

Dragon Boat Regatta FAQs



The Basics

Regatta Date: This year the Canal Dock/New Haven Dragon Boat Regatta will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018. Racing will take place from approximately 12:30 to 4:00 PM.

Registration Fee: The fee for a team to paddle in the regatta is \$2,000. The fee includes: a 60-minute practice session in the week prior to the regatta, three races on Regatta Day, and 24 regatta ID wristbands required to be worn by those who have completed a waiver. Race fees are not refundable.

Alcohol Policy: The Food Truck Festival and Dragon Boat Regatta will take place simultaneously on Long Wharf Drive. Food Truck Festival beer stations will be located within the Food Truck Festival grounds on Long Wharf Drive; identification is required to purchase beer. *Note -- No alcohol is to be consumed by racers until they have completed their races.

Length of Races: Races will be short sprints, 200-250 meters in length, lasting 1-2 minutes. The short course allows racing to remain close to the pier, increasing spectator viewing, and enabling paddlers to hear spectator cheers. Essentially, the racing is fast and furious!

Regatta Day Activities: DJ music throughout the day at the regatta racecourse, live musical entertainment in two locations of the Food Truck Festival, several children's activities, and up to 45 food trucks are expected this year. Bring friends, family, lawn chairs, and plan on a rousing day!

Mission of the Regatta: Enticing New Haven and area residents to engage with our waterfront, promoting camaraderie within teams and among all participants, and cultivating a greater pride in our community are the goals for the regatta.

Festival Proceeds? All profits from the Canal Dock/New Haven Dragon Boat Regatta will support building affordable non-motorized boating programs for Canal Dock Boathouse, Inc. (“Canal Dock”) and specifically free programming for New Haven public school students.

Team/Paddler Requirements

Can anyone paddle a dragon boat? Almost anyone can paddle a dragon boat after a short lesson! Each team is provided a 60-minute practice and coaching session that will take place the week before the Regatta. To participate, paddlers must be at least 12-years-old, **but there are no other restrictions**. The sport calls to all ages 12 and older, all genders, and skill levels. More important than individual athleticism and fitness is how well a team paddles together.

How many people are in a dragon boat? There are 20 paddlers plus a drummer in a dragon boat. Each boat also requires a steersperson who directs and coaches the paddlers. A professional steersperson is provided for each team.

What are the requirements for forming a team? Each team consists of 20 paddlers and 1 drummer, plus up to 3 alternate paddlers. Most teams are a mix of men and women. All teams should have a minimum of six (6) women and all team members must be at least 12 years of age. Please go to the Web Site to see how to register <http://dragonboatregatta.canaldock.org/>

How old to I have to be to paddle in the races? All team members need to be at least twelve (12) years of age to participate in the races. Kids ages 12 to 15 must be seated next to a parent or guardian.

What equipment will I need? Please bring a water bottle, cap, sunscreen, shoes you don't mind getting wet, and a windbreaker/splash-jacket; all other necessary equipment - paddles, life jackets, dragon boats, coach - is provided by the regatta.

Other equipment? Yes, your team needs a gathering place, a 10' x 10' popup tent, and for sun protection in case of very hot weather.

Do I get to practice dragon boating before the regatta? Your team race fee includes a 60-minute practice paddling session. Practice sessions will be held between 5:00 & 8:00 PM on May 30, 31, and June 1, at Long Wharf Pier. Team Captains will select a time for your practice session when they register. This is a great team building experience!