



Dragon Boat Drummer Tips

What does a Team Drummer do?

The drummer serves a vital role on a dragon boat team. He or she is the pulse and drumbeat of the team. The drummer's role is **functional**. The drummer sits at the front of the boat and helps the steersperson/coach communicate with the crew by relaying his/her commands.

The drummer's role is **practical**. He/she keeps the paddlers in rhythm. The drummer matches his/her drumbeats with the strokes of the front two paddlers.

The drummer's role is **ceremonial**. The drummer establishes the spirit of the team and reflects that spirit in everything from costume to encouragement given to the paddlers.



The drummer's role is **supportive**. He or she will cheer the crew and bring their focus to paddling with rhythm and synchronization.

The drummer should be lightweight, as he/she will be sitting on top of the bow of the boat. An outgoing personality is helpful, as is being a confident swimmer.