



DBWA Regional and Junior Membership Policy

1. Rationale and purpose

This policy has been created to assist Regional Clubs and Junior crews in obtaining the critical number of paddlers to form a crew for the purposes of competing at the National Championships.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- assist in developing the sport in regional WA;
- provide a means for Regional Clubs to access sufficient members to form crews for the National Championships without causing hardship to other Regional Clubs (e.g. due to transfer of members), and
- develop Junior paddling crews.

DBWA recognizes that not all Regional Clubs and Junior crews will have the membership and/or resources to field a crew for the purposes of competing at the National Championships. This policy assists individuals who are members of a Regional Club which is *not* attending the National Championships, or Junior members of a club which is not attending the National Championships, to attend the National Championships without being required to abandon their original club (Primary Club). The policy allows the individual to request the transfer of their membership to another Regional Club or Junior crew (Secondary Club) for the purposes of competing at the National Championships without losing their right to paddle with their Primary Club for DBWA competitions (e.g. DBWA regattas), or their roles as committee members within the Primary Club.

This policy is not intended to support the creation of “Super Teams” or “Super Clubs” with the purpose of going to the National Championships. It is to assist eligible Regional Clubs and Junior crews in being able to compete where they do not have sufficient members within their own club to form a crew.

2. Definitions

AusDBF means Australian Dragon Boat Federation;

Club Member means an association that has been granted membership to DBWA;

DBWA means Dragon Boating WA Inc.;

DBWA Board means the duly elected representatives of Dragon Boating WA Inc.;

Junior crew means a team consisting of Junior members, with the exception of the sweep;

Junior member means an individual who is a member of DBWA and is between a minimum of 12 years of age and a maximum of 18 years of age as at 1 January of the year of competition;

Metropolitan Club means a Club Member that is located and/or operating within the Perth metropolitan region;

Perth metropolitan region means the area defined by the Western Australian Government to be the ‘Perth metropolitan region’;

Primary Club means the Club Member with which the individual is eligible to compete for the purposes of DBWA sanctioned competitions;

Regional area means the area defined by the Western Australian Government to be outside of the Perth metropolitan region (note: at the time of issue, Mandurah is within the regional area);

Regional Club means a Club Member that is located and/or operating within a regional area of Western Australia;

Secondary Club means the Club Member to which the individual is transferred with approval by DBWA (i.e. the team they will be eligible to compete with for the purposes of the AusDBF National Championships)

3. Limitations and requirements

The application of this policy is limited to individuals that are financial Junior members or financial members of Regional Clubs. The individual's Primary Club must *not* be competing at the National Championships.

Individuals approved by DBWA to participate with another Regional Club or Junior crew for the purposes of competing in the National Championships:

- a) are required to be available to represent DBWA in State versus State racing at the National Championships;
- b) are only permitted to compete in DBWA competitions with their Primary Club, and
- c) must train regularly with their Secondary Club and the DBWA State team.

4. Participant numbers

The following restriction applies to participant numbers:

- for a 20s standard crew, a maximum of six crew members may be obtained through the double claim process; and
- for a 10s small boat crew, a maximum of three crew members may be obtained through the double claim process.

It is expected that Regional Clubs will make all efforts to utilize all their interested members when forming a team, and not seek other paddlers simply because competing in a certain racing division (e.g. Masters, Grand Masters) is desirable. For example, it is not acceptable to seek paddlers because a crew wants to race in the Masters division, if the club has Premier-aged paddlers who are interested in going to the Nationals. The club should promote the development of their younger paddlers and therefore form a crew to race in the Premier division. Once all interested members are part of a crew, if paddlers are still required, then the club may seek participants based on this policy.

Junior members of either a Regional Club or a Metropolitan Club (that is not going to the National Championships) are eligible to apply under this policy for approval to compete with either a Regional Club, or a Metropolitan Club with a Junior crew, that does not have sufficient individuals to field a crew in their own right for the purposes of competing in the National Championships.

This policy does not extend to Metropolitan Clubs, except to the extent that it does not restrict Junior crews and Junior members to being part of a Regional Club – their Primary and/or Secondary Club may be a Metropolitan Club.

5. Application process

The individual seeking membership with a Secondary Club (“the applicant”) is required to complete the *Regional and Junior membership application form* and submit it to the Secondary Club for approval. The fully completed and signed form is to be forwarded to DBWA for consideration.

The closing date for lodgment of the application form is 30 November in the year *prior to* the AusDBF National Championships in question.

The DBWA Board will consider applications received and will strive to balance the needs of the Secondary Club, and the available members. Factors that will be taken into account include:

- the commitment and dedication of a potential Secondary Club to take a crew to the National Championships;
- the total number of individuals the potential Secondary Club has in its membership and the divisions (e.g. Premiers, Masters) in which the potential Secondary Club is proposing to compete;
- the division in which the applicant is eligible to compete;

Preference will be given to potential Secondary Clubs with insufficient numbers to attend, as opposed to potential Secondary Clubs wanting to increase their number of entries in a racing division(s).

DBWA may approve, or reject applications, and reserves the right to assign applicants to secondary clubs as it determines to be best suited to balance both club and applicant needs. The decisions of the DBWA Board, made by simple majority vote, are not subject to appeal.

If the request is approved, the individual becomes a member of the Secondary Club and is registered with DBWA as such. DBWA then grants the individual permission, in writing, to participate with their Primary Club for the purposes of DBWA competitions. The paddler is not required to resign as a financial member of their Primary Club, and therefore may retain their committee position, or other roles, within that club.