



龍舟 LONGZHOU

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION



Cover photo: Womens Crew (China) in action at the 14th IDBF World Nations Championships, Pattaya.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDBF AND ICF IN DRAGON BOATING

The worldwide success of dragon boating around the world and the success of the IDBF Nations and Club Championships in all continents produced a change of attitude in the ICF who decided that dragon boating was a discipline of canoeing. The disagreement between the two Federations had begun.

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FASTEST TIMES

There were some incredible times clocked up at the recent World Championships. Given these fast times and talks of world records it is worth looking back at race times recorded at the IDBF Championships over the past decade.

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PADDLER PROFILES

'How did you get into dragon boat racing?' We recently asked paddlers competing in Pattaya how they got involved in the sport that we all love.

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CLUB CREW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



12th CCWC
Aix les Bains, France
24 - 30 August 2020



13th CCWC
Sarasota, Florida, USA 2022

WORLD NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS



15th World Nations
Hong Kong, China 2021



16th World Nations
Seville, Spain 2023



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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE IDBF AND ICF IN DRAGON BOATING

BY MIKE THOMAS, IDBF

I hope that you will find this article informative and interesting. It will consider the dispute between the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) and the International Canoe Federation (ICF) concerning the organisation of our sport. The disagreement occurs because the ICF are trying to control and organise our sport in multi-sport games including the Olympics.

Background

Dragon boating is acknowledged as starting in China over 2000 years ago with the modern international sport starting in Hong Kong in 1976. More international teams began to develop and take part and more festivals began in Asia. Neither the IDBF or the ICF were involved in the initial development of the modern sport.

The ICF were not interested in developing the sport as it became more popular around the world, and in the 1980s the then President of the ICF recommended that the sport of dragon boat racing should be developed independently as it was not a canoe sport. It was this reluctance of the ICF to develop the sport that led to the formation of the IDBF in 1991 with 12 founding countries from four continents.

The worldwide success of dragon boating around the world and the success of the IDBF Nations and Club Championships in all continents produced a change of attitude in the ICF who decided that dragon boating was a discipline of canoeing. The disagreement between the two Federations had begun.

Joint Agreement

In the early part of the new millennium the IDBF sought recognition from the Global Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF) and had discussions with the ICF about the organisation of our sport.

In 2003 the IDBF and the ICF signed a joint agreement with a key point being that the best way to deliver dragon boat services for ICF members was for them to take part in IDBF Championships.

In 2005 the Olympic Council of Asia recognised the Asian Dragon Boat Federation as the governing body of the sport in Asia. Also, in 2005 the ICF launched their own world championship in Germany - the joint agreement of 2003 was broken.

GAISF ruling - IDBF recognised

At the GAISF General Assembly in Beijing 2007, the GAISF Members confirmed that dragon boating and canoeing were two different sports and the IDBF was voted into GAISF membership. These are both very important decisions.

In 2008 there was a court case in Hungary over control of the sport in that country. During the hearing a document from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) was presented which stated that as a member of GAISF the IDBF was the world governing body of the sport.

With the acceptance as a member of GAISF and the advisory opinion of CAS there can be no dispute that the IDBF is the World Governing Body of the sport of Dragon Boating. Yet the ICF and National Canoe Federations continue to claim they govern the sport and have created major problems in countries such as the Philippines and Egypt.

International Olympic Committee recognition

The IDBF were invited to apply for recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2009 and submitted its first application. A second was submitted in 2012 and a third in 2016. In 2019 every sport seeking recognition were told they must apply again as the application procedure is being revised and will open again in 2021. It is important to note that all recent discussions with the IOC concerning recognition have focussed on the issues with the ICF.

Recognition by the IOC is important because it would resolve the dispute - there are of course many additional benefits of recognition by the IOC.

Development of dragon boating as we know it

It has been the IDBF that has led the development of the sport from the 14 countries in 1991 to the 80 plus who participate today but also in many other ways including: the rules; boat and paddle specifications; the development of hundreds of festivals worldwide; introduced the small boat to enable new and developing countries to participate in the international arena; created new competition classes in the spirit of Sport for All to ensure that the whole community can participate in World Championships.

Is ICF trying to 'wash ride' on the success of IDBF?

The ICF held their first World Championships for nations in 2005 and have held championships ever since. The ICF in 2018 in Atlanta had approximately 900 participants from 11 countries similar in size to the first IDBF Championship in 1995 where 820 participants from 14 countries competed. The most recent IDBF Championships in Thailand, 2019, had 3345 participants from 30 countries. Are the ICF Dragon Boat Championships making a significant contribution to the development of our sport?

The ICF continue to break agreements as recently as last year for the Asian Games where it had been agreed by everyone that IDBF rules were to be used, only for it to be changed to ICF rules.

The IDBF is not the only International Federation in dispute with the ICF, since they decided unilaterally that all paddle sports, where you face forward, are canoeing such as standup paddle boarding.

Finally, it is clear from recent discussions with the ICF that they wish to be the leader and organiser of the sport in all multi-sport games including the Olympics. Although talks have taken place between the IDBF and the ICF over the last two years it seems further discussions will be unlikely to provide a beneficial outcome.

The IDBF Congress in Pattaya agreed a policy of non-cooperation with the ICF which should be adopted by all the National Federations who are members of the IDBF.

I am saddened that this disagreement has arisen, but intend to find a solution in the best interests of athletes of the dragon boat community of the IDBF so that our athletes can access competitions at the highest level.

Mike Thomas
IDBF President



FASTEST TIMES

BY MIKE THOMAS, IDBF

There were some incredible fast race times in the 14th IDBF World Dragon Boat Championship held in Pattaya. Given these fast times and talks of world records it is worth looking back at times recorded at the IDBF Championships over the past decade.

Before considering the times, it is important to note that there are many factors which affect the times at Championships which makes it difficult to class times as world records but definitely to record as the fastest time at a Championships.

Some of the factors which affect the times are that the racing takes place in natural and purpose-built regatta courses in boats constructed by different manufacturers all of which have slight differences. The depth of the water and wind also has a significant effect on the boat speed through the water.

The following table shows the fastest 5 race times recorded for the Standard Open, Women and Mixed 200m and 500m competition classes.

PREMIER OPEN 200M				
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	China	39.251	1st
Kunming, China	2017	China	39.655	2nd
Racice, Czech Republic	2009	Philippines	40.022	3rd
Racice, Czech Republic	2009	China	40.125	4th
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Thailand	40.33	5th

PREMIER WOMEN 200M				
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Canada	45.958	1st
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	China	46.121	2nd
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Thailand	46.682	3rd
Welland, Canada	2015	Canada	47.428	4th
Welland, Canada	2015	Canada	47.755	5th

PREMIER MIXED 200M				
Welland, Canada	2015	China	42.69	1st
Welland, Canada	2015	Canada	42.748	2nd
Welland, Canada	2015	Chinese Taipei	43.065	3rd
Racice, Czech Republic	2009	Philippines	43.507	4th
Tampa, USA	2011	China	43.828	5th

PREMIER OPEN 500M				
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	China	1.47.823	1st
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Thailand	1.48.746	2nd
Welland, Canada	2015	Thailand	1.48.847	3rd
Welland, Canada	2015	USA	1.49.159	4th
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	China	1.49.396	5th

PREMIER WOMEN 500M				
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Canada	2.00.693	1st
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	USA	2.01.106	2nd
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Canada	2.01.511	3rd
Welland, Canada	2015	Canada	2.02.404	4th
Welland, Canada	2015	Canada	2.02.542	5th

PREMIER MIXED 500M				
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Thailand	1.51.380	1st
Welland, Canada	2015	China	1.52.168	2nd
Pattaya, Thailand	2019	Indonesia	1.52.319	3rd
Welland, Canada	2015	China	1.52.472	4th
Welland, Canada	2015	Thailand	1.53.217	5th

Analysis of the table shows that China hold three of the world's fastest times, Canada two and Thailand one. Five of these times occurred in Pattaya and one in Welland.

When considering the fastest five times the strongest countries are China and Canada who hold between them 19 of the 30 fastest times.

It is also worth noting that the times are getting quicker with teams getting far more competitive.

“ CHINA HOLDS THREE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST TIMES, CANADA TWO AND THAILAND ONE ”

Full Race Results for the 14th World Nations Championships, Pattaya

<https://idbfchamps.org/results.php>

14TH WORLD NATIONS - PATTAYA













PADDLER PROFILES

Dragon boaters, paddlers, racers, athletes, competitors. These are just some of the names that we go by. One thing for sure is that we are passionate about dragon boating. Here are some stories about the paddlers who recently competed at the 14th IDBF World Championships and how they got into the world of dragon boat racing. Thank you to Sue Holloway, Chair of Athletes Commission for compiling the profiles.

THE BAIRD SISTERS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Paddling dragon boat is a family affair for the Baird family. Sisters Charlotte (16), Maddie (13) and Rachel (20) are here with their Mum and Dad who are part of the team management. It all started when Rachel tried dragon boat with her school youth program in 2013. The next year Mum joined the Different Strokes team in Sydney and Dad joined soon after.

The girls participated in many sports when they were young including soccer, netball and swimming (after all they are from Australia)! However, as soon as each sister reached her twelfth birthday they jumped in a boat and started training with the Sydney Zodiacs and now here they all are competing for Australia.

Charlotte, Maddie and Rachel agree that dragon boat offers amazing opportunities for them to travel, train and even work.

According to them, the key to a successful team is having friends and family around to support you. These girls are destined for victory!



From Left to Right: Charlotte, Rachel and Maddie Baird.

THAI YOUTH ATHLETES

THAILAND



Phanga (15) and Uracha (18) are part of the dynamic Thai National Team that is taking these World Championships by storm.

Phanga began paddling only one year ago when her friend brought her to the school club program. Uracha started at 14 as well through the school program. Her teacher told her she was too skinny and that dragon boat would be a good way to get stronger and it has worked!

Both girls said that the reason they dragon boat is to make friends and to travel and that hard practice is the key to success in sport and life!

From Left to Right: Uracha Kamkum and Phanga Datong.

STEPHI MEISTER

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Meet Stephi Meister who is a 32 year old who paddles with DBC Eglisau in Zurich, Switzerland.

Stephi first saw dragon boat paddling when she was living in Melbourne Australia. That was a Monday and she joined the Melbourne Flames on Tuesday!

After returning to Switzerland Stephi joined the National Team program to train for Kunming. Although she started as the team captain, she soon began coaching at her club and with the National Team.

Her first championships were in Bradenburg for the European Championships and now she is coaching here in Pattaya for the World Championships.

Stephi's day job is as a supply chain manager with a large supermarket chain. She knows that to be a successful dragon boater you have to put the team first.



GENT FREDRIKSSON

SWEDEN



When Gent Fredriksson was an infant in Sweden his father took him out for his first boating experience in a kayak.

While this is rather unusual it is not surprising when you know that his father was a multiple Olympic Gold Medalist and dominated the kayaking world for almost three decades.

Although Gent did not follow in his father's footsteps right away he has found his way to watersports through dragon boat. While working out in the gym on the paddle erg someone noticed his strength and suggested he join the local dragon boat team.

What appeals to Gent about dragon boat is the supportive and encouraging community. As a senior paddler he really appreciates how the team motivates him to stay fit. "No one wants to be the worst on the team!"

LIFE BEFORE DRAGON BOAT

CANADA

For many athletes here dragon boat is their first high performance sport experience but for these Premier paddlers from Canada they already have competed at a high level in another sport.

Jeanette Lim, 22, grew up in Vancouver where she ran sprints and competed at the national level. She has found the discipline from athletics transfers over to dragon boat. Balancing training and competition with school and life are the same regardless of the sport. The best part of dragon boat is being a team of 20 with diverse backgrounds but shared determination. It is not just about you!

Many Canadians start skiing at a young age and that was the case for **Mark Singer**. After years on the slopes around Ottawa he ended up competing in the Whistler Cup and on the FIS circuit. In the summer he was invited to join friends at the canoe club and began a very successful canoeing career that landed him at the Junior World Championships in 2003. Mark transitioned to dragon boat in 1990 and has raced for Canada at the World Championships in 2017 and 2019. More recently Mark has opened a cross fit gym and he ranks in the top 150 in Canada.

Noelannah Neubauer began her sport career as a gymnast and competed at the national level in vault and floor, the power events! A personal trainer recognised her strength and recruited her to the local dragon boat club. Her first attempt at making the national team was in 2015 and she succeeded after only a year of training! However she claims it was because of her muscle not her technique! Although Noelannah has recently completed her PhD in rehabilitative science, she says the rest of the team is equally well educated and that builds a bond between members.

Émilie Larivière is constantly in motion! She started running competitively in high school and excelled at the short distances. The highlight of her track career was participating in the Junior World Championships where she had an impressive showing. When she moved to Ottawa to attend university she focused on her studies and returned to the track after graduation. However injuries lead her to look for other competitive opportunities. A timely invitation to join a dragon boat team turned into a new sporting life on the water! Émilie has represented Canada at five World Championships, two World Cups, and three Club Crew World Championships with the Galley Girls. In addition, she competes in outrigger and has raced the Na Wahine O Ke Kai in Hawaii.



From Left to Right: Jeanette Lim, Mark Singer, Noelannah Neubauer, Aaron Rublee, and Emilie Lariviere of the Canadian Premier Team.

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