



國際龍舟聯合會
INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

Paddle Specification Handbook

Part 1: Paddle Manufacturer Licensing Scheme

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HISTORY OF THE IDBF RACING PADDLE

In the late 1980s, the False Creek Club in Vancouver, Canada required blades that would approximate the ones that they had seen and used in the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races. They arranged for the Canadian Company, Grey owl, to manufacture wooden reproductions of a sample model paddle from the 1976 Hong Kong International Races (HKIR). The resulting design sought to emulate the flared straight edges, straight tip and 'T' handle that are characteristic of paddles used in the Zhu Jiang (Pearl River) delta region of Guangdong Province, China and favored by races in and around Hong Kong. This paddle was subsequently developed into the archetypal Dragon Boat paddle used in Dragon Boat Sport today.

At the same time, the sport was developing in Europe, where a variety of paddles of a similar style to the HKIR paddle were being used. It became apparent that a 'Paddle Specification' would be required, in order to control the shape and size of the paddles being used in both domestic and international competitions.

In 1990, the British Dragon Boat Racing Association introduced an Outline Paddle specification based on the wooden paddles used in the Hong Kong Races; it was almost identical to the Grey Owl mode. This Specification later came to be endorsed by the EDBF and was adopted throughout Europe.

In 1994, the European Dragon Boat Racing Federation (EDBF) published its Technical Specification for 'Paddles for competitive use in competitions'.

This 'EDBF Tech Spec' was adopted by the IDBF in 1997, as the model for the standard IDBF Sport Racing Paddle. The present Technical Specification for the IDBF International Racing Paddle 202a (*Spec202a*) is a refinement of previous versions and clarified issues, that have become apparent over the past few years, and defined issues that may have previously been interpreted in such a way as to, potentially, give an unfair advantage in competition.

Thus, the *Spec 202a*, developed during 2000/2002 and "fine-tuned" in 2003 is the latest specification for the Dragon Boat Paddle used in IDBF. It is a 'one design' paddle to a standardized blade shape, which reproduces the archetypal Hong Kong paddle as authentically as possible. *Spec 202a* sets precise measurements, therefore any manufacturing tolerances allowed must fall within the maximum given. Thus, there is no room for manufacturers to exploit, extrapolate, interpret or judge subjectively, but rather they must adhere or conform or comply with the laid down standards of precision and accuracy.

The IDBF considers *Spec 202a* as reflecting the advances and development made within Dragon Boating and does not intend to amend *Spec 202a* on an annual basis but only to add from time to time refinements of explanation, interpretation, supplementary notes when essential.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY OF THE IDBF RACING PADDLE	2
Section A - Preamble	4
Section B - Registration and Licensing Procedures	4
B1 - Application	4
B2 - Submission	5
B3 - Assessment	6
B4 - Confirmation of Acceptance	6
B4.1 Notification to Governing or Controlling Associations:	7
B5 - Retention and Return of Paddles	7
B6 - Re-submission and Appeals	7
B7 - Claiming Licensing	7
B8 - Ongoing Checks	8
B9 - Annual Production Fee	8
B10 - Changes to the Paddle	8
Section C - Terms and Conditions	9
Section D - Application Form for Registration & Licensing	10
Section E - Outline Drawing	11

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Section A - Preamble

The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that paddle manufacturers comply with the IDBF building specifications.

The intent of the IDBF, its Continental and Regional Federations and their Members, is that Dragon Boat Races should be won by the training and skill of the crew in the race, and not because of the technical superiority of the equipment they use.

This principle is the rationale for the development of specifications for dragon boating equipment used in competitions sanctioned by the IDBF.

The purpose, therefore, for all IDBF Dragon Boat and Paddle specifications is to standardize the designs of the equipment used in IDBF events and those of its Members, and other organizations, who support the aim of the IDBF, in order to provide fair competition for crews, at all levels.

Technical innovations introduced to improve the performance capability of an IDBF Approved Paddle (real or perceived) will invalidate the paddle's IDBF Licence.

The IDBF will only permit IDBF Licensed Paddles to be used in IDBF World Championship Regattas.

Section B - Registration and Licensing Procedures

B1 - Application

Manufacturers wishing to apply for approval for their dragon boat paddles should write to the IDBF Administration, per email addresses below, who will provide a copy of the Dragon Boat Paddle Specification Handbook, Part 1: Paddle Specification 202a to the applicant.

IDBF Administration

Email: admin@dragonboat.sport

B2 - Submission

1. The **Paddle Registration Fee** of 250 USD payable to the 'IDBF' and must be sent to the IDBF Deputy Treasurer.
2. Upon signed agreement and payment of the registration fee, IDBF will send Dragon Boat Paddle Specification Handbook, Part 2: Paddle Specification 202a to potential manufacturers
3. The manufacturer or their agent will deliver the following items, postage paid, to the both paddle Assessors at the addresses provided by IDBF. (Agents must be nominated by the manufacturer via official correspondence to the IDBF Administration Assistant.)
 - a. **Two** (one to each Assessor) **identical production model samples** (in appearance, function and weight) of the paddle for which Licensing (*Spec 202a*). These production models must be fully in keeping with the stock production paddles that will be subsequently made and sold. ***They will be known as the Reference Paddles.***
 - b. The unique name, description, model or catalogue number of the production paddle. A brief description of the materials, construction, and finish used.
 - c. A drawing/description of the manufacturer's chosen distinctive paddle identification mark, words, colour scheme or other means of recognition, that will be used only on that model of the paddle. A copy of the paddle's manufacturing drawing showing the dimensions that will be maintained in respect of the measurements shown in the Paddle Specification.
 - d. Upon paddle approval, a drawing or description defining the proposed position of the Manufacturers Paddle Mark (MPM) on the paddle. (*The preferred location is on the neck of the paddle blade and not on the paddle shaft, as the Blade is the controlling design feature*)
 - e. For all submissions, a copy of the manufacturer's own measurements of the dimensions, using the Assessor's Report, at Annex C of Part 2.
 - f. A brief outline of the maker's quality control arrangements. (The scheme relies on manufacturers certifying that their paddles will comply with the production model submitted. IDBF acceptance for Licensing or Approval will not be given to paddle manufacturers who cannot show that they have effective quality control methods.
 - g. Name and address of the person to whom notice of the decision should be sent.

Guidance on what constitutes an acceptable submission is available from the IDBF Administration. Commercial confidentiality will be maintained at all times by the IDBF.

Each pattern of paddle will require separate acceptance and a separate submission. Production Models and supporting documentation (one set each) must be delivered to the both Paddle Assessors at the addresses provided by the IDBF Administration.

No assessment of the paddle will commence until all aspects of the submission have been fulfilled.

B3 - Assessment

The Assessors will inspect the submitted production paddles for compliance with paddle *Spec 202a*. The Assessors' will then review the supporting documentation and each will prepare an Assessment's Report.

The two Assessors' will each counter-sign each other's report, to demonstrate their agreement. All reports will be sent to the IDBF Administration, for final compilation. Both paddles will be retained by the IDBF as the **Reference Model** and will not be returned to the manufacturer.

The assessment will generally have one of four outcomes:

- a. **The submitted paddle fully complies with *Spec 202a*; the paddle is considered satisfactory for all levels of competition.** The paddle is accepted by the IDBF as meeting the requirements of *Spec 202a* and Licensed as a Racing Paddle.
- b. **The submitted paddle is found not to comply with IDBF requirements or the documents in support are considered unsatisfactory.** The paddle is not accepted by the IDBF.

The grounds for this decision will be detailed to the manufacturer. The manufacturer may choose to submit a revised production paddle for full compliance with *Spec 202a*.

- c. **The submission has raised issues that the Chief Assessor wishes to refer to the IDBF or a body of similar standing.** The decision will be deferred and the manufacturer informed of the deferment.

The assessment process will generally be completed within 21 days of receipt of the submission. On completion, the IDBF Administration will notify the manufacturer of the result and retain the copies of the assessment reports and all supporting documents.

B4 - Confirmation of Acceptance

The Chief Paddle Assessor (via IDBF Administration) will confirm in writing to the manufacturer about the assessment outcome of their submitted paddles. This will generally be done within 14 days of the Assessors' reports being completed and received. The formal letter of Licensing sent to the manufacturer by the IDBF Administrator, will include a master copy of the Manufacturers Paddle Mark (MPM) incorporating the IDBF Logo, the manufacturer's name, country of manufacturer, and a unique IDBF License Number.

B4.1 Notification to Governing or Controlling Associations:

The IDBF Administration will update the approved Racing Paddle concerned and the manufacturers name on the IDBF Register of Racing Paddles, along with updating the IDBF website.

A list of all currently Racing Paddles and their manufacturers' will be maintained by the IDBF Administration, on behalf of the IDBF Competition & Technical Commission.

B5 - Retention and Return of Paddles

Following the assessment, both Reference Paddles are retained by the IDBF, and will be used as the model against which production paddles may be randomly checked, at any IDBF sanctioned competition by the Chief Official of the day.

B6 - Re-submission and Appeals

In the event of the rejection of a submitted paddle, the manufacturer may, after taking corrective action, choose to resubmit a paddle to the IDBF for re-assessment.

The manufacturer may appeal against the Assessors' decision by writing to the Chairman of TES who will review the case and make a further decision. In the event that this decision is not acceptable, a further appeal may be made to the IDBF Secretary General who will refer the matter to the next meeting of the IDBF Executive Committee or an appropriate alternative body approved by the IDBF, whose decision shall be final.

B7 - Claiming Licensing

Following the confirmation of Licensing, the manufacturer shall, at his own expense, mark all licensed paddles with the **Licensed Manufacturers Paddle Mark (MPM)**.

As stated in **B4**, The MPM must include the IDBF License Number, the IDBF Logo, the manufacturer's name, and the **Country of Manufacturer**,

The mark shall be fixed permanently to the paddle and in particular shall be waterproof. It shall not be possible to remove the mark without causing damage to it. The method of marking shall be chosen by the manufacturer. Methods include a decal; branding; stencil, silk-screen etc.

The manufacturer may also state that the paddle complies with the IDBF *Spec 202a*.

No such claims or use of an MPM may be made before the letter of acceptance is received from the IDBF Administrator, nor in respect of patterns of paddles that have not been licensed or approved.

B8 - Ongoing Checks

Checks will be carried out from time to time on paddles sold as complying with the *Spec 202a*. If a Racing Paddle is found not to comply with the appropriate reference paddle, then Licensing may be withdrawn. In this event, the manufacturer will be notified and given the opportunity to apply for reinstatement.

B9 - Annual Production Fee

Manufacturers will be required to submit an **Annual Production Fee** of 500 USD payable to the IDBF Deputy Treasurer each calendar year to retain their license.

Note: the IDBF Deputy Treasurer will issue invoices annually (January) to all manufacturers. To ensure swift processing, please include IDBF invoice as reference in payment. Do not pay before receiving an invoice from the IDBF.

Failure to pay the annual fee will result in termination of license and removal from IDBF website and directory.

B10 - Changes to the Paddle

The Manufacturer should notify the IDBF Administration in writing if it makes changes in the materials used, or in the manufacturing process, that do not affect the dimensions or features as defined in *Spec202a*.

This information will be copied to the Chief Assessor and held on file. A further submission may be required and the IDBF reserves the right of re-assessment.

Changes that affect the dimensions or features defined in the *Spec 202a* WILL require a new submission by the Manufacturer concerned and payment of a re-assessment fee.

Section C - Terms and Conditions

The terms 'Applicant', 'Registered Manufacturer' or 'Manufacturer' means the 'IDBF Licensed Paddle Manufacturer.

The Licensing of a Paddle Manufacturer, by the IDBF, for the purpose of making and selling any model of the Spec 202a paddle is subject to the following Terms and Conditions:

1. The Applicant undertakes to produce paddles that comply in all respects with the Paddle Specifications laid down by the IDBF. **The Specifications are subject to copyright and remain the property of the IDBF. They are not to be copied or transferred to a third party.**
2. The Licensed Manufacturer must pay an Annual Production Fee of 500 USD to the IDBF.
3. The Applicant agrees to comply with the requirements listed in section D for their license approval.
4. The Licensed Manufacturer will be required to prove the originality of the licensed paddle.
5. The Manufacturer agrees that no claims or use of a Registered Manufacturers Paddle Mark may be made before the letter of acceptance is received from the IDBF Administration. **It must also NOT be used on nor paddles that have not been licensed.**
6. The Manufacturer recognizes the IDBF and its Continental Federations as the only International Federations (IFs) for Dragon Boating and signs this Contract exclusively with the IDBF. The Manufacturer agrees to cooperate with the IDBF and its Members, and agrees to act at all times to protect the integrity of the Manufacturer Paddles Mark, the IDBF Paddle Licensing Scheme, and the Spec202a paddle specification. **Failure to comply with these paragraphs will result in a license suspension.**
7. In the event that the Manufacturer decides to make changes to their paddles that do not affect the dimensions or features defined in Spec 202a, they must notify the IDBF Administration in writing, and a further submission may be required. They also understand that the IDBF reserves the right of re-assessing the paddle.
8. If the changes do affect the dimensions or features defined in the Spec202a, the Manufacturer understands that the paddle WILL require a resubmission and payment of re-assessment fee.
9. The Licensed Manufacturer understands that ongoing checks will be carried on their Spec 202a or approved paddles. If a Racing Paddle is found not to comply with the appropriate reference paddle, then the License or Approval may be withdrawn.

Section D - Application Form for Registration & Licensing

The person whose name and signature appear below applies for Registration and Licensing as an IDBF Racing Paddle Manufacturers in the name of

Contact Name:
Manufacturer's Name:
Registered Office Address:
Contact Phone Number:
Contact Email Address:

In applying for Registration, I confirm that I understand the Terms and Conditions of registration and licensing and that on behalf of the Company named above, I confirm that all such Terms and Conditions will be fully complied with. I accept that the Paddle Specifications for Dragon Boat Racing Paddles issued by the IDBF, to the Company may only be used to manufacture such Paddles as specified, for the Company's use, or for hire, loan, lease, franchise or sale by the Company and that at all times the said specifications are subject to copyright; will not be used to write specifications for similar designs of paddles and that the said Spec202a Specification criteria remain the property of the IDBF.

I confirm that when the paddle is licensed, and the decision to proceed with the production of the paddle that the Company named will pay the balance of the Annual Production Fee of 525 USD each calendar year.

I agree to IDBF Assessors inspecting any licensed paddles and agree to furnish proof of the originality of any such paddle. I accept that only on the confirmation of acceptance, which is receiving a License from the appointed Assessors stating that the paddle meets the requirements of the Paddle Specification, will the IDBF issue and allow the usage of the Manufacturer Paddle Mark of that particular model.

Signature	Witness Signature
Name:	Witness Name:
Date:	Date:

When completed, return the Application Form for Registration to:

IDBF Administration
Email: admin@dragonboat.sport

Section E - Outline Drawing

The outline drawing shown gives a basic description of the design of the Racing Dragon Boat Paddle for use *in races organised or sanctioned by the IDBF and EDBF*.

The basic measurements shown are not exact and are provided as an outline guide only.

The Outline drawing should not be used by anyone to manufacture paddles for *formal* Competitive use.

The Paddle Specification 202a provides min/max allowable paddle measurements. Persons wishing to manufacture Racing Paddles must first obtain a full Paddle Specification 202a from the IDBF Administrative support, and accept the IDBF Licensing Terms & Conditions.

General Description:

- The Racing Paddle can be made from any materials but there are specific design features that the IDBF wishes to retain in order to preserve the traditional form of the wooden Dragon Boat Paddle.
- The paddle may be divided into three sections, namely the Blade, Shaft and Handle. The Shaft shall not be 'cranked' or bent in any way and the surface of the Blade must be smooth.
- Any paddles that exhibit a 'dimpled' effect will be excluded.

The front and back views of the paddle shall be identical as shall the view from either side of the paddle. Its minimum length shall be 105cm and its maximum length 130cm.

