



Good afternoon,

We are excited for the upcoming Dragon Boat Race at beautiful Lake Meridian on Saturday the 15th. We appreciate your interest in the venue, as well as the enthusiasm you and your crew have brought to the fold.

I am proud to announce we have a race day sponsor this year – The WOW Baking Company. They are a local bakery that produce and sell gluten free products and has been instrumental in providing folks with gluten issues to enjoy a tasty snack.

Safeway in Kent and Covington have also donated water, donuts and other tasty nibbles for the volunteers and dock help throughout the day. After the race, if you are hungry and in need of a cool beverage – feel free to swing by Safeway on your way home.

A couple of housekeeping items,

Shuttle

- The Meridian Lake parking area will be opened at 6 am PST. Jeff Salzer will be at the helm and will start shoo'ing fishing folks away so the dragon boaters can play. We have the park and the lot until 5pm PST.
- First Student will begin their day with the first pick up at the fire station at 6:30am PST. George Atrops will be available in the morning for any questions and/or directions. The shuttle bus will then head to the 132nd park & ride, then rotate as such throughout the day's activities. (see *attached schedule*)

Captain's Meeting

- The Captain's meeting will begin promptly at 8am PST and will be held in front of the bleacher area within the park. We will be reviewing the day's schedule as well as reviewing rules of the day.

Marshalling

- Crews in the first heat – please ensure they are lined up in marshalling no later than 8:15am PST. Our goal is to start the race at 8:30am with the start horn blasting proudly across the pond. Judy Leede will be our marshalling captain for the day.

Bracketing

- Crews are randomly placed in Rounds 1. We avoided placing crews from the same Club in the same heat. Round 2 is structured to have crews race different teams than Round 1.
- Semi-finals are seeded by total time
- Women's Category
 - Women A and B each have 6 boat Finals
 - Women are divided into A and B (8 crews each) for the semi-finals. In each division, the top 6 by rank advance to the Final. There are 2 crews in each division unfortunately will not medal. Please inform your crew to ensure they understand and are not bummed out.
- Mixed Category
 - Mixed A Final has 6 boats, Mixed B Final has 5 boats
 - Mixed stays in the same division in the semi-final. They will progress to Final A and B based on rank (all 1st and 2nd to Final A, rest to Final B). All mixed teams are in a Final heat.
 - *Please note - the advancements are different than women due to the number of teams registered in this division.*
- Survivor Race
 - We moved the Survivor Race to the heat before the lunch break. This will provide crews the opportunity to participate in the paddle arch and not have to rush back to marshalling.

Medals

- Crews placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th will receive medals. If your crew is unable to attend the award ceremony, please let Carol Aguilar know at the Command Station and they will provide you with your hardware prior to departure.

Waivers

- Please ensure all paddlers have signed their waivers to avoid any confusion at registration. We will have a few hard copies for folks to sign if need be.

Open Final

- Upon completion of the Open Finals, please ask your crew to paddle the boats back to the boat launch vs. the main dock area. We appreciate your assistance with this task and will take a bit of pressure from the Production Crew.
 - *NOTE: Due to the limited time structure of the race, we are not able to hold positions for paddlers/callers/tillers. There will be several tillers and callers available working dock throughout the day who can assist.*

Volunteers

- Please note – all parties in the Production Crew are volunteers. Please remind your crew to be kind and show respect as they are offering their services so folks can play throughout the day. If anyone on your crew has an issue, is upset, or needs clarification on rules/safety, please direct them to me. I will ensure they are taken care of, and issues are heard.

Vendors

- We have several vendors this year; the coffee truck has requested to return; we will have a taco truck, numerous trinket vendors and one booth for dragon boat gear. Please visit their tents, introduce yourself/your team and please – enjoy their wares.

Saturday is going to be a great day. The weather is looking like it is going to be in the 80's, the water is warm, and folks are excited. There is nothing better than producing a venue where folks are eager to return and create a memory.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have questions. You are also welcome to text or call me at 206-498-7200.

Paddles Up!!

Jules Halvarson
206-498-7200