



Race Information Package 2025

NANAIMO BC, CANADA

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PRODUCED BY:

The Nanaimo Paddling Centre

Welcome Paddlers to the 2025 Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival

On behalf of the Nanaimo Paddling Centre we want to welcome you to the 2025 Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival. We look forward to having you attend this annual event on its 22nd anniversary year. Please enjoy the festival and your visit to Nanaimo.

We want to thank the City of Nanaimo and the Province of British Columbia for their support for dragon boat racing on Vancouver Island. The 2025 Nanaimo festival will be welcoming women's teams and teams at the weekend's 500m and 1500m start lines.

The Nanaimo festival is an important fundraiser for the local community, and has contributed to health-focused projects for more than 20 years. In 2025, the festival is rebuilding as it prepares to support the BC Cancer Foundation and the Nanaimo Hospital's future cancer treatment centre. Thank you to all teams, paddlers, supporters and spectators for supporting the festival's charities of choice, both past and future!

All of the information for the weekend (July 12-13) is posted on the [event webpage](#). This includes the schedule of events, transportation, food and merchandise vendors, maps and directions and more. Also, there is race information (under the "Race Info" section) which includes race format, rules and regulations, the race schedule, etc.

Some key points before the weekend begins:

Racing

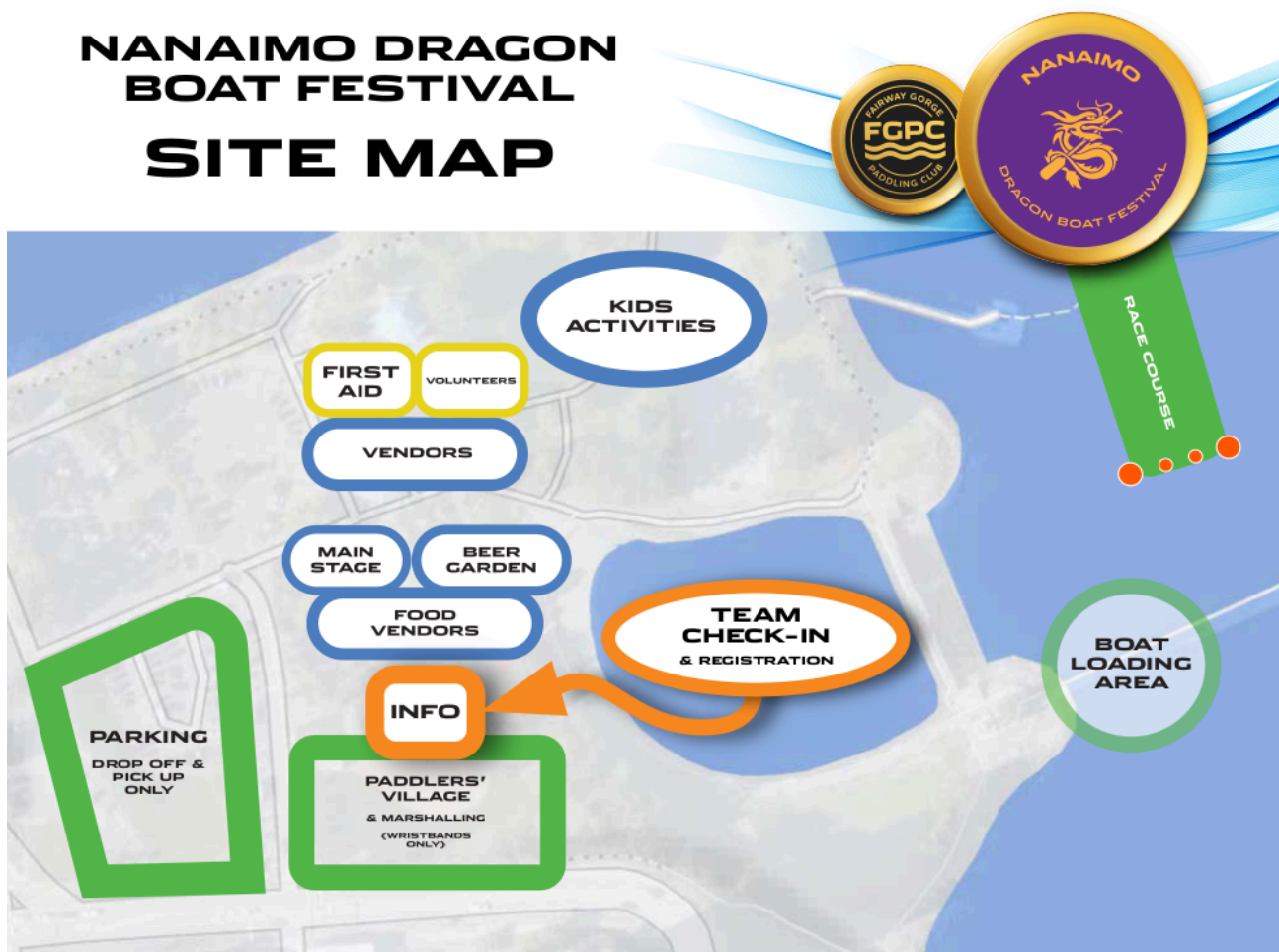
There is a mixed division and a women's division. Everyone is guaranteed 4 races, weather permitting. Note that the system for advancements is based on placement and time. The Race Schedule (V1) is available in a [separate document](#). Please review and contact race@nanaimodragonboat.ca if there are any errors. No changes, other than technical errors, are permitted.

This year we are happy to include both women's and mixed **Guts & Glory Challenges**. The mixed challenge will be held immediately after the second heats on Saturday, at 2:30pm, fielding the fastest 6 mixed teams in two heats. The women's challenge is the final event of the festival on Sunday at 2:30pm, fielding the fastest 6 women's teams in two heats.

The Guts & Glory Challenge races are 1500M circuits and involve a total of 6 buoy turns over two rotations of a 750m oval course. Qualifying crews will be notified (at the information and marshalling tents) as soon as qualifying races are complete. Crews who accept the challenge races will begin the course in 15 second intervals. Overlap rules apply and time credits and penalties (and full disqualifications for penalties in excess of 10 seconds) will be enforced by water marshals. The fastest adjusted times in the mixed and womens' divisions win the Challenge! Gold medals will be awarded to paddlers on the fastest women's team and the fastest mixed team.

Results boards will be posted on site - please check for your placement and advancement to the next heat. Stay on top of the results and when your teams are racing. The festival/race committee is not responsible for teams missing races. Missed races will not be made up, and will advance as "DNS". PLEASE NOTE WE MAY RUN 30 MINUTES AHEAD OR BEHIND OF THE POSTED SCHEDULE.

NANAIMO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL SITE MAP



Steersperson's Meeting

The steers' meeting is mandatory and will be held at **8.30am on Saturday 12 July**, at the top of the main loading dock in the park (see "Boat Loading Area" on the site map). Attendance will be taken. There will be a separate sterns' meeting before each set of Guts & Glory Challenges, at **2:15pm Saturday and Sunday**.

Registration and Check-in

Race packages can be picked up at the Information tent, just outside the entrance/exit to the Paddlers' Village in Maffeo Sutton Park as follows:

- Saturday, 12 July from 7:00am to 8:00am only
- Note: check-in is open for one hour only on Saturday so please plan accordingly.

→ **ONE representative from each team must attend check-in to confirm any last-minute changes or additions to your roster, and confirm that all participants have completed an individual waiver, and pick up their team's race package.**

- Wristbands will be provided to all paddlers and must be worn all weekend. No wristband, no paddling.
- Women who are paddling on two crews (one mixed, one women's) are required to wear two (differently coloured) wristbands.
- Wristbands are required for entry into the Paddlers' Village.
- Up to 2 non-paddling members of your crew will be provided wristbands to enter the Paddlers' Village
- Note that sterns and drummers, like all participants, may **NOT** be rostered on more than one team in the same division. Sterns and drummers may register at the registration tent with the **volunteer sterns / drummers pool**, which may permit them to drum or stern for a second team providing no hot-swapping results. FGPC will not hold the race schedule for hot-swapping under any circumstances.
- We will be maintaining an informal listing of teams that are interested in spare paddlers, and paddlers that are interested in being a spare on another team.

Paddlers' Village

Tents are [available for teams to rent for](#) \$100 including GST for the weekend. Teams are encouraged to bring their own tent if they have one. **Set-up time for team tents will be any time after 4pm on Friday July 11.** Smoking and/or pets are not allowed within the Paddlers' Village (service dogs ARE permitted). Please protect your belongings; the festival is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Teams are not permitted to modify FGPC-owned tents in any way that permanently affects or damages their functionality. Please treat them with care so we have them for future festivals.

****Note:** For security and liability, only **participants with wristbands** (paddlers and non-paddlers) are permitted in the Paddlers Village. If you are travelling with children or companions please make prior arrangements for their supervision. The Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival, NPC and FGPC and associated volunteers and security personnel are not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal belongings.**

Drop-off and Parking

There is a designated DROP-OFF-ONLY area at the race site for teams to drop off equipment and team members and then remove their vehicle immediately. Unattended vehicles within the festival parking area that don't have valid Festival parking passes **WILL BE TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**

Thank you again for participating and good luck!

Best regards,

The Race Management Team
Nanaimo Paddling Centre

2025 Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival

Race Information

Date: July 12 to 13, 2025

Location: Nanaimo, BC, Canada - Nanaimo Harbour, Maffeo Sutton Park

Race Course: 500M

Race Categories: Mixed, Women's

Race Management: Fairway Gorge Paddling Club (FGPC)

Boats: Millennium Dragon Boats from FGPC

Special Races: Gut & Glory Challenges 1500M

Race Format:

- A. The sequence for advancing is:
 - QUALIFYING HEATS (Round 1 & 2), SEMI-FINALS and FINALS.
 - All teams will race in four races (weather permitting).
- B. To the best of our ability, race organizers have seeded and evenly distributed teams of all abilities across every race in Round 1. Placement in Round 2 is based on a predetermined formula, explained in the advancement footer of each race on the race schedule. Advancement into the Series Semi-Finals races is based on each team's accumulated times drawn from the first two races. In other words, your performance in each of the first two races affects your placement in the semi finals! All teams are guaranteed a final race. Which final race a team participates in is based on the team's finishing position in the Series Semi-final round.
- C. Each team will compete in 4 races (weather permitting), 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday plus the top 6 teams will participate in the Guts & Glory mixed (Saturday) and women's (Sunday) challenges. Every team will race in a final. The qualifying rounds will provide the fairest and most accurate ranking of teams.

- ✓ **Race format is subject to change.**
- ✓ **Please view the [Race Rules & Regulations](#) on our website.**
- ✓ **You MUST have a competent steersperson in order to safely compete in the festival.**
FGPC race management staff reserve the right to replace a stern at their discretion for the sake of safe racing.
- ✓ **MIXED CATEGORY:** There can be no more than 10 male paddlers in the boat at one time
- ✓ **CHALLENGE RACES:** Guts & Glory.