

2026 Kamloops Dragonboat Event and Venue Information

Registration and Check-In

Teams can register at Riverside Park starting at **7:15 AM Saturday morning**. Each team MUST bring a completed wavier to the registration table at this time. Forms must be submitted between 7:15 to 7:30 am.

Parking and Transportation

Parking at the venue will be very restricted. There will be very limited parking by the Sandman Centre. Alternatively, we suggest that you park in one of the City of Kamloops parkades.

No vehicles are allowed within the park other than those designated by Ribfest or the City of Kamloops.

Paddlers Village

The venue is located at Riverside Park, which is on the Thompson River in downtown Kamloops. The Paddlers Village will be in a grassy area on the east side of the park.

The area will be available for tent set-up on **Friday afternoon starting at 5:30 PM and Saturday morning starting at 7 AM**. Although there is security in the park overnight, the festival is not responsible for tents and other club equipment left unattended overnight. An aerial map of the park and location of the village can be [seen on our website](#).

Race Times/Steers Meeting

There will be a meeting for the steers, coaches and managers at **7:30 AM Saturday** on the beach by the paddler's village. Races will commence at **8:30 AM** and run until approximately 4:30 PM.

Marshalling for the first race will begin at **8:15 AM, at this time the first teams will be allowed to get into their boats.**

Races

There will be **three 500 metre races**, subject to weather conditions. There will be 4 boats in each heat (some will have 3 boats). The first two races will be time trials, with your total time added together to determine what final your team moves into.

Subject to the weather, and at the discretion of the race director, the Endurance race, called the **"Loops"**, will be held on completion of the regular races. It is an optional race and does not go towards final standings in the regular mixed and women's categories. See below for further information

Practice Times

Practice times on our race course will be available on Friday, August 8th. These 45 minute sessions are available on a “first come first serve” basis from **5:30 PM to 7:30 PM** at our village at the park. Please see email details to book.

Race Course

The race course will be on the Thompson River, running downstream from east to west. Teams are reminded that the course will be subject to variations due to the current and depth of the river.

A diagram of the course is on our website

Steers

An Instruction Guide for steers and managers is included at the end of this letter. As our course is quite technical, we want to ensure that all steers and managers are aware of the specific precautions we will be taking to ensure that the races are run as safely as possible. Please read these materials before attending the steers meeting.

The festival reserves the right to substitute a festival steers if, in the opinion of the race director, your team's steers is encountering difficulties.

We highly encourage your crew and your steers to take advantage of the Friday practice sessions. If you do not have an experienced steer the festival will attempt to provide a steers for your crew if you wish.

The Race Grid

A copy of the race grid is attached to this letter. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Types of Boats and Variation in Lane Flow Rates

We will use D2 boats supplied by the Kamloops Dragon Boat Club. These boats are similar to the old style 6-16s.

There is a variation in flow rates between the four racecourse lanes. Lanes 2 and 3 are typically the faster lanes. Lanes 1 and 4 are normally the slower lanes. To maintain consistency, in the two preliminary races, each team will paddle once in one of the faster lanes and once in a slower lane. For the finals, the lane placements are completely randomized to make the process fair for all teams. Where you place in your first races will not dictate your lane placement in the finals.

Mixed Team Composition

A team can have a maximum of 10 male paddlers. A crew may paddle with a minimum of 16 paddlers.

Results

The results will be recorded by our internal team. They will be announced at the end of each race and posted on the results board located on the wall of the green buildings.

Awards

Medals will be awarded to the top three boats in the Mixed division and the top three boats in the Women's division. The medals will be awarded to each team directly after each race at the registration tent.

The "Loops" Race

The "**Loops**" race will start downstream at the course finish line, go upstream 750 metres and then return to the starting point. The boats will make a **left hand** turn around a centering buoy at the top of the race course.

Composite crews comprised of members of various teams will be allowed if only some of your team's paddlers want to participate.

This race will start approximately 15 minutes after the completion of the regular races. It is the team's responsibility to be marshalled and ready to race 15 minutes after the final scheduled race of the day.

Registration for the Loops race will take place during the morning registration between 7:15am and 7:30am.

The Loops starting grid will be posted at the same time as Finals lane assignments.

There will not be an additional fee to enter the Loops race.

Ceremony for Survivor Paddlers

We hope participants will join us for the Carnation Ceremony, which we anticipate being around 10:30 AM. The last race of the first heat will feature a race of all breast cancer survivors starting around 10:10. All paddlers hopefully can wear something pink. The paddlers will get into boats, paddle a short distance away from shore and then back to the beach. All survivors will remain in their boats on shore during the spoken and musical tribute to those survivors who paddle and those who did not survive. Carnations will be available. This is managed by the Kamloops Spirit Warriors, please let us know if you would like to participate and we will connect you with the appropriate individuals.

Security

The Paddlers Village is located near high-traffic areas of the park. There will be limited security so please guard your valuables carefully. The Kamloops Dragon Boat Festival is not responsible for any equipment and/or valuables that teams may bring to the venue.

First Aid

St. John First Aid attendants will be in attendance. Their station will be located near the paddlers village and will be easily noticeable.

Water/Food and Beer Garden

No drinking water will be provided by the festival. Water refill stations are located at Riverside Park. Please bring an adequate amount of water to race day as well as re-
fillable drinking bottles.

During the course of the day, **Ribfest** will have food and beverages available, along with a beer garden and music.

Waste Management

Please bring your own garbage bags and collect all garbage in your area. We ask that you pack out your garbage after the festival is over.

Additional Events

Alongside Ribfest (with food, beer gardens, and music) there will also be the “*Hot Nite in the City Show and Shine*” car show and “*Family Funzone*” In other words, there will be a number of exciting events at Riverside Park during the dragon boat festival!

We look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, August 8th!

Paddles Up!

Kamloops Sports Council

Email: www.kamloopssportscouncil.com

Office: 250-828-3822

Women's Teams

- FLCC Paddle Pushers
- Fire on Water
- 22 Insync
- KIDS - Women
- Draggin Divas
- Dr'Agonize
- Sun City Paddlers
- Women on Water
- Kamodo Lightning
- HPC Seraphins
- Friends Abreast
- Northbreast
- Buoyant Buddies
- Pink Piston Paddlers
- Kamloops Spirit Warriors

Mixed Teams

- Harrison Wild
- Inlet Spirit
- KIDS- MIXED
- Dr'Agonize
- Peach City Dragons
- Kamodo Thunder
- Thunder Stokers
- Vernon Silver Dips