CODE OF CONDUCT

Dragon Boating in Singapore

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1 **Preamble**

1.1 This document contains extracts from the Public Utilities Board (PUB), the prevalent authority on all water activities in Singapore’s reservoirs, Code of Conduct on Water-based Activities.

1.2 For the purpose of the sport of dragon boating, items pertaining specifically to the sport is reproduced here. All dragon boat enthusiasts and teams **MUST PRACTICE** the items described in this Code of Conduct document.

1.3 Our reservoirs serve 3 functions — for water supply, flood control and recreational resource. They not only increase our water supply, but are also suitable for recreational events and activities.

1.4 As such, it presents great challenges for all of us to ensure harmonious co-existence of the various users and acceptable water quality for everyone.

1.5 As users, we should take ownership and ensure that our waters remain clean and aplenty. Everyone is expected to play their part and act responsibly.

2 **Marina Reservoir**

2.1 The Marina Reservoir (map and zoning courtesy of PUB).
2.2 **Non-motorized Water Craft Zone**
The area shaded green is designated for non-motorized water vessels (dragon boats, canoes, kayaks) use. This included Kallang Basin, part of the Kallang River and the Marina Channel.

2.3 **Motorized Water Craft Zone**
The area shaded red is designated for motorized water craft (DUCKTours amphibious vessel, river-taxis, bum-boats) as well as other special-permission use. Dragon Boats **CANNOT ENTER** this zone. This included the area shaded yellow for wind-propelled vessels (sail-boats).

2.4 **Safety Zone**
All dragon boats are not permitted to enter the Safety Zone (area shaded brown), marked out by marker buoys on site when the Marina Barrage crest gates are in operation.

2.5 **Danger Area**
The area next to the PA Water Venture outlet at Merdeka Bridge (along the breakwater) has a rocky bottom and is marked by a buoy. All dragon boats are to keep clear of the area.

2.6 **Instructions from PUB Officers**
All dragon boats (as well as other users), must comply to the instructions given by PUB officers they encountered in the reservoir. The PUB officers will identify themselves to you or you may request for them to reveal their identity.

*Dragon Boat team practicing in Kallang Basin, Marina Reservoir.*
3 Bedok Reservoir

3.1 Satellite view of Bedok Reservoir (courtesy of GoogleEarth)

3.2 Non-motorized Water Craft Zone
The area shaded green is designated for non-motorized water vessels (dragon boats, canoes, kayaks) use. This area is clearly marked by a 1,000m long race course.

3.3 Motorized Water Craft
The area outside of the shaded green area is meant for motorized water crafts and dragon boats are NOT encouraged to enter. Dragon Boats that have to venture into this area must exercise extra caution in the practice of safe navigation.

3.4 Safety Zone
All dragon boats are NOT permitted to enter the Safety Zone (area shaded brown). Note that there are no marker buoys marking this area.

3.5 Other Stakeholders
All dragon boat teams are reminded to maintain harmonious relationship and courtesy to the other stakeholders in Bedok Reservoir. The stakeholders are:-
   a. PUB – national authority for reservoirs
   b. People’s Association (PA) – authorized dragon boat service provider
   c. Ministry of Education (MoE) – race course owner

3.6 Instructions from PUB or PA
All dragon boats (as well as other users), must comply to the instructions given by PUB and PA officers they encountered in Bedok Reservoir.
4 Jurong Lake

4.1 Satellite view of Jurong Lake (courtesy of GoogleEarth)

4.2 Non-motorized Water Craft Zone
The area shaded green is designated for non-motorized water vessels (dragon boats, canoes, kayaks) use. Note that there no marker buoys marking this area.
4.3 **Motorized Water Craft**
The area outside of the shaded green area is meant for motorized water crafts and dragon boats are **NOT** encouraged to enter. Dragon Boats that have to venture into this area must exercise extra caution in the practice of safe navigation.

4.4 **Safety Zone**
All dragon boats are **NOT** permitted to enter the Safety Zone (area shaded brown). Note that there are no marker buoys marking this area.

4.5 **Danger Zone**
All dragon boats are to keep clear of the area shaded red.

4.6 **Other Stakeholders**
All dragon boat teams are reminded to maintain harmonious relationship and courtesy to the other stakeholders in Jurong Lake. The stakeholders are:-
   a. PUB – national authority for reservoirs
   b. People’s Association (PA) – authorized dragon boat service provider

4.7 **Instructions from PUB or PA**
All dragon boats (as well as other users), must comply to the instructions given by PUB and PA officers they encountered in Jurong Lake.

*National 5-crew Race at Chinese Garden, Jurong Lake*
5 Lower Seletar Reservoir

5.1 Satellite view of Lower Seletar Reservoir (courtesy of GoogleEarth)

5.2 Non-motorized Water Craft Zone
The area shaded green is designated for non-motorized water vessels (dragon boats, canoes, kayaks) use. This area is clearly marked by a 350m long race course.

5.3 Motorized Water Craft
The area outside of the shaded green area is meant for motorized water crafts and dragon boats are NOT encouraged to enter. Dragon Boats that have to venture into this area must exercise extra caution in the practice of safe navigation.

5.4 Danger Zone
All dragon boats are to keep clear of the area shaded red.

5.5 Other Stakeholders
All dragon boat teams are reminded to maintain harmonious relationship and courtesy to the other stakeholders in Lower Seletar Bedok Reservoir. The stakeholders are:-
   a. PUB – national authority for reservoirs
   b. People’s Association (PA) – authorized dragon boat service provider

5.5 Instructions from PUB or PA
All dragon boats (as well as other users), must comply to the instructions given by PUB and PA officers they encountered in Lower Seletar Reservoir.
6 Dragon Boating Hours

6.1 All dragon boating hours are to be carried out during daylight hours from as early as 7am to as late as 7pm. This applies to other non-motorized vessels as well.

6.2 Special permission to operate beyond the hours specified in Item 6.1 is only extended to the Singapore National and Youth Teams on a case-to-case basis, with PUB’s permission.

7 Personal Floatation Device (PFD)

7.1 All dragon boaters (paddlers, drummer, steersperson, trainer and coach) **MUST** put on individual PFD at all times. This applies to **ALL** other vessels as well.

7.2 The PFD is to be worn before embarking into the dragon boat and can only be taken off once the dragon boater is back on solid ground (terra firma) upon exiting the dragon boat.

7.3 The PFD must be worn correctly and according to the manufacturer’s design and specification.

8 Inclement Weather

8.1 Inclement Weather refers to lightning warning and strikes, heavy rainfall, strong winds and fog (collectively known as Category-1 or Cat-1 weather).
8.2 All dragon boating activities are to **STOP IMMEDIATELY** upon the activation of the inclement weather siren.

8.3 All Team Managers, Steersperson, Trainer and Coach are encouraged to subscribe to the National Environment Agency (NEA) weather services at telephone no. 6542 7788 to remain updated on the weather and climate conditions before and during their respective dragon boating activity.

8.4 Information regarding the weather status can also be sought from the following:
   a. SDBA staff at the Kallang Water Sports Centre, Marina Reservoir
   b. PA Water Venture staff at all other Reservoirs

8.5 All Team Managers, Steersperson, Trainer and Coach must exercise sound judgement to decide to cancel, abandon or postponed the dragon boating activity **before the onset** of inclement weather.

9  **Cleanliness of Reservoirs**

9.1 Do not litter in the water or anywhere as all litters will ultimately end up in the reservoir.

9.2 Do not discharge sewage, sullage or any kind of waste water into the reservoir.

9.3 Do not urinate/spit into the water.

9.4 Do not smoke when conducting dragon boating activity in the reservoir.

9.5 Do not use the dragon boats to fish in the reservoir.

9.6 Teams are encouraged to remove floating litters and those litters deposited along the banks, without jeopardizing the safe operation of the dragon boat as well as the crew whenever possible. If the litter is bulky or cannot be retrieved, report it to PUB (see Item 9.7).

9.7 If you observe any wrong doings or irresponsible behaviour, please report the matter to PUB at their hotline 1800-284 6600.

10  **Basic Water Safety**

10.1 Check that the dragon boat is in good condition before beginning your dragon boating activity. Look out for any breakages, leaks or physical damage to the dragon boat as well as to its necessary equipment.

10.2 Do not participate in any activities if you are unwell, under medication or under the influence of alcohol.
10.3 Stop any activities if you are feeling fatigue.

10.4 Stay within the designated non-motorized zone.

10.5 Do not conduct dragon boat activities beyond the operation hours (see Item 6) or during inclement weather (see Item 8).

10.6 Do not overload the dragon boat beyond its capacity.

10.7 The steersperson must be SDBA-certified. Refer to the document *Safety Control 1: The Steersperson.*

10.8 Always assign a Boat Captain to control the dragon boating activity. Refer to the document *Safety Control 2: Boat Captain.*

10.9 Always employ the Buddy System. Refer to the document *Safety Control 3: Buddy System.*

10.10 All dragon boaters must understand the Capsize/Swamping Drill. Refer to the document *Safety Control 4: Capsize & Swamping Drill.*

10.11 Do not leave the dragon boat in the waters unattended.

10.12 Be familiar with areas of “no wakes”, “shallow water” and “danger” zones.

10.13 Help other users if they are in distress (without endangering yourself, your crew, the dragon boat as well as the person you are rescuing).

10.14 If you observe another dragon boat team or other users practicing irresponsible behaviour, please report the matter to SDBA at telephone 6440 9763 or email to admin@sdba.org.sg

11 Safe Navigation

All users of the reservoir **MUST** observe the international collision prevention conventions:-

11.1 Motorised crafts are to give way to non-motorised craft such as sailing boats, canoes
11.2 When two vessels are meeting head-on or nearly head-on, each has to alter course to starboard (to the right).

11.3 When two vessels about to cross each other’s route, always give way to the craft on your starboard (your right) side.

11.4 When overtaking, you can overtake from either side but only when it is safe and there is no approaching vessel. The boat being overtaken **MUST** give clear water to the overtaking boat.

11.5 Always keep a safe distance from all other vessels.

11.6 Always slow down or go dead slow when in very close proximity to other vessels, especially with canoes and kayaks.

11.7 When passing the wake of a motorized vessel, meet the approaching wake bow-on (with the front part of the dragon boat) to maintain maximum stability.

11.8 You may wish to refer to the Public Utilities (Reservoirs and Catchment Areas) Regulations 2006 on the safe navigation rules. Copies of the Regulations can be obtained from the National Printer, SNP Corporation Ltd, Legal Publishing, 1 Kim Seng Promenade #18-01/06 Great World City East Tower, Singapore 237994.

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