



2026 Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Festival

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 1

This Information Bulletin serves as an OFFICIAL INVITATION to all dragon boat teams to participate in the 2026 Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Festival on February 15, 2026 at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Race is open to all dragon boat club teams regardless of membership or non-membership in any dragon boat federation or association. Teams may merge with two or more clubs. However, athletes racing in a team other than the club where the said racer is a registered member, must be ready to present a clearance in case questioned by the club of membership.

International teams and non-PDBF member clubs are eligible to win trophies and other prizes for the events they will participate in.

RACE CATEGORIES (200 meters)

- 200m Premier Open Standard
- 200m Premier Mixed Standard
- 200m Premier Women Small Boat
- 200m Senior-A Open Small Boat
- 200m Senior-A Mixed Small Boat
- 200m 24&U Open Small Boat

RACE ENTRY FEES

For PDBF member teams, five hundred pesos (P500.00) per participant. For non-PDBF member teams, six hundred pesos (P600.00) per participant.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND RACING RULES

The event shall be conducted by IDBF-licensed race officials of the PDBF and race volunteers, using PDBF Rules of Racing based on the International Dragon Boat Federation and Asian Dragon Boat Federation Competition Regulation and Rules of Racing.

While the Rules of Racing, including those of the ADBF and the IDBF are very comprehensive in scope, there may be situations that may not be covered by the PDBF, ADBF and IDBF Rules. In these situations and those that peculiar circumstances would warrant, the race officials, through the chief official, would exercise sound discretion in handling the same, with the end goal of ensuring fairness and impartiality at all times.

CREW COMPOSITION

Open and Mixed Premier Categories: (Standard Boat)

Ten (10) pairs maximum, nine (9) pairs minimum, two (2) pairs reserve, one (1) drummer, one (1) helm.

Note:

Strict compliance with the IDBF rule on the requirement of minimum of eight (8) and maximum of ten (10) of each gender allowed to load the boat will be observed in the Mixed Crew Category. Thus, to satisfy the minimum crew composition requirement, the following must compose a mixed standard boat crew actually loading the boat as paddlers:

Male	Female
10	10
9	10
8	10
9	9
10	9
10	8

All crew members in the premier events must be at least 12 years old. No gender restriction with respect to drummer and helm. Number of paddlers may be reduced depending on water and weather conditions.

Women's Category: (Small Boat)

Five (5) pairs maximum, four (4) pairs minimum, one (1) pair reserve, one (1) drummer, one (1) helm.

Note:

All crew members in the premier events must be at least 12 years old. Paddlers, drummer AND helm must be biologically female. If team does not have a female helm, borrowing of helm from another team is allowed. However, races will not be delayed to wait for a helm or any other crew member that is currently racing or still on its way back to the unloading area. The team that will borrow a helm understands that they are taking the risk of being declared in default if their borrowed helm is not available upon being called to load.

Senior A Open, Senior A Mixed, 24&Under Open (Small Boat)

Five (5) pairs maximum, four (4) pairs minimum, one (1) pair reserve, one (1) drummer, one (1) helm

Note:

Strict compliance with the IDBF Rules on the requirement of minimum of 4 and maximum of 5 of each gender allowed to load the boat will be observed in the Senior A Small Boat Mixed Event. Thus, to satisfy the minimum crew composition requirement, the following must compose a mixed crew actually loading the boat:

Male	Female
5	5
5	4
4	4
4	5

No gender and age restriction with respect to drummer and helm. For the Senior-A racing class, paddlers must be 40 years of age or older on any date in 2026. For the 24 & Under, all paddlers must be between 12 years to 24 years of age on any date in 2026. Number of paddlers may be adjusted depending on water and weather conditions, but the requirement for maximum of 50% of each gender among all paddlers loading the boat will be observed at all times.

For the Open events regardless of age division, no gender restriction applies to any crew member.

CHANGING ROLES

If in any case the drummer has to be replaced, anyone from the crew list, regardless if listed as paddler or helm may be allowed to replace the drummer. The replaced drummer may be reassigned as either paddler or helm, or even back as drummer in the next races. As long as a crew member is in the crew list, said racer is allowed to participate in that particular event either as caller, paddler or helm in every race. An exception to this rule is the team manager, team captain or coach who are not also listed as paddler, drummer or helm. In no case will a listed team manager be allowed to load the boat. Borrowed helms are not allowed to rotate as paddler or drummer.

Once checked at the athlete's control for a specific role, no further change in the role in the boat shall be allowed for that particular race. Further role changes may be allowed in the succeeding races, but not during the same race, especially when already in the water.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Top four teams in each premier competition class will be awarded trophies.

REQUIRED FORMS (as attached)

Crew lists, group waiver form, crew summary, crew gallery, and parent's consent are contained in just one Excel file. When submitting the electronic copy, **please submit in EXCEL format only using the following convention <TEAM NAME>. DO NOT save and submit in PDF format.** Printed copy of all race forms must be submitted on or before the team managers' meeting before the start of the first race of the day.

- A. Participating teams are required to fill out the online confirmation of entry through this link: <https://forms.gle/cYhdtRn13Zi4GBLA9>
- B. CREW LIST and GROUP WAIVER FORM must be duly signed by the crew manager. It may be used in conjunction with the PDBF ID and the crew gallery to identify and check members who are racing. The crew manager shall represent the crew in all matters pertaining to the racing competition. The crew manager is not allowed to compete / race with the crew on boat. Crew list for standard boat events (DB22) must have a maximum of 24 paddlers, one drummer, one helm, one coach, one captain, and one team manager (who is not allowed to be listed as a boat competitor). Coach and captain may be included as a crew member but must likewise be listed as either drummer, helm, or paddler in order to be allowed to race.
- C. CREW GALLERY (for PDBF and non-PDBF participants) may be used to identify and check members who will be racing. Gallery should contain clear photographs of crew members: without head dress, without sun glasses. Indicate the name of the person whose picture appears on the crew gallery. The text below the box for the picture is editable. Put the name and designation of the person whose picture appears therein.
- D. SUMMARY OF CREW- required for administrative reference.
- E. PARENT'S CONSENT – for participants below 18 years old. May be submitted in PDF format.
- F. Proof of age – This may be government-issued IDs, birth certificate, or any other document where the birth date of the competitor is shown. These documents are strictly confidential and will only be used to verify the age of the participants. They will not be shared to other entities outside of the race organizers, unless there is a challenge on the age of the player/s. In such case, the valid ID may be shown to concerned parties only. In no case shall the ID or personal details of a participant be given or shared to anyone who is not a race official, whether electronically or physically. Taking photo of other people's valid ID and personal details is not allowed in accordance with the *Data Privacy Act*.

SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Date	Activity
January 31, 2026	Deadline for online confirmation of entries
February 1, 2026 (Sunday), 8:30AM	Team Managers Meeting Venue: To be announced <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation of entries• Draw lots for the elimination round / initial heats

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of race fees, membership dues and permanent ID <p>No complete payment of race fee, annual membership renewal, monthly dues, boat docking, and ID fee, NO LOADING</p>
February 8, 2026 (Sunday), 11:59PM	<p>Deadline for submission of soft copy of race forms. Email EXCEL format of race forms and membership renewal form to phidbfed@gmail.com, cc: marciacristobal@yahoo.com.</p> <p>After the herein deadline, crew gallery or change is subject to the approval of the organizers and may only be entertained for valid reasons.</p> <p>For the Senior and 24&U, email the valid IDs with birthday, or other relevant documents of all concerned athletes along with the race forms. Bring hard copy of race forms, IDs and other documents mentioned here on the race day for the allowable crew changes onsite (Maximum of 4 for standard boat events and maximum of 2 for small boat events).</p>
February 15, 2026 (Sunday) - 4:30 AM - 5:00 AM - 6:00AM - 6:30 AM - 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<p>RACE DAY 1</p> <p>Call time for race officials and volunteers</p> <p>Call time for racers; Race officials' briefing, station check Coastal clean up</p> <p>Team Managers' Meeting / Claiming of singlets / Submission of hard copy of race forms</p> <p>Prayer, National Anthem, Oath of Sportsmanship, Opening Remarks, Eye-Dotting Ceremony; Dragon Dance; Call teams for Race Nos. 1 & 2</p> <p>Eliminations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Premier Mixed Standard - Senior-A Mixed Small Boat - Premier Open Standard - Premier Women Small Boat - Senior-A Open Small Boat - 24&U Open Small Boat </p> <p>Last race of the day; Live band performance</p> <p>Awarding</p> <p>Egress</p>

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Identity Checking at the Loading Control

Crew lists and/or team galleries will be counterchecked with PDBF IDs of participants. Presentation of PDBF IDs (permanent or temporary IDs) is required for checking/verification purposes. A participant's PDBF ID must bear the name of the team where the crew is listed for this race. Teams racing in another team with valid clearance from registered team may use PDBF ID under the mother team. Teams that are yet to settle their permanent ID fee of P100/ registered member are advised to promptly settle said fee

prior to race day to avoid inconvenience and delay during race day. Temporary IDs are available at the secretariat for P50/each.

Since this is not a regatta race, team membership will not be observed. Members of the crew may belong to different teams, provided borrowed paddlers have clearance from the mother team. It is the borrowing team's obligation to ensure that their borrowed athletes have valid clearance prior to race day. No clearance, no loading. Merging of two or more teams are also allowed, subject to the internal rules of the clubs or teams concerned.

Issues with respect to a team's dry spell or restriction on an individual's participation in PDBF races may be applied subject to evaluation of evidence presented by the protesting party which may include clearance, team bylaws, rules of membership or board resolution. Ultimately, the chief official, upon the recommendation of the race secretariat, has the final decision as to conflicts of this nature.

Teams that deliberately include in their crew list, players who are not cleared from their previous teams may be given appropriate sanctions ranging from warning to disqualification from the race.

As much as possible, age of participants in the Senior A and 24&Under divisions may be pre-screened using the e-mailed IDs with birth dates and other relevant documents. These IDs and documents must be emailed with the race forms on or before the due date mentioned in the **SCHEDULES & DEADLINES** portion of this Information Bulletin. Those allowed to be included in the crew or change crew, but have not submitted via email their proofs of age, must be ready with the physical or electronic copy of their proof of age. These must be presented to the secretariat before the beginning of the first race. The team manager must ensure strict compliance with this requirement to avoid delays in races. Inclusion of crew members not qualified for the age division entered and raced in, whether intentional or not, may cause the team's disqualification from the competition class concerned.

The marshals at the athletes control and the marshalling area may refuse a person from participating in the race if, in their assessment, the person is under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances, or is not in a good physical condition to race, or not in the crew list, or not within the allowable age bracket for the event where they intend to race.

2. Payment of Race Fee

The PDBF Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer will accept payments during the team manager's meeting. Check payments or bank deposits may be paid through the PDBF bank account with a copy of the deposit slip furnished to the PDBF:

BDO Estrada-Taft Branch
Savings account number: 0005 0013 8656
Account name: Philippine Dragon Boat Federation Inc.

If a team decides not to participate in the race, **NO refund** shall be made to those who have paid their race fee partially or in full.

3. Uniform

Team uniform must be used by the entire crew, except the life vest, which must be worn properly outside any other upper body clothing. The drummer may be allowed to wear a different uniform for easier identification of the team's drummer during checking and actual races.

4. Water provisions for teams

Water will be provided to race participants, except when there will be a hydration partner. In such case, no more water provisions will be given, but only the hydration provisions from the official hydration partner. Those with Teams A and B will have two allotments of water provisions as they are treated as two separate teams. Once the water provisions are available, the same will be announced through the public address system and teams may

get their allotment from the Secretariat area. Teams are advised to return their empty water bottles to the Secretariat area as soon as possible to avoid paying for the rented water bottles. Once returned, team representative must sign the water bottle return form. Lost water bottles will be charged to the team concerned at P500/ bottle.

5. Crew Waiver Form

Please be reminded that when signing a crew list and crew waiver form, the person signing is confirming that all competitors on the list are "fit to race." This means that race participants are not only physically able to take part in the race, but also do not possess any medical condition that could jeopardize their health and the general conduct of the race. These conditions include but are not limited to COVID-19 infection, consumption of alcohol or a known medical condition that make the participant unfit to participate in the competition. By signing the crew waiver form, the team representative is also confirming that all participants are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. No unvaccinated individual will be allowed entry into the premises, none more so, participate in whatever capacity in the event.

Moreover, by signing the crew waiver form, the participants are likewise giving consent to the use by the organizers of their personal information shared in the submitted forms, including the membership renewal forms, for the purpose of conducting dragon boat races and other related purposes where such information may be used. No abuse or unauthorized sharing of said personal information will be made by the organizers.

Lastly, by signing the crew waiver form, the participants likewise undertake to keep their respective area and the rest of the Dolomite Beach clean and its facilities preserved. Particularly, the following undertaking are deemed included upon signing the crew waiver form:

- a. Any damage to plants, plant boxes, tiles, pavements, fence, or any other installations and engineering works of the Dolomite beach within the team's assigned tent as well as its surrounding environs will be the responsibility of the team. Any damage therein will have to be reimbursed or paid for by the team at fault.
- b. No pets will be brought to the Dolomite Beach. Anyone caught with pets within the beach premises and within their tents will be subjected to fines imposed by the MBCO, DENR.
- c. Do not use trash booms (cylindrical white styro floaters) and other equipment or assets of the DENR, except when expressly permitted by DENR management.
- d. Members will not eat or drink at the beach proper. Eating and drinking will be limited inside their respective tents or within the pavement. No such activity will be allowed at the beach proper. Applicable penalties may apply.
- e. Cleanliness inside the assigned tent and its immediate perimeter will be observed at all times. Trash will be collected in a proper receptacle and garbage bag to be disposed properly after the races, and not left behind inside the tent.
- f. The entrance and exit point to the race area is at the gate across Magsaysay Building only. Upon entry, participants and registered supporters will be asked to present their PDBF ID. Those without PDBF ID will be refused entry at the special entrance, even if racer, supporter, supplier, or concessionaire. Those without PDBF ID may nonetheless use the main entrance (the one near US Embassy) to access their team tents. No one from the team or its supporters will use the special gate for dragon boat athletes without a PDBF ID, or a PDBF-issued special pass. Registered athletes may secure ID passes for their guests, suppliers, etc. for P50 only at the Secretariat booth. No one is allowed to cross-over the fence to get in and out of the race venue.

6. Use of Personal Floatation Device

Consistent with the requirement to ensure safety of participating players, everyone is required to wear personal floatation device (PFD) / life vest during all water activities. No crew member shall be allowed to load the boat and race without a PFD securely worn. Teams are advised to read carefully and brief their members on the PDBF water safety guidelines which is available at the PDBF website (<https://pdbfsport.com>). Allowed PFDs are those that are worn across the shoulders and fastened across the body. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed.

7. Time Allowance & Starting Position

Team leaders are advised that there will be **NO TIME ALLOWANCE** for any competitors who are listed in any two or more events in the same team. The race schedule will be strictly followed. Crews with athletes in consecutive heats are advised that race officials shall not allow delay in races or make any extra allowances in the event of 'back to back' racing. Listing same players in two or more events, including drummer and helm, is strongly discouraged as it may result to the team's declaration of default or disqualification if it unduly delays the conduct of races by reason of its double rostered players. Double rostering of players in two separate teams including Teams A and B of wholly or essentially the same team name is absolutely prohibited. No crossover to different teams is allowed.

Pontoons for boat holders will be installed to facilitate easier alignment at the starting line. To discourage delay caused by crews who do not follow instructions or stop the race by raising their hands due to mere inconvenience (instead of an emergency), the starter may recommend a time penalty of +2 seconds to teams who unduly delay the race, subject to approval of the chief official. This notwithstanding, the starter may choose to proceed with the race if one team has not yet reported at the starting line despite repeated instructions to do so, to avoid delays in the races.

8. Marshalling / Athletes Control Protocols

Once the crew members have been checked, they are **not allowed** to leave the Athlete's Control tent, nor can other paddlers, including the reserve players, be allowed inside the tent. Only the team manager can go with the paddlers inside the tent. Similarly, athletes, accompanied by the team manager and/or coach, are allowed to access the loading / unloading area. No team member, including reserve players who were not part of the competing crew that had been checked, will be allowed at that boat marshalling / loading / unloading area.

9. Minimum public health standards and protocols

Everyone is enjoined to observe minimum public health standards and protocols. All participants, support crew and spectators are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and must not exhibit any symptoms of the virus on the day of the event. A general health declaration is included in the crew waiver form. All teams are required to ensure that no member has a temperature of 37°C or higher.

10. Cleanliness

The event is supported by the DENR as the administrator of the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach. Cleanliness and environmentally-sound practices will strictly be enforced to maintain proper sanitation and waste disposal in the area. Teams are **REQUIRED** to keep their respective tents clean and orderly at all times. Use trash bags. Single-use plastic materials are prohibited. Bring personal canisters or cups and mesh kits. Observe proper waste segregation and dispose all garbage before leaving the race site. Keep the entire area clean at all times. A team tent found to have uncollected trash, meaning garbage that is not contained in a trash bag or receptacle, shall be charged P1,000 penalty.

11. Parking

Except for the setup crew and VIPs, no vehicle will be allowed access inside the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach promenade complex. Pay parking is available at the Roxas Boulevard Service Road and nearby areas as parking.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- I. Eight (8) to twelve (12) standard dragon boats will be used. As much as possible, the same boat types will be used for the same round of each racing class. However, should there be fastest loser/s in the race progression, the same type of boat will be used. If the race progression does not need to get a fastest loser, the race organizers may allow the use of other boat brands for the other rounds to ensure faster crew transition and races.
- II. In case of cumulative heats. Top four teams with the best accumulated time (lowest recorded aggregate time from the two heats) will have a final race to determine their ranking. In case races need to be cancelled due to weather conditions and similar circumstances, ranking may be based on time of last round of races finished.

Other details and/or additional information shall be posted on the PDBF Facebook page, the PDBF website (<https://pdbfsport.com>) or may be sent thru email. For questions and concerns, you may leave us a message in the official Facebook page of the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation <https://www.facebook.com/ePDBF>, or email us at phidbfed@gmail.com.

