

TRADITIONS AND CULTURES OF **DRAGON BOATING**

DRAGON BOATING WA have been diligently preserving and upholding some traditions of Dragon Boating by carrying out the Dotting of the Eye Ceremony at the Beginning of every Grand Prix Regatta.

In Asian Culture, this ceremony is about respecting the dragon and getting him into a good and friendly mood towards you, the team, and the community. You want the Dragon's protection, not his anger. However, additional ceremonial performances, such as the Lion Dance, are always welcomed and would definitely add to a spectacular show and event.

The **EYE DOTTING** is actually the **AWAKENING of the DRAGON**. This should be repeated each year after the dragon's rest during off-season prior to racing. It is important to remember that it is considered Bad Luck to paddle or race in a Dragon Boat that has not been properly awakened or has its eyes closed.

ITEMS NEEDED :

Rice Dumplings (1 for each Boat and 1 extra)
Red Paint and Brush
Incense
A Vase of Flowers
Fruits (Bananas, Oranges, Green Pears, Green Apples, Nashi Pears)
** Fruits are optional
Steamed Chicken, Roasted Suckling Pig, Roasted Duck (Optional)

PREPARATION OF BOATS:

All Boats need to be fully dressed – Heads, Tails, Drums, Seat & Drum sticks.
The boats can be on land or in the water for the ceremony.
All Boats to be lined for easy access.

CEREMONIAL PROCEDURE:

Place a table with either Red or Gold table cloth in front of the boats.
Place Flowers, Incense (in a bowl of sand) , red Paint & Brush & Dumplings on the table.

** If a Taoist or Buddhist monk/s have been invited, please allow them to go through their chants and blessing .

Before the ceremony begins, each important person (President of each club, Mayor, president etc) needs to stand by the head of the Dragon.

After all prayers and chants are done, the Dumplings, Red paint and brush is taken to each person and he/she dots the Eyes, Forehead and Tongue of the Dragon and says :

EYES : PLEASE AWAKEN THIS GOLDEN DRAGON
FOREHEAD : BLESS THIS WORLD WITH PEACE & HARMONY
TONGUE : BLESS THE CREWS WITH WINNING SPIRIT

Each to hold on to their Dumplings and when all the Dotting is done, the dumplings are then thrown into the water to appease the Dragon.

There may be slight variations to this procedure please feel free to consult a Taoist or Buddhist monk.\ Or contact DBWA for more information.

Have Fun and Enjoy your Day !!

PADDLES UP !!!!