



Sydenham Challenge Rules

June 1, 2024, on the Sydenham River, Wallaceburg Ontario

You need 21 people in your boat. Your team can be a sponsored team by a company, business, a service club/organization or even just a bunch of people pitching in.

Registration Fee is \$650.00

Registering a Team

- 1) Complete the online registration form. [On Line Registration](#) This will place your team on a temporary roster.
- 2) Once we receive the team registration fee your team is now placed on the official roster and you're good to go!
- 3) Teams that would like to be placed on the official roster can place a non-refundable deposit of \$200.00. However, teams that are paid in full will move to the top of the official roster and continue until the slate is full.
- 4) Registration close date is May 18, 2024
Register as soon as possible Payment by Cheque (make payable to The Sydenham Challenge), E-transfer (sydenhamchallenge@cogeco.ca), or pay Online with credit card at: [On Line Payment](#)
- 5) Practice Schedule: Teams will receive **one** scheduled practice session (included in your registration fee). Practice session will include on land instruction and technique as well as in boat on water instruction. (Approximately one hour). For safety purposes all community teams are required to participate in one scheduled practice session. Practice schedule instructions will be forwarded upon registering. Practice day is May 11, 2024.
- 6) A Dragon Boat Team: A full team (crew) consists of 20 paddlers & 1 drummer for a total of 21 crew members. Qualified steerspersons are provided. A team must have a minimum of 16 paddlers to compete.
- 7) One team member will need to be selected to hold the position of team captain (Contact Person). This person is responsible for team conduct, communicating and distributing team information to all members, gathering, and submitting all necessary forms and waivers for the team. A Captains meeting prior to the race will be held with-in the last week leading up to the festival date. This will be done electronically (e-mail) and sent to the team captain or designate. Please note: Once your team is in the loading zone and/or on the dragon boat, your appointed Steersperson is now, "Captain" of the boat.
- 8) Each Dragon Boat Team must have a **minimum of 8 female** paddlers in the boat.
- 9) Age Requirement: Anyone under the age of 18 will be required to sign a parent/guardian consent form. This form will be available by request to sydenhamchallenge@cogeco.ca
- 10) Safety: Proper footwear must be always worn in a Dragon Boat. Flip flops, clogs, sandals, or open toe/heal footwear will not be allowed! Closed toe shoes or running shoes excepted.
- 11) Each team member is responsible for their own safety at all times while engaging in activities related to practicing and racing in Dragon Boats.



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- 12) Each team member should be able to swim 100 meters while wearing a personal floatation device (PFD). Please note that on the day of the festival (at the loading dock) the people who are assisting you in the dragon boats are experienced dragon boaters. If they have any concerns for you or for other participant's safety, they have full rights to refuse a person from entering a Dragon Boat.
- 13) Sydenham Challenge Wrist Bands: Each team captain is responsible for submitting the Team Waiver/Roster, signed by all team members, and must be submitted no later than the day of the race at the registration table. Each member of your team will receive a festival wrist band including spares (23). NO signature on the waiver form, NO wrist band, NO entry onto a Dragon Boat.
- 14) The race committee (dock personal) reserves the right to refuse anyone without a wrist band from entering the dock loading area including boarding a dragon boat. Not wearing a wrist band (on boat) will disqualify your team's race.
- 15) Dragon Boat Equipment: All Dragon Boats, paddles, drums, and PFD's will be provided. Each Dragon Boat is fully equipped with a dragon head and tail. All equipment used during practices and races shall be returned intact. Replacement costs or repair of such equipment will be charged to the responsible team, should negligence be determined.
- 16) Food & Refreshments: Will be available throughout the day. Once again, the Legion will their BBQ fired up serving food throughout the day. Refreshments of various kinds will also be on hand.
- 17) Alcohol, Cannabis and Dragon Boating don't mix! If a member of your team is observed consuming alcohol or cannabis, they will be deemed unfit to enter a boat the dock handlers have the right to eject that member from your team and that member will forfeit their wrist band.
- 18) Alcohol and Cannabis use: of any nature is not allowed in the Library Park grounds and/or to be carried onto the Legion property. Drinks purchased in the Legions refreshment garden must stay in the gated area. Zero tolerances will be enforced. T
- 19) Team Practice – is being offered on May 13, 2023, on the grounds of the Wallaceburg Legion. Once a team has fully registered, they will receive a link to schedule your practice time. In order to guarantee a safe experience for all; we require that all community teams sign up for the practice sessions.
- 20) Race Day (Important) – Opening Ceremony starts at 8:00 a.m. (5 minutes) The week leading up to the festival you will receive the first round start times.
- 21) Evening before the race. Once again overnight security will be on site from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m... You are welcome to set-up your team site (tent).
- 22) On the festival day (June 01, 2024) it is important that your team is in the Dragon Boat loading area immediately after your team's name has been announced! Once announced your team will be given a 5-minute grace to arrive. If your team is not in the loading area after this time, you're at risk of being disqualified and forfeit that race.



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- 23) The posted race schedule displays your team's lane number and race times and the approximate order that your team will race in. Please note that due to conditions beyond our control; weather, current, race times etc. etc. the posted race times can vary up or down. We will do our utmost to adjust the times as needed however it's your responsibility to keep close attention to the posted times.