemed to be unfit to race, or if weather conditions or other safety factors affecting the water conditions warrant such action.
- (c) There will be no reduction or reimbursement of fees for crews of less than 16 plus a drummer, or in the case of a crew member or members being removed from a race or races for any reason.
- (e) The crew undertakes to abide by the race rules in the festival plan as may be periodically amended, which will be emailed to each Team Captain on confirmation of their entry and also made available for download from the www.BradfordDragonBoatFestival.co.uk homepage ten days before the festival.
- (f) **DECLARATION OF FITNESS TO COMPETE** – Crew members are required to declare to the helm on the day if they are a weak swimmer, non-swimmer, or have a medical condition that might affect their safety or performance on the water. Such conditions might include but are not limited to:
 - (a) They suffer from chest pains or shortness of breath
 - (b) They have been told by their Doctor that they have heart trouble
 - (c) They have been told that their blood pressure is too high or too low
 - (d) They have had fainting or dizzy spells
 - (e) They have undergone a recent operation
 - (f) They suffer from bone or joint problems i.e. arthritis, spinal injury etc.
 - (g) There is any other reason why they should not participate in an exercise programme, which in the case of Dragon Boat Racing should not exceed 2 minutes of active aerobic exercise per race.

This list is not exhaustive. If you are in any doubt about your fitness to compete, you must ask the Company's representative prior to undertaking the training and race programme.