

PACCC 2019 Bulletin No.1

Dear members of the Pan American Dragon Boat fraternity. Greetings from Trinidad & Tobago!

Last March, in the euphoria of the splendid Pan Am Club Crew Championships hosted by the Puerto Rico Dragon Boat Dragon Boat Federation, I accepted the Pan Am flag, signifying that Trinidad & Tobago would host the Championships in 2019.

When I returned home and back to sanity, I began to wonder about the boldness of my action. After all, we paddle in the open sea with its quirky challenges like tides, currents, waves and wind. So how could I have ever contemplated hosting an event like the PACCC in these conditions?

The answer is simple: Whilst we do not have flat water conditions, we would love to have you come to our beautiful Tobago and participate in a robust competition on a lively course. And we would love to show you who we are as a people and where we paddle. Call it the Trini Pan Am Experience if you will.

The competition will be officiated by a team of International Dragon Boat Federation Race Officials from our Pan American region. And we “Trinbagonians” know how to show our visitors a good time, so we are deadly serious about ensuring that you have a great dragon boat island experience!

More details will follow in subsequent bulletins but here is some preliminary information:

Competition Days

22nd. to 24th. March 2019

Competition Venue

North Beach, Pigeon Point, Tobago. This is a wide inlet protected from ocean groundswells and big waves by a bordering reef. But it is prone to lively winds and surface conditions, so the course can be quite bumpy.

Competition Hotel

Magdalena Grand, Plantations, Tobago. The hotel has already assigned us a reservation code. More information on this will be posted in a subsequent bulletin when bookings become available online. We will also post alternate Hotels and Villa accommodations soon.

Official Carrier

Caribbean Airlines. Special rates will be available from Caribbean Airline North-American locations to Tobago. More information to follow.

Competition Classes

To be advised soon.

Registration

To be advised soon

International Race Official Certification

We are delighted that IDBF President Mike Thomas has accepted our invitation to attend the Championships. While here, he will conduct courses and assessments for those wishing to receive certifications as International Race Officials. More detail to follow.

Here is our proposed programme:

Tuesday March 19th

- Teams arrive. Registration. Practice on race site. Tours.

Wednesday March 20th

- Teams arrive. Registration. Practice on race site. Tours.

Thursday March 21st

- Teams arrive. Registration. Practice on race site.
- Captain's Briefing at Magdalena Grand.
- Opening Ceremony.

Friday March 22nd. (Race Day 1)

- 2,000m races
- Beach and Other Activities.
- Beach Barbecue at Pigeon Point.
- PADBF Council Meeting at Magdalena Grand.

Saturday March 23rd. (Race Day 2)

- 500m races.

Sunday March 24th. (Race Day 3)

- 200m races.
- Closing Ceremony
- Dinner and dress down party at Magdalena Grand

Monday March 25th

- Teams depart
- Or stay on for more island experiences.

We look forward to seeing you in March 2019!

Sincerely,

Keith Dalip

President, Trinidad & Tobago Dragon Boat Federation