SAFETY CONTROL NO. 3

The Buddy System

SAFETY CONTROL (SC) NO. 3

SC 3.1 Description of the Buddy System

3.1.1 In accordance to the IDBF Water Safety Policy (WSP), Teams are required to adopt the Buddy System.

3.1.2 In the Buddy System, each person inside the dragon boat is also responsible for the person they are paired with.

3.1.3 The system accorded each crew with a partner for mutual checking on safety and support in an emergency such as during a capsize or swamping.

SC 3.2 General Requirement

To be practiced and observed at all times, for all aspect of the sport of dragon boating – from recreational to competitive paddling.

3.2.1 Pair the paddlers according to their seating positions.

3.2.2 The person at the front (i.e. Trainer, Coach or Drummer) will be paired with the 1st Row.

3.2.3 The steersperson will be paired with the Last Row.

3.2.4 The pairing sequence should be according to the diagram shown:-

![Diagram 1: Example of Buddy System for 10-crew dragon boat](image)
3.2.5 Typical DB12 Crew Buddy System pairing

3.2.6 Typical DB22 Crew Buddy System pairing

SC 3.3 Emergency Inside the Dragon Boat

3.3.1 Buddies will look out for each other’s well being, sign of distress or any other visible negative physical contra-indications.

3.3.2 Should any dangerous or emergency situation arises, the Buddy for the person in distress **MUST** alert the Boat Captain.
3.3.3 If your Buddy is injured or unwell, you are expected to offer any help and assistance that you possibly could to help your Buddy cope until he/she could be evacuated from the dragon boat.

SC 3.4 Capsize & Swamping Emergency

3.4.1 In a capsize or swamping emergency, after checking on your own physical condition and that there are no injuries, check on the physical condition of your Buddy.

3.4.2 If your Buddy is injured or unwell, you **SHOULD ONLY OFFER** any help or assistance if it is within your control and ability to do so. *You must not endanger yourself in the process.*

3.4.3 Alert the Boat Captain or the first Rescuer on the scene that your Buddy is injured or unwell and require urgent attention.

3.4.4 If your Buddy is physically missing or missed the roll call, **IMMEDIATELY** alert the Boat Captain or the first Rescuer on the scene.