



Race Day Information

Dragon Boat Race day is Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 7am.

The event is rain or shine. In the event of unsafe weather racing may be delayed and/or shortened.

7:00 a.m. The festival venue, North Riverfront Park, at 121 West St., Springfield MA 01104, opens

8:15 - Mandatory Captains meeting in the Marshalling area with race officials. All teams must send one representative to this meeting.

8:45 - Opening ceremony.

9:00 - Races commence. All team Captains must have checked in at registration to receive wristbands.

**Complete schedule of events can be found here: [SDBF](#)
(www.pvriverfront.org/dragon-boat-festival)**

The Registration Tent will provide the location of your Team's tent site.

All Teams should have full rosters registered by July 11, 2026. Any changes must be presented to the Head of Registration on site by 8:00 a.m. the day of the race. Any last minute Club team roster changes must be cleared with 22 Dragons (following all ERDBA rules.)

Parking is available off Route 20 behind the new Starbuck's in a grass lot. For GPS use 101 West Street Springfield MA 01104. All race participants must park as directed by the Volunteer Parking attendants. This is required by the City of Springfield. Overflow parking will be available at 105 Avocado Street, Springfield MA 01104. Look for parking signs.

Springfield Dragon Boat Festival

Parking Information



Please bring no larger than a 10' x 10' tent to put up in your Team's assigned site to shelter your team from heat and/or rain. You will be outside during your race sessions. Please bring what you need in order to be

comfortable. You are encouraged to decorate or brand your site to your liking.

A Flower Ceremony for Cancer Survivors will occur prior to the medal ceremony.

Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.

Dogs and other pets will not be allowed on site on race day, unless your pet is a certified service animal. We ask that you leave your pets at home.

Lost and found will be at the Information Tent at the boathouse.

If equipment is damaged or lost through the willful, reckless, or negligent actions of a person or Team, that person or Team is responsible for reimbursing 22Dragons or the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club.

Racing Information

New for 2026: Racecourse length is 500 meters for Club teams, 200 meters for Community teams. The finish line is the same for both racecourse lengths. The starting line for 500 meter races is DOWNSTREAM from the 200 meter starting line. All Dragon Boats race upstream.

Boats, PFDs, and paddles will be provided for those that need them. If paddlers are using their personal PFD and paddle it must be approved by 22Dragons. Both can be checked in the marshaling area by a 22Dragons official. All personal paddles must be dragon boat paddles. Only USCG approved life vests will be approved.

PFDs are required to be worn at all times while on the dock or in the Dragon Boat.

Teams must report to the Marshalling area at least 15 minutes prior to the estimated start time of their race.

Teams go to the dock when instructed by Race Officials/Dock Staff to board the Dragon Boat assigned to them.

Once paddlers are on the boat, the Steersperson is responsible for the boat. Everyone in the Dragon Boat will listen to and follow the instructions from the Steersperson.

The Starter will have complete control of the race prior to the start.

Only the Steersperson will communicate with the Starter.

The starting line will be marked with buoys.

Before each start, the Starter will align the boats. The starter will communicate with the steersperson and the steersperson will give paddlers commands.

The commands the Starter will give to start the race are: We have alignment....Attention..... then horn will sound and that will start the race. (If a horn is not available a verbal command will be given). The time between the commands will vary, paddlers will need to be ready to go once they hear, "We have alignment."

If a false start occurs, the starter will sound the horn twice and raise a red flag. The Dragon Boats will return to the start line. The Team that had the false start will be given a 2-second penalty. Two false starts by the same Team in the same race shall result in a forfeit in that race.

Each Dragon Boat drummer must be engaged in drumming only. Active Drumming is strongly encouraged but not required. Each Dragon Boat must maintain a proper course during the race. The proper course is a straight line from the starting position to a corresponding point on the finish line with at

least two meters of clear water between Dragon Boats. Each Dragon Boat must remain in its lane and must not interfere with other Dragon Boats.

Teams will be assessed a 5-second penalty or disqualified if they deviate from their racing lane or impede other Teams. Race officials have final say.

If there is a collision or a lane violation between two or more boats and it materially affects the results of the race, the race officials may order one or more Dragon Boats to re-race with or without the offending Team. The offending boat may be disqualified if the race officials deem it necessary.

The race officials have complete discretion to assess a 5-second penalty, or disqualify a time for any of the following:

Violating rules

Demonstrating poor sportsmanship, conduct, or behavior

Willfully, recklessly, or negligently damaging or losing equipment

Disobeying reasonable requests or instructions made by officials or their designees.

If a Team wishes to challenge or object to anything that happens during a race, this challenge must be communicated by the Team Captain to the chief official at the finish line tent within 20 minutes of the time of the incident they wish to protest.

If a Team wishes to challenge anything that happens after a race, this challenge must be communicated by the Team Captain to the chief official at the finish line tent within 20 minutes of the time of the incident they wish to protest.

Awards

Awards will be given out for:

Community Challenge Teams: First, Second, Third

Club Teams: First, Second, Third

Top ACS Team

Top BCS Team

Top All Womens Team

