



DRAGONBOAT RACE DAY 2024

JUNE 29 • WATERFRONT PARK • BEAUFORT, SC

Hello Captains and welcome to the home stretch! This will be your “Final Update”.

Thank you ALL again for participating in this year’s race day event. It has been an honor to be your Race Day Coordinator.

Please share this information with your paddlers, as it is very important to know.

Here is the link to **PROGRESSION OF HEATS**: <https://22dragons.com/beaufort/>

The first race is at 8:10, Marshaling at 7:45

Have your paddlers in the park and ready to go. If all goes smoothly, our last race will be around 2:35 with awards to follow.

- 1) **22 Dragons** will be running our event. They did a great job for us last year, and we are excited to have them back.
- 2) On RaceDay morning: the **Registration tent will open at 6:00A.M.** This is when you can pick up your Captains Packets, and drop off any last minute waivers. All Dragons can start invading the park at this time, so get your team there early so they can start decorating and setting up!
- 3) There will be a mandatory **7:00-7:15A.M Captain’s Meeting**. 22 Dragons and myself will be at the Registration Tent to commence the meeting. Any last minute questions can be asked then.

The Captain’s packet will contain; schedule for the day, a safety document, rules and regulation document, a paddle seating chart, and wristbands. **ALL** paddlers must wear a wristband. No paddler will be permitted on a boat without a wristband.

Opening Ceremony & Welcome by Chris Jones; Estimated Time between 7:15-7:50A.M.

- There will be a fun-filled Warm-Up exercise session by Sandy Albert.
 - A Blessing by Rev. Klatt, National Anthem, Best Dressed Drummer Parade across the stage, a few words regarding the impact of our Outreach Program, and Dotting of the Dragon’s Eye. Have your teammates there early to exercise and to partake in the opening festivities. We have moved our carnation ceremony to later in the day. I know it’s early, but it is one of the highlights of race day!
 - **7:45 - First call for Marshaling** on the first Heat. **ALL** your paddlers should be in the park and ready to **GO!**
 - **8:10 - First Heat begins.**
- 4) **Waivers**; anyone paddling **MUST SIGN** an individual waiver. This includes your practice session as well. **Make sure you bring them to practice!** All final waivers are to be signed, and turned in on Race Day morning when picking up your packet, **OR** at your scheduled practice time earlier in the week. **Please do not send them to me to be printed out.**
 - 5) **Parking**; I recommend asking Google; “downtown parking for Henry C. Chambers WaterFront Park”, and download a map. You can also use; www.explorebeaufortsc.com to find a map.
 - 6) There will be a **“drop off only”** area located on *Scott Street* extension off of Bay Street, just past YoYo’s Soft-Serve. It goes back along Saltus River Grill. Please do not linger. Get it done and move on..... The drop off area will make it easier to get things to your tent.
 - 7) **Event**: There will be 3 heats. Four boats paddling at a time. We will not be publishing anything on the website, so listen and pay attention to the announcer as you hear your team’s name called.

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- 8) **Tents**; your tent will already be set up and waiting for you with your team's name on it. There will be a placement chart at the registration table, or you can just walk around and find it on your own. Each team will have their own 10x10 tent. **DO NOT BRING ANY ADDITIONAL TENTS.** We are fully booked this year at the park. 30 Teams. WaterFront Park is limited for space, and they have **STAKING RULES. DO NOT** set up your tent the night before race day. We cannot guarantee nor be responsible that your items will still be there in the morning.
- 9) **Footwear, PFD,s, & Wristbands**; please no sandals, flip flops, barefeet or open toe shoes. We ask this for your own safety. We will provide life jackets and paddles, but if you have your own that is fine. Waist PFDs are permitted. No paddler will be permitted on a boat without a provided wrist band from the Captain's Packet. Be sure to bring water, sunscreen, a beach chair, gloves (optional) and a hat.
- 10) **Food**; there will be 2 food vendors available; Rain-n-Bagels and Sunset Slush. WaterFront Park is surrounded by restaurants, but be mindful of your race times. Do not go wandering off without knowing when your next race time will be! I highly recommend that each of your paddlers bring something to eat/snack/drink/ice, etc. Please bring your own folding table to set your food/drink items on.
- 11) **Speaking of drinking..... NO paddler** will be permitted to paddle **if intoxicated!!!** That's part of the rules people! Our local fantastic restaurants come with bars, and there are a lot to choose from. So, **"Don't Drink & Paddle!"** Save yourself for later!
- 12) **Practice Schedule**; Practice Schedule is on the website under Captain's Update. Please remember to arrive a half hour before your actual time. We want to have you on the water at your scheduled practice time. We will have practice **rain or shine**. If it is raining, we can do the commands and paddle stroke under the pavilion. Start thinking about paddler placements, and who you want as your Pacers on your boat.
- 13) **Reminders**; here is a list of reminders regarding RaceDay.
 - The race distance is 200 meters. We are checking on the tide times as we speak. Remember you are racing on Tidal waters. There will not be any floating docks. Wet -vs- Dry start is totally up to your team Captain. The Steersperson **ALWAYS** has control of the boat, **AND** you will be using our provided Steersperson.
 - Please listen and be mindful of the people placing you in and out of the boat. These are our Marshaling volunteers. They are also seasoned DBB Members. **NO** one is to enter or exit a boat on their own. You will be **disqualified** if there are any disrespectful deeds done at Marshaling.
 - 20 paddlers and a drummer. We will accept a minimum of 16 paddlers and a drummer, but will not go any lower for safety reasons. Minimum age to paddle is 16 years old. Please try your best to fill your boat. If you find yourself needing a paddler or two, find me! I will make it happen!!
 - Mandatory Practice for our local community teams. I know not all paddlers can make their designated time. We have set aside a Friday at 4:30 time slot for paddlers who cannot make their team scheduled time. If this does not work please contact me.
 - **MANDATORY**; Each racing team must have a minimum of 8 women paddlers, with the exception of the men's division.
 - **MANDATORY**; Each Cancer Survivor team must have a minimum of 8 Cancer Survivors. Any and all types of Cancer.
 - **MANDATORY**; Each Senior team paddlers must be 50 years and older. Drummer included.
 - **MANDATORY**; Men's Division - ALL MEN including your Drummer.

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- 14) **FUNDRAISE**; please continue to fundraise! Our goal is **\$80,000**. We are almost there. Let's help these people in Beaufort County. Please remember, this is why we are doing this!
- 15) **Fun things** that will happen throughout the day: Drummers Fundraising Bag, Best Decorated tent, Best T-Shirt Design, Best Team Spirit, Top Fundraising Team, Top Fundraiser, Fastest time raced, Heart Beat of the County Cup, AND..... The Creations Aerial Arts will be performing this year.
- 16) Jeff "T-Bone" Taylor, from 104.9 The Surf will be returning as our announcer!

AND..... I leave you with this;

"May the river rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back!"

"May the Sun shine warm upon your face, and let us pray to the rain god's to stay away from my race!"

It has been my pleasure serving you and our Community.....

Paddles Up!

Darlene McGrath

2024 RaceDay Teams Coordinator

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