



DBC AGM 2025

President's Report – Dragon Boat Canada

Submitted by: Julie Robitaille, President

Date: June 10, 2025

Introduction

It has been a privilege to assume the role of President this spring. Since my appointment, I have been actively engaged in both international and domestic initiatives, particularly contributing to the IDBF's bylaw revision process and their Strategic Planning Committee.

International Engagement

- **IDBF Involvement:** I have participated in the review of proposed IDBF bylaw changes and ongoing strategic planning discussions.
- **Leadership Representation:** Canadian representatives continue to play key roles on the international stage:
 - Matt Smith – Vice President, IDBF
 - Wendi Zhou – Chair, Youth Commission
 - Sue Holloway – Chair, Athletes Commission
 - Natacha Tremblay – Chair, Women's Commission
- **Policy Influence:** Canada successfully proposed a motion at the 2023 IDBF Congress to allow member nations full autonomy in selecting crews for the Club Crew World Championships (CCWC). This marks a significant governance milestone, offering DBC the ability to tailor selection protocols to our community's needs.

Athletic Highlights

- **2024 Club Crew World Championships – Ravenna:** Canada fielded one of the largest contingents to date, contributing to the largest CCWC in history. Our crews, clubs, and individual athletes delivered outstanding performances, reinforcing our global presence.
- **Inaugural CanAmerican Championships:** Held in July 2024, this groundbreaking event co-hosted with the United States Dragon Boat Federation not only enhanced

competition but also strengthened bilateral collaboration. Preparations are already in motion for the 2026 CACCC.

Domestic Development

- **Race Programming:** Ongoing enhancements to DBC's Guiding Principles continue to refine our approach to race structure and rule development with the goal of enriching the athlete experience.
 - **Education & Training:**
 - Introduction of the new national Accreditation Program.
 - Expanded training opportunities for coaches, steerspersons, and instructors.
 - Upcoming priorities include advanced steering courses and expanded Officials recruitment and training.
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Upcoming Events

- **2025 World Championships:** The Canadian Team is selected and ready to go! We will be sending the largest team ever to the WDBRC in Brandenburg Germany, including an entry in the first ever Breast Cancer Paddler category!
 - **2025 Canadian Championships:** Planning is progressing well. Notably, this will be the first championship to feature small boats, a significant step forward for the event.
 - **2024 Pan American Championships – Montreal:** We are thrilled to host this event in Canada for the first time since 2015. Our thanks to Mission Dragon Boat for their efforts in organizing what promises to be an exceptional experience.
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Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to DBC's volunteer Board of Directors. Each member brings unique and invaluable contributions. I am grateful for their trust in me and for their ongoing dedication to our sport.

Closing Remarks

I am inspired by the dedication and talent across our community—from athletes and coaches to officials and volunteers. DBC is committed to upholding the standards set by all of you as we continue to grow and evolve the sport of dragon boat in Canada and beyond.