

Who is the USDBF?

The USDBF is the United States Dragon Boat Federation, the national governing body of the United States. It is currently an all volunteer organization.

The mission of the USDBF is to promote the growth and development of dragon boating in the U.S. for fitness, recreation, and team building at all levels of competition. The organization offers training, clinics and certification for dragon boating officials, coaches, paddlers and festival organizers.

The USDBF is currently comprised of 4 regions:

ERDBA-Eastern Region Dragon Boat Federation

SRDBA-Southeastern Region Dragon Boat Federation

ADBA-American Dragon Boat Association of the Mid-West

PDBA-Pacific Dragon Boat Association of the West Coast

Our members range from once a year recreational paddlers who only come out for a specific event in their area to hard-core paddlers who practice daily on and off the water. The USDBF represents youth through Great Grand Dragon Paddlers (over the age of 60!) as well as special interest groups, such as our Breast Cancer Survivors crews, which have been growing in leaps and bounds in the last 15 years. Our member clubs, festival organizers and vendors host training camps and single session trainings on improving paddling technique, steering, coaching, starting a festival and a number of other topics.

The USDBF is a member of the IDBF-the International Dragon Boat Federation, the international governing body of dragon boating.

As a member of the IDBF, the USDBF sends a National Team to IDBF World Championship Events in odd numbered years and is given 5 berths to send representative club crews in each division to Club Crew World Championships in even numbered years. Currently the USDBF offers four of these berths to its regional champions and one to the national champion in each division.

The USDBF organizes a Club Crew National Championship every other year (odd number years). Typically competition is held for distances of 200/250M, 500M, 1000M and often 2000M when possible.