



**DRAGON BOAT CANADA  
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## **Memo to Dragon Boat Canada Membership**

### **Re: International Canoe Federation World Dragon Boat Championships and Club Crew World Championships**

Dragon Boat Canada members,

Recently information was circulated by Canoe Kayak Canada regarding athlete selection for the International Canoe Federation World Dragon Boat Championships this August, and Canoe Kayak Canada's bid to host the 2011 International Canoe Federation's Dragon Boat Club Crew World Championships. Canoe Kayak Canada and the International Canoe Federation are the national and international sport organizations representing sprint, whitewater, and marathon canoe/kayak racing. This information was brought to our attention by members common to both Dragon Boat Canada and Canoe Kayak Canada who were confused and concerned over this second set of dragon boat championship races.

Their concerns are obvious: Other sport organizations trying to do something that has long been done by the International Dragon Boat Federation and Dragon Boat Canada will divide the paddling population, and waste resources that could best be used by each paddle sport focusing on its own specific paddle sport.

Founded in 1991, The International Dragon Boat Federation is the international body responsible for governing the sport of dragon boat as recognized by Sport Accord (Formerly known as the General Association of International Sport Federations, or GAISF). Sport Accord is the International organization representing all sports, both Olympic, and non-Olympic. Dragon Boat Canada is the International Dragon Boat Federation's Canadian member.

The International Dragon Boat Federation has been organizing Club Crew World Championships and World Nations Championships on alternate years since 1995. Dragon Boat Canada was founded in 1993 and has been organizing National Team Trials since 2000 and National Championships since 2004. Dragon Boat Canada seeks to serve the entirety of Canada's dragon boat community. This includes the many types of elite and recreational clubs, charities, cultural groups, enterprises and other community organizations that represent the nearly 80,000 paddlers and over 130 races and festivals in Canada. All of these groups are interdependent, and their synergy is what has made dragon boat racing the success it is today

Dragon Boat Canada recognizes that a number of its coaches and athletes are also members of Canoe Kayak Canada and that these members enjoy working with both organizations. Dragon Boat Canada is a strong supporter of Canoe Clubs who use dragon boating as a means of fundraising, and fostering growth and development for sprint canoe/kayak programs.

Dragon Boat Canada firmly believes that each paddle sport is best served by its own international and national organizations that can devote all of their energy and resources into their particular sport. The International Canoe Federation's failure to recognize the International Dragon Boat Federation as the international governing body for the sport of dragon boating despite its acceptance to Sport Accord in 2007, its repeated attempts to block the International Dragon Boat Federation from inclusion in Sport Accord prior to 2007, and its attempts to establish competing world championship events in 2006 after seeing the popularity of dragon boat, make it impossible for Dragon Boat Canada to support the International Canoe Federation's dragon boat initiatives.

It is our continued hope reconciliation will be reached with regards to the governance of our sport. We believe strongly that paddlers in both canoe/kayak and dragon boat would like to see cooperation between all of our organizations given the obvious potential for mutual benefit in working together.

Yours Truly,

Matthew Smith  
President – Dragon Boat Canada  
On behalf of the Dragon Boat Canada Board of Directors