

國際龍舟聯合會

INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

The World Governing Body of Dragon Boat Sport



IDBF's Key Definitions

Edition 1

Effective 15 August 2023

IDBF's KEY DEFINITIONS

(In accordance with Article 1.10 of IDBF's Statutes, the following definitions are considered to have their roots in the history and culture of the sport of dragon boating and shall only be changed at the will of Congress).

1.1 The Dragon Boat (Long Zhou).

The Dragon Boat (Long Zhou) is a long-displacement boat of an open design, that is based upon a ribless carvel form of hull construction, with the following distinguishing characteristics:

- no stems;
- hard chine bilge;
- 'W' in cross-section;
- low freeboard;
- punt-like entry and exit;
- rockered keel that is set back from the twin rail boards; and
- curved sheer line with upsweep extremities.

Traditionally made out of teak wood, the boat which originated in southern China is commonly called a 'Chinese Dragon Boat'. The boat's main distinguishing features are:

- a mythical Asian-style dragon head attached to the prow (front);
- a stylised dragon's tail attached to the stern (rear),
- dragons' scales painted along the sides of the boat.

On some types of dragon boat a brass gong is also mounted in the centre of the boat.

The length of a boat may vary from around 8 metres to over 18 metres. The width and internal depth of the boat will vary, according to the length and purpose of the boat, as does the number of people in its crew, which will normally exceed ten, especially when in a competition.

The Dragon Boat (Long Zhou) is propelled (moved through the water) by the muscular force of Paddlers sitting in a forward-facing position and using single-bladed paddles as simple levers on the water. The boat is guided by a Steerer (Duo) through the use of a long steering oar that is rigged using thole pins located at the rear of the boat, or with a large paddle. A Chinese-style drum, together with a Drummer's seat, is situated in the bow of the Dragon Boat; a Drummer (Gu) sets the stroke cadence of the crew through use of drumbeats.

1.2 Object of Racing. The object of Dragon Boat racing is for crews in Dragon Boats to complete a clearly defined course in the shortest possible time, in manner that is both controlled and in accordance with prescribed race rules.

1.3 International Dragon Boat Racing Championships. Championships arranged by IDBF, its Members, or other organisations recognised by the IDBF, shall be considered to be 'International' if crews from more than one country or territory participate. Such championships may be either 'Open' or 'Closed':

- An **Open** championship is one that allows crews from countries or territories that are not members of IDBF to compete.
- A **Closed** championship is one that only allows participation by crews from IDBF Members.

1.4 Dragon Boat Crews.

A Dragon Boat crew's classification is determined by the age, sex, ability and nationality of the crew members. Crew Members in a dragon boat shall normally be defined as:

Competitor	Any member of a Dragon Boat crew
Paddler	A crew member whose specific task is to propel a boat forward using a single-blade paddle
Steerer (Duo)	(Helm or Sweep). The crew member whose specific task is to steer and manoeuvre a boat with the aid of a steering oar or paddle.
Drummer (Gu)	The crew member whose specific task is to beat the drum carried in the Dragon Boat
Gong Beater	The crew member whose task it is to beat the traditional gong carried on certain types of dragon boat
Flag Puller	A crew member whose task is to remove a flag placed on a buoy at the Finish Point, in some types of races, the purpose of which is to indicate that a boat has finished a race and therefore a race time and placing order can be determined, for each crew

IDBF Key Definitions – Change Register

The following sets out any changes made to IDBF’s Key Definitions as adopted by Congress on 14 August 2023 (and effective 15 August 2023).

Edition1	Effective Date	Changes
1	15 August 2023	Initial version