

DRAGONS ABREAST AUSTRALIA POLICY REGISTER

POLICY NO. 1/2006 – SURVIVOR/SUPPORTER POLICY

APPROVAL BASIS: Approved by National Executive 5 May 2006

RATIONALE

The ability of Dragons Abreast to continue providing a means for engaging survivors of breast cancer and ensuring that breast cancer remains high on the national agenda is dependent upon the support of our sponsors, supporters and the public. “Supporters” have a number of different roles. These range from our major sponsors who provide the much needed financial support, at both national and group level; the many people and organisations who work for us, fundraising or supporting at regattas; other members of the dragon boat fraternity (and sorority); and the many people who host pink parties, buy our merchandise or simply buy a ticket in a raffle in support of Dragons Abreast (DA).

“Supporters” also include many members of Dragons Abreast who, while they have not personally been diagnosed with breast cancer, are active paddler members of DA because they are close to someone who has experienced breast cancer or another form of cancer, or who simply feel passionate about the breast cancer cause. These members make an important contribution to DA groups and have helped DA develop to the force it is today.

The high profile of DA leaves the organisation vulnerable to anyone who may wish to take advantage of the image for other than the values which we espouse in our aims and mission. For this reason a number of areas of national policy have been reviewed and tightened to protect the organisation from this. In the public eye, the pink paddlers mean breast cancer and to most of the public, we are all survivors and it is assumed that all member groups espouse the same values for which DAA has become known.

DEFINITIONS

A breast cancer **survivor** is a person who:

- has been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer; OR
- undergone prophylactic mastectomy because of a medically identified predisposition to develop breast cancer.

A **paddling supporter** is an active paddling member of Dragons Abreast who has not been diagnosed with cancer.

BCS = breast cancer survivor

GUIDELINES

While all member groups will establish their own guidelines for membership dependent on local conditions, based on the national policy and conforming to established race rules, a basic requirement for a group to maintain DAA membership will be that:

- a majority of its committee are survivors; and
- that the position of coordinator is held by a survivor.

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As a result of the continued growth of Dragons Abreast and the increased number of supporters choosing to join our organisation, in order to maintain the survivor majority, some groups have restricted the supporter numbers to immediate family members. They have encouraged other women who are interested in dragon boating to join other local clubs. Another strategy employed has been to develop a second crew paddling under a different name to Dragons Abreast.

Racing and Regattas

1. Part of strengthening the organisation is to identify active paddlers who are survivors and those who are supporters, to ensure that we keep faith with financial supporters and, more importantly, do not leave the organisation vulnerable to accusations of false representation.
2. Any crew racing as Dragons Abreast must consist of 100% survivor paddlers, with the exception of the sweep, who may, for reasons of safety, be a supporter drawn from a sweep pool, if there are no breast cancer survivor sweeps available.
3. Where there are more survivors present than can fit in one boat it may frequently be possible for them to still paddle at regattas, apart from at the AusDBF National Titles, in composite DA boats. DA supporter members may also be part of a supporter composite crew. These crews will paddle under a different name, not Dragons Abreast e.g. Pink Passion, Tickled Pink.
4. Crews of 100% supporters, or a mixture of supporters and survivors, can be formed depending on who is available on the day. Such crews cannot compete in a DA Challenge race, but are free to compete in other categories of racing. This ensures that there is no confusion or misrepresentation in the public mind between breast cancer survivor crews and any other crews we may field.
5. Dragons Abreast has always stated that while our paddling supporters are important to us, survivors must come first. DA will continue, where possible, to include paddling supporters at regattas by entering other categories of races. However, participation in those races identified as BCS will be limited to survivors only.
6. Member groups are responsible for deciding their own rules with regard to participation by paddling supporters, within the overall national policy, dependent upon local circumstances. Each group should have their rules clearly stated in their information and membership forms.