



INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

國際龍舟聯合會

The World Governing Body of Dragon Boat Sport



Competition Regulation – IDBF interpretation of the art. CR4.3 Club Crews

In IDBF Championships for Club Crews a Racer can only represent one Dragon Boat Crew. See Bye Law 12.3 for the definition of a Dragon Boat Club Crew. The rules for National Crew Representation need not apply but all competitors must have been bona fide members of the Dragon Boat Crew that they represent, for at least SIX (6) months before the Club Crew Championships in question. CR 4.3.1. A bona fide Club Member is one that has regularly trained and/or competed for the Club Crew that they represent during the minimum period of six months shown in 4.3. A bona fide Club Member will normally be resident in the Country in which the Club Crew is located. A Club Member who trains and competes with a Club Crew from a different Country or Territory or a geographical Region within a Country to the one in which the Club Member himself (or herself) is normally domiciled, will only be considered as a bona fide Club Member if they can prove that they have physically attended their Club to train or compete for a period of at least twelve (12) weeks, over a minimum period of two (2) racing seasons. (Nov 06)

The intention of the IDBF Ex. Com interpretation is to protect IDBF and its Members from grey areas and gossip.

The IDBF interpretation is a guideline for Americans, European, Oceanians and paddlers from all over the world to reduce grey areas as much as possible.

The purpose of Paragraph 2 of Rule 4.3.1 is to avoid “**super crews**”.

This interpretation is important for two reasons.

First, it remains consistent with our intent of requiring a time commitment by bona fide members of a club.

A bona-fide member is someone who shows, loyalty, commitment. Bona-fide means ‘in good faith’. An athlete who can demonstrate some form of commitment to paddling with the club for which they are a member or representing.

Second, this interpretation protects the previously established bona fide membership of any non-local members who had lived and trained locally with the club. This interpretation also protects any previously bona fide, non-local members who need to take time away from our sport due to pregnancy, injury, employment loss, etc. In any of these cases, the athlete would need to have trained at least twelve weeks over at least two racing seasons, previously, to be considered bona fide.

For example, if an athlete took time off in 2022 to have a child, then returned to the sport in 2024, the IDBF should think this to be a plausible reason, as they can demonstrate training/membership (6 months prior) when returning to the sport. The same scenario could apply if someone had experienced a shoulder injury and took a season off to recover – another valid reason, which could be easily demonstrated and justified.

The regulation clearly says, ‘*over a minimum period of two racing seasons*’.

It does not say ‘*two consecutive seasons*’ so the interpretation is clear, the two racing seasons can be separated, which caters for paddlers who move for work or personal reasons between different countries and be members of a club in both countries over a period and then compete for one of them at a CCWC.

The regulation also allows paddlers in just one country being members of more than one Club in their own country, at the same time, but they can only compete for one of their clubs at a CCWC.

The IDBF Secretary General, on behalf of the Ex. Com, will write to all the National Federations (who are supposed to be endorsing their clubs) to inform about the correct interpretation of art. 4.3.1, asking them to confirm that they will comply with this interpretation and ensure that their clubs comply when they are recruiting crew members. This is important for integrity of National Federations.

IDBF is a member of:

