



BRITISH DRAGON BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

www.dragonboat.org.uk

Race Entry Conditions and Race Classes for the BDA National League

THE COMPETITIONS

The Competitions are national competitions of the British Dragon Boat Racing Association (BDA). They are the open, mixed, women and junior divisions of the BDA National League which run from April to September.

The National League is open to all BDA Registered Crews. Non-registered crews may enter as many National League events as they like as a Scratch Crew.

Equipment and Crew. Fully equipped dragon boats and paddles can be provided and hired to crews up to 22 racers but crews may use their own equipment providing it complies with the IDBF regulations.

Safety. All crew members must be water competent and ideally able to swim at least 50 metres in light clothing. It is the Crew Manager's responsibility to ensure that this limitation is complied with and to ensure that weak swimmers wear buoyancy aids. No previous experience of dragon boat racing is necessary to enter the competition, but crews do so at their own risk.

BDA MEMBERSHIP

Crews not already registered with the BDA will receive BDA Affiliated Membership, on payment of their Scratch Crew fee for the day of racing. Affiliated Membership includes Public Liability Insurance whilst racing. Crews may join the BDA as a Registered Crew by completing a BDA Membership Application Form and enclosing the appropriate membership fee. Once registered a crew will receive a membership number, which must be quoted on subsequent forms to qualify for the BDA members race entry fee discount. Registered Crews receive Public Liability Insurance and other membership benefits.

Only BDA Registered Crews can gain points in the National League. All Crew members must also be BDA Individual Members.

ENTRIES

There is an entry system based on the divisions that the crew wishes to enter.

National League - Mixed, Open, Women's and Junior divisions for the serious BDA Registered Crews.

Scratch Class – For crews that are not BDA Registered Crews interested in competing on a "come and try" basis.

Charity Class – for crews irrespective of status or experience whose prime aim is to raise money for charity through the BDA Charity Challenge Competition (Full details available on request).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FOURTEEN DAYS BEFORE THE RACE

ENTRY FEES

Fees will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis. No refunds will be given once an entry has been accepted and the deadline for entries has passed. There are no reductions for crews of less than 20. A late entry fee will be levied on all entries received after the deadline. The entry fees are set out on the [entry form](#) on the BDA website.

CREW LISTS

Crew lists should be submitted in accordance with the IDBF Regulations. *Reminder:* Crew lists should be submitted prior to the first race in any division in a competition. Crews may have a maximum of 24 (18 paddlers for ladies or junior crews) paddlers on the crew list. Paddlers are not allowed to race for more than one crew (including composite crews) in the same division at the same event except in the circumstances set out in the following paragraph.

The first two reserves named on a crew list may appear on another crew list for the same club. Reserve paddlers who paddle with a first crew from the same club cannot subsequently paddle with the same clubs second crew except as drummer or helm.

The Chief Official has the discretion to allow paddlers to be added to the Crew List during an event providing the paddlers to be added have not already paddled in another crew (including a composite crew) in the same division and providing the total of 24 paddlers in a crew is not exceeded.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND LEAGUE POINTS

In general, the BDA will apply the Racing and Competition Regulations of the IDBF. To allow for specific circumstances of the National League the following regulations take precedence over the IDBF Regulations and over all previous regulations.

The Competitions will be mixed, open, women and junior leagues with each having equal status. Subject to a suitable number of crews taking place events will be split into Cup and Plate competitions with trophies awarded to crews in first, second and third place in both competitions. National League points will only be awarded to BDA Registered Crews except in the case of Composite Crews (see below) when points will be awarded irrespective of whether the clubs contributing to the crews are BDA Registered Crews. There is also an overall club competition which has been established to encourage growth of the sport.

League Points

Each division (mixed, women, open and junior) will have a separate league. League points will be awarded in each division with 15 points being awarded to the winner and each subsequent place being awarded one point less. If there are more than 15 crews in a division, then all places lower than 15 will be awarded one point. Where two or more distances, eg 200m and 500m races, are held at the same event the places for each distance will be averaged and the league points awarded based on that average.

Example

	200m place	500m place	Average place	Overall	Points
Notts Anaconda	2	1	1.5	1	15
Amathus	1	4	2.5	=2	14
Kingston	3	2	2.5	=2	14
Exe-calibre	5	2	3.5	4	12
Typhoon	4	5	4.5	5	11
Wraysbury	6	6	6	6	10

Overall Club Competition

To promote growth of the sport clubs are encouraged to enter both as many divisions and as many crews in each division as possible. All these results will contribute to an overall club competition introduced in 2018. Clubs will be split into Premier and Standard divisions based on the results of this competition. The number of clubs promoted and demoted at the end of each season will normally be two.

Number of Paddlers

Open and mixed racing - clubs may paddle with a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 20 paddlers.

Women and junior racing - clubs may paddle with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 paddlers.

The BDA encourages all clubs to participate in racing as much as possible and recognises that crews are occasionally not able to comply with these numbers, sometimes due to last minute incidents. If a club is not able to fully comply with the rules on numbers, they should advise the National League organiser when entering the event or at the earliest possible opportunity. Unforeseen issues arising on race day should be raised at the Crew Manager's meeting. The organiser (in advance) or the Chief Official (on the day) will have the discretion to allow entries with a reduced number of paddlers or to form composite crews where appropriate.

Crews racing without the correct number of paddlers who have not received permission to do so from either the National League organiser or the Chief Official will be allowed to race but will only receive points equal to last place in the competition.

Women's Division

Women's division rules are the same as for the IDBF women's division. *Reminder:* The helm and drummer must be female.

Junior Division

Junior age group categories are the same as for the EDBF junior division as it is anticipated the IDBF will follow suit shortly. *Reminder:* This means that a paddler may race as a junior providing their 13th to 18th birthdays fall in the year of competition. The age rule does not apply to the helm.

Mixed Division

A mixed boat must comprise a maximum of 10 and a minimum of 6 paddlers of either gender.

Example: A crew may race with 16 paddlers, 10 women and 6 men or vice versa, but may not race with 11 women and 6 men or vice versa.

Crews who are not able to comply with these rules are encouraged to race in the open division.

Crews who are found to be racing whilst not complying with these rules will be awarded points equal to last place in the open competition.

Composite Crews

Composite crews are encouraged to race but will not exist in any league as separate entities. Crews can be formed from any number of clubs, but paddlers shall not be split amongst multiple composite crews if there are sufficient number of paddlers to form a crew from a single club.

If a crew contains 16/10 or more paddlers from a single club in the open and mixed/women and junior divisions, then all the points shall be awarded to that club. If the crew contains less than 16/10 (open, mixed/women, junior) paddlers from a single club the points for each league will be divided between the clubs in the same proportion as the paddlers in the crew. Composite crews shall be clearly identified as such on the Crew List together with the clubs for each paddler. If this information is not available National League points will not be awarded.

Example 1: Thames and Typhoon enter a composite crew in the mixed event. There are 16 Typhoon paddlers and 4 Thames paddlers. The crew comes fourth and are awarded 12 points. Typhoon will be awarded all the points.

Example 2: Thames and Typhoon enter a composite crew in the mixed event. There are 12 Typhoon paddlers and 6 Thames paddlers. The crew comes fourth and are awarded 12 points. Thames will receive 4 points and Typhoon will receive 8 points.

In the league table for the mixed event the points will be added to any other points awarded to Thames and Typhoon from other crews in that division. The overall club competition will award points in the same way.

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