



SAFETY CONTROL NO. 2



Appointment of Boat Captain

2nd Edition, dated September 2019

SAFETY CONTROL (SC) NO. 2

SC 2.1 Description of Boat Captain

- 2.1.1 In accordance to the IDBF Water Safety Policy (WSP), Teams must appoint a Boat Captain to be in-charge of the crew while inside the dragon boat as well as during embarking and disembarking.
- 2.1.2 It should be understood that The Boat Captain may not have to necessarily be the Team Captain. The Boat Captain is more of a task specific role, activated only when the crew is inside the dragon boat.
- 2.1.3 The Boat Captain primary role is to control the crew's actions inside the dragon boat, responsible for giving the command to move or stop the dragon boat.

SC 2.2 Steersperson as Boat Captain

- 2.2.1 Traditionally, the role of Boat Captain would be assumed by the Steersperson.
- 2.2.2 Due to the steersperson's elevated standing station inside the dragon boat, he/she will possess the best commanding views.
- 2.2.3 The Steersperson is the most preferred option (1st choice) as Boat Captain for all aspect of the sport of dragon boat – from recreational to competitive paddling.

SC 2.3 Drummer as Boat Captain

- 2.3.1 The Drummer may also assume the role of Boat Captain. The elevated drummer's seat station inside the dragon boat is sufficient enough to provide an excellent commanding view.
- 2.3.2 The Drummer is the least preferred option (2nd choice) as Boat Captain.

SC 2.4 Trainer or Coach as Boat Captain

- 2.4.1 During recreational paddling or a training session where the Trainer or Coach is present with the dragon boat crew, The Trainer or Coach may also assume the role of the Boat Captain.

- 2.4.2 The Trainer or Coach vantage point at the fore part of the dragon facing the paddlers (similar to the drummer's position in competitive paddling) is usually sufficient to allow the trainer or coach the best commanding views.

SC 2.5 General Requirement

To be practiced and observed at all times, for all aspect of the sport of dragon boating – from recreational to competitive paddling.

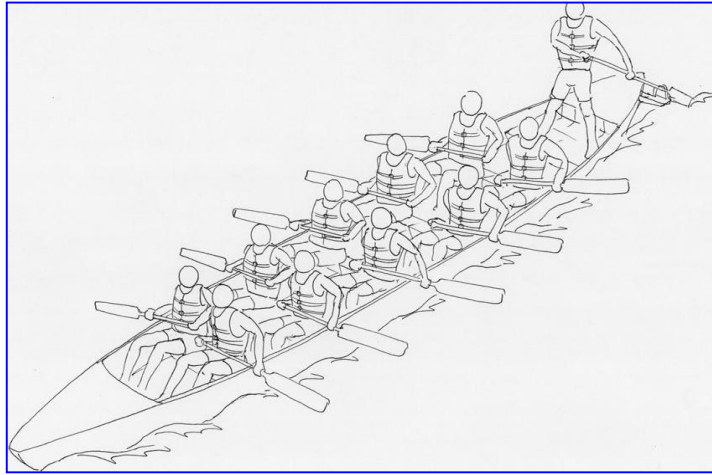
- 2.5.1 The Boat Captain is required to assume the responsibility to maintain the dragon boat's stability and to prevent capsizing by controlling the crew's movements, especially during the embarking/disembarking process.
- 2.5.2 The Boat Captain must know all the weak or non-swimmers in the crew. The Boat Captain must know where these weak / non-swimmers are seated at all times.
- 2.5.3 Under Singapore's context, the Boat Captain is responsible to ensure that the entire crew is wearing their Personal Floatation Device (PFD) correctly and according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 2.5.4 In an emergency or dangerous situation that may lead to capsizing or swamping, the Boat Captain must initiate emergency measures to stabilize the dragon boat by:-
- a. Command "Hold Water Hard!"
- All paddlers are required to plunge their paddle-blade vertically into the water and hold the paddle as hard as they can. This will stop the forward momentum of the dragon boat.



Photo 1:
Hold Water Hard !

b. Command “Brace! Brace ! Brace!”

All paddlers are required to sit-up straight, body jammed against the gunwale and all paddles extended out, touching the surface of the water with the flat side of the paddle blade.



Drawing 1:
Brace! Brace! Brace!

- 2.5.5 If the danger persist, the Boat Captain is responsible to command the dragon boat to steer and move away from the dangerous area. The Boat Captain should consider returning to shore if need be.
- 2.5.6 If there is still no improvement to the dangerous situation (i.e. sudden onset of inclement weather, etc), the Boat Captain is required to command the dragon boat to return to the nearest shore immediately to seek shelter and wait out the danger or to seek help.

SC 2.6 Specific Requirement for Competitive Paddling

- 2.6.1 In an emergency or a dangerous situation that may lead to capsizing or swamping, the Boat Captain must alert the safety services of their predicament. This is done by raising/waving one or both hands over the head repeatedly to attract the attention of the nearest Rescue Crew.
- 2.6.2 In the event of capsize or swamping, the Boat Captain must maintain control of the crew inside the water at all times until rescuers arrived.
- 2.6.3 Boat Captains must make sure that all crew-members are accounted for and initiate a quick search for any missing crew. (see SC 04: Capsize/Swamping Drill)
- 2.6.4 After rescuers arrived on the scene, the Boat Captain must inform the Rescue Crew of any missing crew-members.
- 2.6.5 Once back on shore, the Boat Captain must ensure that all crew are accounted for and inform the Race Organizers of any unaccounted or missing crew.

SC 2.7 Legislation

2.7.1 Recreational Dragon Boating

SDBA will recognize the Steersperson as the Boat Captain, regardless whether the steersperson was appointed by the respective teams or assigned by SDBA.

2.7.2 Teams undergoing Training Sessions

- a. SDBA will recognize the Steersperson as the Boat Captain.
- b. If the Trainer or Coach is present, he/she may assume the role of Boat Captain. The Trainer or Coach must declare to SDBA their role as Boat Captain upon demand.

2.7.3 Competitive Dragon Boating

- a. SDBA and the Event Organizers will recognize the Steersperson as the Boat Captain.
- b. The Drummer may alternatively assume the role of Boat Captain. The Team Manager is required to indicate the Drummer as Boat Captain in the Crew List submitted to Race Secretariat on race day.

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