



际 龙 舟 联 合 会
INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION
'The World Governing Body for Dragon Boating'
www.idbf.org
Full Member of SportAccord - the World Union of International Sports Federations'



To: National Sport's Authorities

THE FORMAL RECOGNISED INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES FOR THE SPORT AND RECREATION OF DRAGON BOATING WORLD-WIDE.

I write to apprise you on the governance of Dragon Boating Internationally and Nationally. There are four distinct areas of sport governance that together determine the formal recognition of a Sport's Governing Bodies, namely:-

1. the governance & recognition of the Sport at world level;
2. the governance & recognition of the Sport at continental level;
3. the governance & recognition of the Sport at National level;
4. the right of sports organisations at all levels to hold 'championships' in their Sport.

1. The Governance & Recognition of Dragon Boating at World level.

The convention in Sport is that normally there is only one organisation at National and International levels for each Sport recognised by government agencies and multi-sports organisations.

This convention holds true for International Sports Federations (ISFs) applying for membership of and recognition by SportAccord and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Both organisations will only admit one ISF for each Sport and each acknowledges their Member ISFs as being the world governing body (authority) for their Sports'

The International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) formally constituted in 1991, was recognised by SportAccord (then the GAISF) as the independent Federation for Dragon Boating in 1999 and the IDBF was admitted into Full Membership of SportAccord (GAISF) in 2007.

THE IDBF AS AN ISF. Since 1991, the IDBF has formulated the Sport's Racing Rules and Competition Regulations, Water Safety Procedures and both Coaches and Race Officials Training Schemes, as well as developing proprietary equipment for the Sport. This equipment, is provided by a network of more than 50 IDBF Licensed Boat and Paddle makers and used by all Dragon Boat organizations in the world today.

This includes the International Canoe Federation (ICF) who accepted the status of the IDBF as the Sport's world governing body in 2003 and who, since 2005, have run a small Dragon Boat programme exclusively for those of their own Members interested in Dragon Boat Racing.

There are currently 84 Nations and Territories in IDBF Membership, with nearly 60 IDBF Affiliated Dragon Boat Festivals and Event Organisers. The IDBF Calendar lists over 200 IDBF sanctioned and recognised events.

The 2014 IDBF World Cup, held in Fuzhou, China, attracted over 300,000 spectators and an estimated 8 million TV viewers, whilst the 2014 Club Crew World Championships in Ravenna, Italy attracted over 5400 participants from 27 Countries competing in over 140 Dragon Boat Crews.

The recognition and status of the IDBF as the only World Governing Body for the Sport was confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in 2008.

The decisions of SportAccord (GAISF) and the IDBF's status were accepted too by the IOC Sports Dept in 2009 and as a result the IDBF was sent the application forms for recognition as an IOC ISF.

The process of the IDBF becoming an IOC recognized federation is ongoing and subject to 54 qualifying criteria being met. This process is expected to be completed by December 2016, at the latest.

Documentary proof of the above developments, available on request, are – the IDBF/ICF Joint Agreement - 2003. The GAISF/SportAccord Membership Certificate - 2007. The CAS Opinion - 2008. IOC letter - 2009 and Email - Aug 2014. Dragon Boat Sport 2013 – IDBF Pamphlet.

2. The Governance & Recognition of Dragon Boating at Continental level.

The IDBF has established Continental Dragon Boat Federations for Asia (ADBF), Africa (DBFA), Europe (EDBF), Oceania (ODBF) and Pan America (PANAMDBF). The ADBF and EDBF have regularly held Continental Championships since the early 1990's.

In 2005 the ADBF was formally recognised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) as the Continental Federation for the Sport in Asia and the IDBF Asian Continental Federation.

Dragon Boating has been included regularly in the South East Asian Games, the East Asian Games, the Asian Beach Games in 2008 and the Asian Games in 2010. In all these Multi Sports Games, Dragon Boat Racing is held under IDBF Rules and Regulations and the entries and competitions come under the jurisdiction of the ADBF. At the 2010 Asian Games, Dragon Boat Racing attracted the biggest TV viewing figures of all the Sports in the Games.

Documentary proof of the above, available on request, are :- OCA letters of 2005 & 2007. The OCA Constitution & Regulations. Extracts from the regulations of the 2010 Asian Games.

3. The Governance & Recognition of the Sport at National level.

By virtue of the recognition of the IDBF by SportAccord and their Membership of the IDBF and the IDBF Continental Federations, the IDBF Members are de facto the Governing Bodies for Dragon Boating at National level.

In most International Federations, some of their National Federations represent more than one Sport or disciplines of a Sport. This is the case too within the IDBF Membership where a small number of our Members are also Rowing and or Canoeing Federations - such as Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.

This does not present a problem for the IDBF, as generally such IDBF Members will choose to do their international dragon boating with the IDBF, Rowing with FISA and Canoeing with the ICF, even though nationally they may combine these Sports for National Championships.

4. The right of sports organisations at all levels to hold 'championships' in their Sports or in a discipline of their Sport.

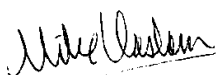
To be accepted as a SportAccord Member (and for IOC recognition) an ISF has to prove that it governs a distinct and separate Sport from other ISFs and are not in conflict with any other ISF over the Sport they govern. The IDBF has met these criteria in regard to SportAccord membership and the IOC accepts that Dragon Boating is a distinct Sport with its own unique history and culture - a criteria for IOC recognition.

Such recognition by SportAccord (or the IOC) is within the protocols of International Sports Organisations only. There is no legal ruling that says an ISF can only organise its own Sport or disciplines of its Sport. So any ISF can organise any sport it chooses, as well as its own and can give the title of 'championships' to any sport that it organises. The same rationale applies at Regional and National levels. The IDBF does not object to other Sports Federations holding their own Dragon Boat Championships.

Having said the above, for Dragon Boating the IDBF, its Continental Federations and its Members at National level, are the only recognised Governing Bodies for the Sport, as determined by the membership protocols of SportAccord and the IOC recognition process, and as clarified by the CAS in 2008.

The IDBF's policy therefore, is that in line with these protocols for recognising ISFs, the only legitimate 'World', 'Continental' or 'National' Dragon Boat Championships for the Sport, are those organised by the IDBF, its Continental Federations and the IDBF Member National Organisations.

As regards the democratic 'ownership' of the Sport, it is the participants in a Sport who own it and decide who the governing bodies are, at all levels, for their Sport. For the participants in Dragon Boating that is the IDBF and its Members, **as recorded in the 2007 IDBF Participants' Survey, copied below.**



Mike MacKeddie-Haslam
IDBF President.

1 October 2014.

2007 DRAGON BOAT PARTICIPANTS SURVEY

The IDBF commissioned open survey concerning Dragon Boat Sport was conducted via three websites and various email groups. In the first month upwards of 2000 paddlers responded. In addition to demographic information on dragon boat participants the survey covered representation within the sport and in multi-sports bodies.

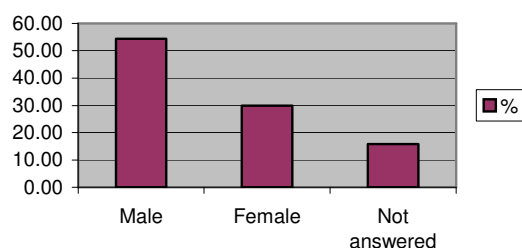
90% listed the IDBF as the World Governing Body for dragon boating. 4% listed the ICF (International Canoe Federation) and 6% listed other sports bodies such as the GAISF; National Rowing Associations and the International Rafting Federation or said unknown.

90% of respondents also said that the ICF has no mandate from the majority of dragon boat paddlers to represent dragon boat sport. Despite the conflict in Germany for control of the sport, dragon boat athletes in Germany - 18% of respondents, also clearly support the IDBF and the German Dragon Boat Federation - DDV, as their dragon boat representatives.

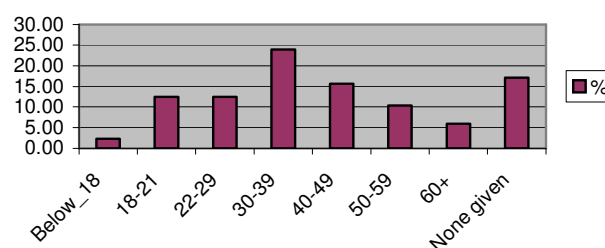
94% of Dragon boaters support the IDBF view that cooperation with other paddle sports is beneficial as long as one paddle sport does not dominate all others. This desire for cooperation comes despite the fact that **only 13% of dragon boat paddlers also take part in canoeing or kayaking, 5% in outrigger racing, 2% in rowing and 1% in rafting.**

Over 89% would like to see the IDBF take the next step, after GAISF Membership and become an IOC recognized International Sports Federation (ISF).

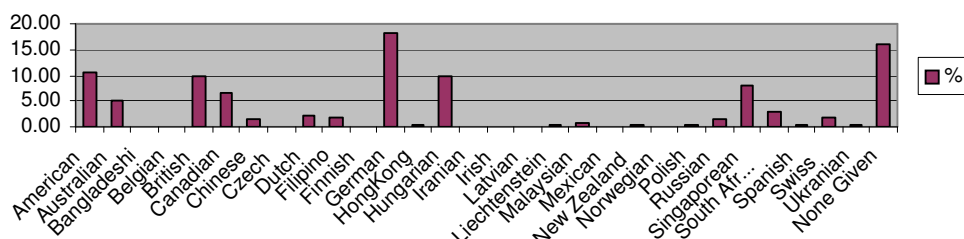
Are you Male - Female



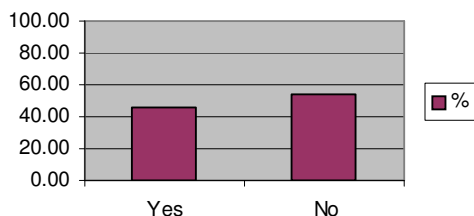
What is your age group



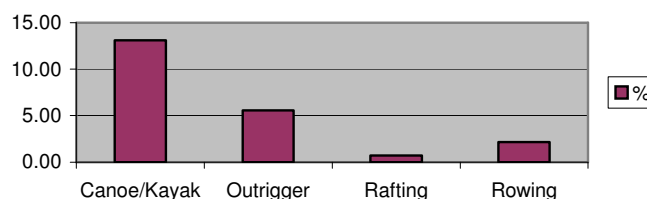
What is your nationality



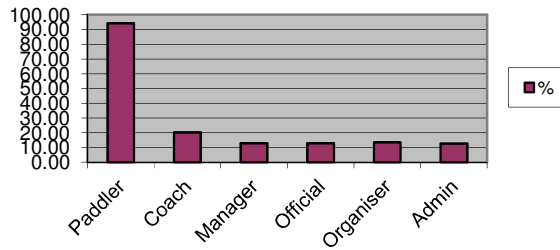
Do you participate in other sports



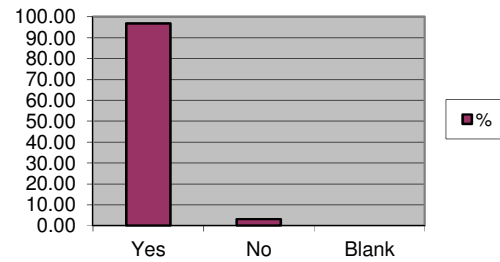
Some of the other sports practised (paddle/rowing sports)



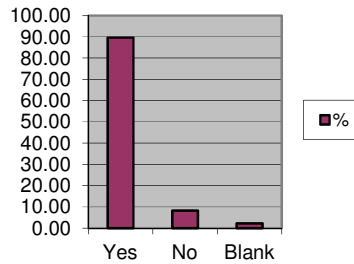
What is your current Involvement in Dragonboating



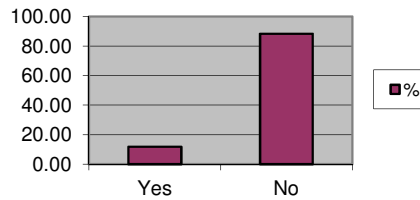
Are you a member of a dragonboat club



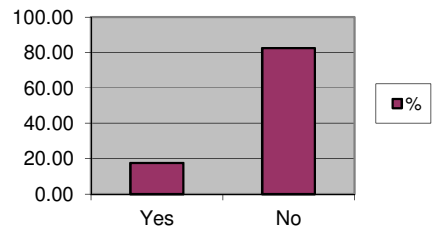
Is your club affiliated to a Dragonboat Federation



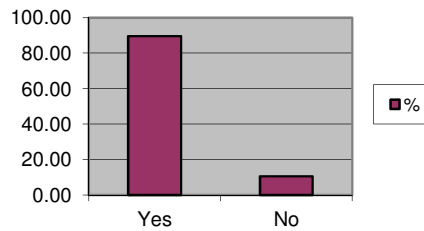
Do you agree with the ICF position that dragonboating is a discipline of canoeing



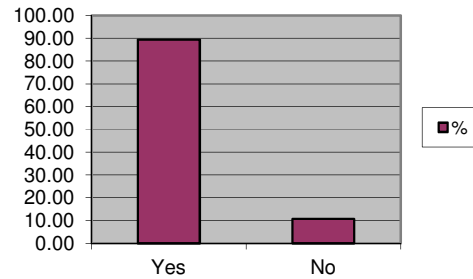
Should the IDBF become a committee of the ICF



Do you agree with the IDBF that the ICF has no mandate from the majority of dragonboaters



Should the IDBF become an IOC recognized international federation



Who do you consider the world governing body for dragonboating

