



Dragon Boat Canada

Accessibility and Para Athlete Committee Terms of Reference

Name:

The Accessibility and Para Athlete Committee (APAC) shall be a duly constituted committee and shall operate at the pleasure of the Dragon Boat Canada/Bateau-Dragon Canada (DBC) board of directors (the Board).

Core Objectives:

Para + Diverse Ability Development

- Enhance the presence of Para programs in Canada
- Promote consistent Para Division racing opportunities
- Promote consistent opportunities for Diverse Ability Athletes to participate in dragon boat paddling and racing

Representation

- Create and implement supports for Diverse Ability and Para (DAP) Athletes
- Function as a liaison for DAP Athletes and DBC
- Function as a representative for DAP Athletes
- Function as a resource for DBC on matters relating to accessibility

Function

The APAC shall provide leadership and direction in the following areas:

- Ensuring athletes at all levels are able to participate in dragon boat paddling programs, regardless of ability
- Providing support and advice for race organizers and club administrators seeking to serve ADP athletes

Accountability

The chair of the PAC may be a member of the Board of Directors of DBC. The Board of Directors is vested with final authority in all areas of the committee.

Structure

The APAC shall be a standing committee.

Committee Membership

- The APAC shall consist of 6-8 committee members, meeting the following criteria:
 - DBC members in good standing
 - Able to contribute to the mandate and objectives of the APAC. This may include interest, lived experience, or specialized expertise
 - Able to meet the attendance requirements of the APAC
 - Able to contribute 1-2 hours per month outside of meetings contributing to committee work
- The Committee shall include representation from each region
- The Committee shall include one (1) or more representative(s) from the DBC Board

Committee Chair:

- The Committee Chair shall be named annually, and Committee members may serve consecutive terms as Chair, at the discretion of the Committee
- Changes to the Committee Chair must be approved by the DBC Board

Term:

- Committee members shall serve terms of two (2) years
- Terms shall be renewable at the discretion of the Committee and the serving member
- Approval of term renewals is at the discretion of the DBC Board
- Term dates shall begin after the DBC Annual General Meeting
- The term commencement of Committee members who join outside of the regular term cycle shall be the preceding July 1.

Selection:

- The APAC shall recommend additions to the Committee to the DBC Board
- The DBC Board has the final approval on Committee Members

Selection procedure:

- The APAC shall distribute an annual call for vacancies resulting from regular term end dates.
- The APAC may also distribute a call for vacancies mid-term when necessary and appropriate
- The APAC shall collect nominations from interested members
- The APAC shall recommend additions to the Committee to the DBC Board
- The ascent of members to the APAC shall be based on the final approval of the DBC Board.

Operation Responsibilities

- The APAC shall provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on issues affecting DAP athletes.

Reporting

The APAC shall meet at any time and place as determined by the Chair as approved by the DBC Board of Directors.

The APAC shall share meeting notes to the DBC Board of Directors within 14 days of any meetings.

Definitions

Diverse Ability and Para (DAP) Athletes: A broad term to refer to all Athletes with diverse abilities (ADs), and documented Para Athletes

Athletes with Disabilities or Diverse Abilities (ADs): Athletes whose physical, sensory, cognitive, neurological differences impact their participation in sport

Para Athlete / Paradrakon: An athlete who qualifies for entry in the Para Racing Division as a result of an Impairment, as assessed by Para Division race organizers. Sometimes referred to as a *PD1 Athlete*.

Impairment: The specific medical condition presented by a Para Athlete, which qualifies that athlete for participation in a Para Division; the medical condition by which the athlete will be assessed points in a usual points-based assessment system

Para Division: Racing division that includes provisions or rules for athletes with diverse abilities who qualify to participate as Para Athletes

Mainstream Divisions: Dragon boat racing divisions that do not include specific provisions or rules for Para Athletes