

DRAGONS ABREAST AUSTRALIA POLICY REGISTER

POLICY NO. 2/2006 – OFFICIAL COMPETITION

APPROVAL BASIS: Approved by National Executive 5 May 2006

RATIONALE

In a relatively short time Dragons Abreast involvement with dragon boating has grown exponentially from a pink presence to bring awareness of breast cancer and encourage survivors to have a go, to where our paddlers represent the whole spectrum of athletic ability and achievement in the sport. Today a number of Dragons Abreast members compete at the elite level nationally and internationally. This is not surprising, as dragon boating is a highly competitive sport and the essence of Dragons Abreast is to support and encourage survivors to achieve beyond their expectations.

Dragons Abreast has been fortunate over the years to have received wonderful support from the sport's peak bodies at state, national and international level. The fact that a number of breast cancer survivors who have developed through Dragons Abreast are now numbered in the sport's top performers is a tribute to dragon boating's ongoing belief and support for us as more than a sympathetic cause.

Part of the challenge of achieving this level is that Dragons Abreast accepts that at national and state level competition we must compete on the same basis as mainstream dragon boat clubs and crews. Not only is this the best for the sport it is also the only way that we can encourage our members to be the best they possibly can.

On the premise that AusDBF National Titles are the elite level of racing in Australia it is considered inappropriate that Dragons Abreast have their own category of racing at this elite level. Dragons Abreast may compete at National titles provided they are able to field full crews from within their own group and compete under the same rules that apply to all other dragon boat crews in Australia.

The following rules regarding DAA team compilation apply only to **AusDBF National Titles and IDBF competitions** – or where the organizers of the event decide they wish to follow these rules. At Masters Games, Pan Pacs, Chinese New Year and various other regattas where the emphasis is participation rather than competition, composite teams will be allowed and in fact highly encouraged as a sign of alliance with fellow Dragons Abreast members – both survivors and supporters.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Dragons Abreast Australia is committed to:

- abiding by the rules of competition as laid down by the relevant peak bodies;
- encouraging and supporting Dragons Abreast members to participate and achieve their personal goal;
- not denigrating the breast cancer journey by using survivor status for advantage in competition; and
- recognizing that striving for athletic excellence is an integral part of any competitive sport.

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RULES

- At State and National level competition, Dragons Abreast will compete as entire teams as per their registration with the relevant peak body and not as composite DA teams comprising members of more than one Dragons Abreast member group.
- In conjunction with AusDBF/Dragons Abreast agreement the Flowers on the Water ceremony will continue to be held at the AusDBF National Titles and will include all survivors, whether competitors at the event or not.
- The Flowers on the Water ceremony will also include, where possible, all supporter members of Dragons Abreast.
- At State and National level competitions Dragons Abreast will show its support for the event by actively helping, as required, with official responsibilities.