

# 2026 Tainan International Dragon Boat Championships – Competition Rules

1. All persons participating in this dragon boat competition must comply with all provisions of these rules.
2. Competition dates: June 17, 2026 (Wednesday) to June 21, 2026 (Sunday). Except where postponed by announcement of the organizing committee due to special circumstances, the competition shall not be affected by weather (ordinary wind and rain shall not stop the competition).
3. Competition distance: Both large and small dragon boats shall race a distance of 300 meters.
4. Steersperson qualifications:
  - a. In the large dragon boat Senior High School (Vocational), Junior High School, College and University, and Government Agency divisions, teams may choose to use an official steersperson arranged by the organizer, or may match with a steersperson who has completed the organizer-announced steersperson training course and obtained a steersperson certificate (no service fee).
  - b. The Open Division and Industrial and Commercial Group Division may provide their own steersperson (must have attended the steersperson training course and passed to obtain a steersperson certificate), or may match with a certified steersperson from the organizer's announced training course (no service fee).
  - c. Personnel who obtained a steersperson certificate in 2025 are encouraged, for safety considerations of competition personnel, to participate in the training course again this year.
5. The inspection station shall be set at the starting shore to check the identity of competition team members; the boarding point shall be the starting shore.
6. Teams participating in the competition must submit the roster of competing members, athlete identification cards (limited to those registered), and steersperson certificates (limited to teams in the Open Division and Industrial and Commercial Group Division providing their

own steersperson) 40 minutes before the race and wait for inspection at the inspection station. Teams not present for that heat shall be deemed to have lost. Impersonation is not permitted. If impersonation is discovered, the team's competition qualification shall be cancelled. If any team has doubts about the qualification of competing members, a written protest must be submitted 60 minutes before the race according to regulations; no objection may be raised after the race.

7. Competition personnel shall bring the athlete identification card and steersperson certificate issued by the organizer to the inspection station and wait for roll call and verification.
8. After inspection, teams may not leave the inspection station; otherwise it shall be regarded as withdrawal.
9. No team may start before the starter fires the starting gun; otherwise it shall be regarded as a foul. If a foul occurs twice, the team's competition qualification shall be cancelled.
10. After the starting gun is fired, no request to suspend the race may be made for any reason.
11. Each team must row according to the assigned lane drawn by lot. After reaching the finish line, the boat must follow the designated lane to the designated mooring location and must not obstruct the progress of the competition; otherwise it shall be regarded as a foul and the team's competition qualification shall be cancelled.
12. Each team must row its dragon boat to the starting point of the race within the specified time. If the race schedule is delayed and lateness reaches five minutes twice, the team shall be deemed to have lost.
13. Lane separation for large dragon boats extends from the start to the finish line. Lane separation for small dragon boats extends from the start to the finish line where the team retrieves its lane flag.
14. Paddlers of large dragon boats must adopt a seated paddling posture; violation shall result in cancellation of the team's competition qualification. Determination of seated posture means that paddlers must face the bow when paddling, both feet must be closer to the bow than the hips, and the hips must not leave the seat. Whether a violation has occurred shall be

determined by the posture inspector appointed by the organizer. Small dragon boats have no restriction on paddling method.

15. During the race, before the starting gun sounds, the paddles held by each team must be out of the water. Both large and small dragon boats must follow this rule, but the rudder is not restricted. The first violation shall receive a warning; the second violation shall result in cancellation of the team's competition qualification.
16. When each team reaches the finish line:
  - (a) In the large dragon boat race, ranking shall be determined by the order in which the bow reaches the finish line.
  - (b) In the small dragon boat race, ranking shall be determined by the order in which the flag is obtained.
  - (c) The preliminary rounds and finals of large and small dragon boat races may adjust the competition system depending on the number of registered teams.

Notes:

- (a) When the flag grabber removes the flag and leaves the flag tube, the flag shall be deemed obtained.
  - (b) After obtaining the flag, if the flag grabber falls into the water, the flag shall still be deemed obtained.
17. In each race, the actual number of competitors must include the drummer and steersperson. Large dragon boats must have at least 16 paddlers (inclusive), and small dragon boats must have at least 10 paddlers (inclusive). If the number is odd, boarding to compete is not permitted; if the number is insufficient, the team shall be deemed to have lost.
18. During the race, dragon boats, paddles, gongs, drums, and rudders provided by the organizer must be used, and teams shall inspect them before the race. If malfunction occurs during the race, the race shall be re-run and no objection shall be permitted.
19. If a team member falls into the water after the starting gun sounds, the team shall be deemed to have lost (except when the flag grabber falls into the water after completing the flag grab).

If facilities or personnel such as dragon boats or steerspersons provided by the organizer fail due to force majeure, the race shall be re-run and no objection shall be permitted.

20. If any violation of the organizer's regulations occurs before or after the race, it shall be handled by the adjudication committee. In special situations, the police may be consulted for handling.
21. If a dragon boat deviates from its lane and enters another lane after crossing the dividing line, the team shall be deemed to have lost. However, if deviation from the lane occurs due to force majeure and is confirmed by referees, and the chief referee decides to rerun the heat, all teams in that heat must race again; otherwise it shall be regarded as withdrawal.
22. In order to promote team spirit and encourage competitive enthusiasm, each team may organize its own cheering squad to cheer for its team during the race. The form is unrestricted, but it must not interfere with the organizer's order or the progress of the race.
23. Each participating team must follow the safety instructions of the launching-area management personnel and lifeguards. Participating athletes, including the drummer and flag grabber, must wear life jackets throughout the race (from inspection until the end of the race when returning ashore). Violation shall result in cancellation of the team's competition qualification.
24. Anyone who violates sportsmanship, refuses to accept the organizer's decision, or conducts improper protest behavior that affects order at the race venue shall have the team's competition qualification cancelled.
25. If any equipment on the dragon boat is damaged, compensation must be paid according to price and no objection shall be permitted.
26. If there is objection to the decision of the organizer's referees, a protest may be filed within 60 minutes after the race of that heat and a deposit of NT\$5,000 must be paid.
27. All participating teams must use the gongs and drums provided by the organizer during the race and must not use whistles, horns, or any electronic equipment (such as loudspeakers or portable amplifiers). If the above equipment is found to be used, the team's competition qualification shall be cancelled.

28. If there are matters not fully provided for in these rules, they shall be revised and announced by the organizer and then implemented.