

## DBC AGM 2020 – June 25<sup>th</sup> - President's Report

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent dragon boat paddlers from across Canada throughout the past year. I look forward to being a part of positive changes in the years ahead. The passion and engagement Dragon Boat Canada (DBC) has from paddlers, coaches, administrators, and supporters is unquestioned. This is our greatest asset and what we wish to continue to highlight.

Usually this report boasts about racing adventures and accomplishments on-the-water, unfortunately since my last report in September of 2019 there has been minimal on-water dragon boat activity due to the global pandemic coronavirus (Covid-19). Therefore, this report will detail efforts and actions DBC is taking off-the-water to make all experiences on-the-water as safe and enjoyable as possible.

### International Contributions

DBC is clearly accomplishing our goal to become more involved in the International Dragon Boat Federation and helping our sport grow and develop across the globe. Canada has members on several IDBF (IDBF) commissions including the executive council, athletes commission, competitive and technical commission, officials commission and we are constantly striving to increase opportunities for Canadian contributions and ideas to flourish internationally. We commend the IDBF in presenting such opportunities as our sport develops and evolves.

Canada is an essential and highly valued member of the Pan Am Dragon Boat Federation, which hosts its continental championships bi-annually. Canada's attendance is cherished at these events and our experiences and suggestions are encouraged. Canada has made enormous contributions on and off the water to the Pan Am Federation and will continue to do so in the future. Canada hosted the Pan Am Club Crew Championships in 2015 and we are planning to bid to host again soon.

The next Pan Am Club Crew Championships will be held in Panama City, Panama in March 2021. For some Canadians this may be their next quality race opportunity and certainly their next international racing opportunity. DBC is working closely with the Pan Am Federation and the organizing committee to ensure the viability of this event and the safety of all competitors. DBC strongly encourages all members to consider participating in the Pan Am Club Crew Championships as it is truly a unique and enjoyable international race experience.

### Domestic Contributions

#### Athlete Safety

Recovering from the coronavirus pandemic will be a global undertaking. Athletes returning safely to the sport of dragon boat racing is the foremost priority of DBC. DBC's ongoing 'Return To Sport' committee brings together health professionals, event organizers and sport administrators to provide guidance to our community. Our goal will be to inform and guide members through the risks of this process. Our committee will stay current and engaged until we have completed this task together.

#### Community Health

DBC recognizes this pandemic is an enormous fiscal and operational challenge to our sport's ecosystem. Athletes, coaches, clubs, manufacturers, equipment providers, event operators and others have had their dragon boat life directly, significantly, and negatively impacted by this pandemic. DBC

acknowledges the important contribution every member of this community makes. We sincerely hope every stakeholder can navigate this difficult path and we look forward to seeing our sport, and its community flourish in the future.

## Competition

Canadians continue to exuberantly plan for future competitions. Despite the devastating cancellation of 2020 Club Crew World Championships (CCWC) its clear that DBC clubs have already set their sights on 2022 CCWC's in Sarasota, Florida and the process to qualify and individuals have focused on the 2021 World Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Hong Kong and the process of being selected to Team Canada.

### Club Crew World Championships Qualifying:

The qualifying protocol has been approved and is posted here: <https://dragonboat.ca/resources/rules-of-racing/>

All Canadian entries will be earned at the 2021 Canadian Championships (date and location tbd). We are excited to announce the date and location of the 2021 Canadian Championships however, we must await the confirmation of the IDBF event schedule before doing so to ensure our event is properly scheduled.

### World Dragon Boat Racing Championships – Team Canada Tryouts:

Directors for Canada's 7 programs have been selected. Directors have been meeting regularly to design the most consolidated tryout process to date. We are thrilled to be preparing the first Canadian Para-dragons crew to compete at the World Championships. Due to coronavirus and for the safety of our athletes we have decided to postpone in-person tryouts until winter 2020/21. Tryouts will begin in the summer/fall of 2020 with virtual athlete orientation sessions, continue with indoor programs and testing throughout the winter and culminate with selections camps in spring/summer.

DBC is centralizing its administration of Team Canada this cycle to provide athletes and directors with additional support, resources, and accountability.

In conclusion I would like to thank DBC's volunteer Board of Directors for all that they do and specifically our Executive Director, Chloe Greenhalgh for her passion and professionalism in leading our federation.

Sincerely and more than ever before, I am looking forward to seeing you all on-the-water in dragon boats with 22 participants as soon as possible.

Paddles Up!

Scott Murray

President, Dragon Boat Canada