



2017 USDBF Club Crew National Championships

Mercer County Park, 1638 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, NJ 08550

September 16th and 17th, 2017

Invitation and Informational Bulletin 1

Message from the 2nd Vice President

Hi all,

The 2017 USDBF Club Crew National Dragon Boat Championships are coming up quick! We have been busy preparing for the National Club Crew Event. Club Crews from across the US will come to Nationals at Mercer Country Park in West Windsor, NJ on September 16th and 17th to battle for the title of National Champion in their respective division. The winning crew for each division will win a berth for the 2018 IDBF Club Crew World Championships (CCWCs) held in Szeged, Hungary. Paddlers from under 18 to over 60 years old will be competing. The event is open to all club teams to compete in a National Championship. We will be hosting all divisions and urge all teams to participate. The Championships will be conducted in conjunction with the Walgreens Mercer County Dragon Boat Festival.

We are so excited to be working with GWN to bring you an amazing dragon boat racing experience. It has been a pleasure to grow this event, collaborating together with the folks at GWN in the true spirit of dragon boat teamwork. The USDBF and GWN are working hard put together an event that showcases the amazing paddling skills of club crews across the USA on an outstanding race course.

Enjoy the excitement of preparing for fabulous racing. We look forward to seeing you at Mercer County Park paddling strong and determined, down to the finish!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at usdbfkeith@outlook.com.

Sincerely,
Keith Taylor
2nd Vice President, USDBF



USDBF Club Crew National Championships

Contacts are:

| USDBF | GWN Dragon Boat |
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| Keith Taylor | Carolyn Lee |
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The 2017 CCNC are for true club teams based in the United States. A club team is defined as any crew that regularly practices and races together. All members of the club must reside close enough to practice regularly with the club and hold membership with the club for at least six months prior to 2017 CCNC. If your club has members with addresses that do not appear to be from the same area as the club, be prepared to send documentation to justify their inclusion along with the roster, in advance, based on the above requirements. We will follow the IDBF guidelines regarding club membership.

Please see the IDBF regulations below

4.3 Club Crews. *In IDBF Championships for **Club Crews** a Racer can only represent one Dragon Boat 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. 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 or of at least twelve (12) weeks, over a minimum period of two (2) racing seasons. (Nov 06)*

This year, the National Champions will be decided based on 200, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 meter races. The 2017 CCNC will be conducted under the IDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing. The IDBF requirement that the steersperson for BCS teams be a member of the BCS division will NOT be enforced. Teams will be awarded points based on performance in each competition class (distance).

In addition, there will be an event for BCS crews. In recognition of Dana Nelson, the BCS Cup Challenge will be continued. Dana's contribution to the BCS division is well known, and this is a Memorial Cup that will be given each year in her honor. This will recognize the National Champion in the BCS division. The winner of the Memorial Cup must be a full BCS crew (paddlers, drummer and steer). In some regions, BCS crews also allow supporters. Supporters must be members of the crew with whom they are racing. These crews can race in the BCS division, but the Memorial Cup will be reserved for all-BCS crews only.



USDBF Club Crew National Championship Races

| | Racing Distances |
|--|------------------------|
| Mixed (Crews must contain a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) of each gender) | 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 |
| Open (no restrictions) | 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 |
| Women's (all female crew) | 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 |
| Breast Cancer Survivors | 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 |

* The 2017 CCNC will support age related racing classes. If your club has a Senior or Junior crew, please indicate this on the provisional entry form. We will do our best to accommodate all crews, but racing classes with fewer than three entries may be combined.

** The BCS teams will be consulted on the racing classes and distances. Multiple divisions are possible if enough crews enter. BCS teams are also eligible to race in Open and Women's divisions if they so choose.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Inflatable PFDs WILL be allowed for use during the CCNC Racing.

[The 2017 CCNC will follow the IDBF regulations for age classes.](#)

Senior Class

Races will be held for Mixed or Single gender crews or in Open Competition. With the exception of the Drummer, all competitors must be aged as follows:

- For Senior A classes, paddlers must be 40 as of 6/1/18.
- For Senior B classes, paddlers must be 50 as of 6/1/18.
- For Senior C classes, paddlers must be 60 as of 6/1/18.

Junior Class

Races will be held for Single or Mixed gender crews or in Open Competition. With the exception of the Steersperson (Helm) the following age categories will apply to the Junior Class:

- For the Club Crew Junior U18 class, paddlers must be under 18 but over 12 as of 6/1/18.
 - (10 age waivers for U-18 per crew).
- For the Club Crew Junior U16 class, paddlers must be under 16 but over 12 as of 6/1/18.
- For the Club Crew Junior U24 class, paddlers must be under 24 but over 18 as of 6/1/18.

Multiple Rostering and Cross Event Participation

Club Divisions – Participants may race with only one club at the 2017 CNCC. A participant may be on more than one crew within that club, but in no case will racing be held up to allow the transfer of a participant from one crew to another. Shared steerspersons and drummers will be allowed on a case by case basis. In no case will races be held up to allow the transfer of participants from one boat to another.



Race Fees

Registration is now open. Teams can register by visiting the GWN registration site (gwndragonboat.com/registration), selecting the 2017 USDBF Club Crew National Championships under Events

Each team will compete in 8 races over 2 days: 3 x 500m, 3 x 200m, 1 x 1,000 and 1 x 2,000m. Registration fees include one practice and a 10x10 tent rental. Team and rental fees are in USD and no taxes charged.

The following race classes will be contested:

- U16 (Mixed, Women, Open)
- U18 (Mixed, Women, Open)
- U24 (Mixed, Women, Open)
- Premier (Mixed, Women, Open)
- Senior A, B, C (Mixed, Women, Open)
- Breast Cancer Survivor

USDBF Club Crew National Championships

Registration includes 10x10 tent and 1 practice

| CCNC Categories | Races | Before Jan 1 st | Before June 1 st | After June 1 st |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mixed, Women, Open, BCS | 8 | \$1,345.00 | \$1,445.00 | \$1,545.00 |

Registration Add-Ons

Each team registered for the 2017 CCNC will receive a 10x10 team tent, within the Athletes' Village (Main), as part of their entry.

Team sites in the Main Athletes' Village are available for reservation on a first-come, first-served basis. Teams must contact GWN to book their site after they have registered for the festival and paid fees in full.

** Teams wanting to upgrade their rented tent, order tables and/or chairs, can place an order using the Online Crew Management Tool by clicking "Get More". Note: Only Team Captains have access to upgrades and rentals. More details can be found on the GWN website under Athletes' Village.

| Product | Price (USDBF CCNC) |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 10' x 10' Tent | Included with Entry |
| 10' x 20' Tent | \$125.00 |
| 20' x 20' Tent | \$225.00 |
| Chair Rental | \$5.00 |
| Table Rental | \$15.00 |



Attention Team Captains / Team Managers

Only one person can register a team online. They are known as the team captain. This person will be in charge of managing the team's registration and will be the key contact for bookings and festival communications.

For all early bird registrations, full payment must be received in full 15 days after the end of the early bird date, i.e. for registrations received before January 1st, payment must be received in full by January 15th 2017.

Booking Practices

Practices for the 2017 CCNC will be held at the event site, on Friday September 15th. Available timeslots for Club crews will be confirmed.

Mercer County Park, east of the Marina
1638 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Practices can only be confirmed once registration fees are received in full.

Each paddler must complete an online waiver before attending a practice. A GWN representative will be on site to check teams in, provide assistance, and collect waivers.

For more information on what to bring, etc. visit the GWN [FAQ Page](#).

Equipment such as paddles and lifejackets will be provided if needed. Teams should arrive at the park at least 30 minutes before their practice time. A GWN representative will be on-site to check teams in, provide assistance and to collect waivers.

Identification

Club Crew participants must be prepared to show government-issued ID at the event. Junior participants may provide a copy of their birth certificate or other official document showing birth date and name in lieu of government-issued ID.

Event Location

Site Address

Mercer County Park, east of the Marina
1638 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550



Accommodations

Room blocks have been secured for Walgreens Mercer County Dragon Boat Festival and 2017 USDBF CCNC participants at the following hotel properties:

Westin Princeton Forrestal Village

201 Village Blvd
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: (609) 452-7900

Group Name: Mercer County Dragon Boat Festival

Group Rate: \$139 per night plus applicable taxes

Room Block Deadline: August 14, 2017

Reservations: Book [online](#)



Residence Inn Princeton at Carnegie Center

3563 US Route 1
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: (609) 799-0550

Group Name: Dragon Boat Races

Group Rate: \$139 per night plus applicable taxes

Room Block Deadline: August 14, 2017

Reservations: Book [online](#) or call 609-799-0550 and quote group name.





Crowne Plaza Princeton

900 Scudders Mill Road

Princeton, NJ 08536

Phone: (609) 936-4200

Group Name: GWN Dragon Boat Festival - Mercer County Park

Group Rate: \$109 (King) and \$129 (Double Queens) per night plus applicable taxes

Room Block Deadline: August 15, 2017

Reservations: Call 1-877-424-4188 and quote group name.



If your team requires special assistance acquiring accommodations, please contact GWN Dragon Boat.

Rental Cars

Discount rates have been negotiated with Hertz Rent-a-Car for Walgreens Major League Dragon Boat participants.

Reservations

To book your vehicle, please click [here](#) or call 1-800-654-2240 and quote our **CV#052D0001**. At the time of reservation, meeting rates will be automatically compared to other Hertz rates and the best rate will apply.

Airlines

GWN is proud to offer Walgreens Major League Dragon Boat participants discounts on flights with United Airlines.

Participants can save 5% - 10% airfares if travelling within US 50 States and between US 50 States and Canada.

United Airlines

To book your travel, visit united.com and enter meeting code **ZXN5441303** in the Promotions field.



Preliminary Program Outline

(Subject to change)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Friday September 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Crew teams arrive • Registration • Practices for Crews at event site (times to be confirmed) • Race Officials training • Drumming clinic |
| Saturday September 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • 500m heats, semi-finals and finals • 1,000m races |
| Sunday September 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200m heats, semi-finals and finals • 2,000m races |

Websites

- www.USDBF.org
- www.gwndragonboat.com/mercer

Local Attractions

- <http://www.visitnj.org/nj/west-windsor/attractions>