

Hello Team Captains/Paddlers,

Thank you again for registering your team for the Fanshawe Dragon Boat Festival on **Saturday, June 7th, 2025**.

The festival is just around the corner and team practices are almost here.

Here are a few things to check off your list to ensure that you and your team have the best possible experience during practices and at the festival itself (links to relevant forms are underlined):

- ☐ Download and review the [Captain's Package](#) on this page. **(Share with your team members too!)**

Practice info:

Practice sessions are optional for experienced (Sport/Club) teams. If you have a paddler who cannot make either of your registered practices, please email our [practice coordinator](#) for options. It is **MANDATORY** that every paddler attends at least one practice (unless they are an experienced paddler).

- ☐ Inform your team members to arrive **AT LEAST 30 minutes before** your scheduled practice time for safety orientation and dragon boat instructions. **Captains and paddlers should check in with registration upon arrival – at the clubhouse. Please do not gather in the parking area!**
- ☐ Your team's individualized online **Team Roster** should be completed before your first practice. **Captains** – if you have any last-minute changes (made within 24 hours before your practice), please report this to the registration team upon arrival. Send updates with a team member if there's any chance you'll be late (i.e., arriving less than 30 minutes before practice).
- ☐ Ensure that EACH team member has completed an **ONLINE Waiver of Liability**. Only those who have completed the waiver can get into a boat! Paddlers should forward the online waiver confirmation to team captains so they can keep track.
Note: **Wi-Fi is NOT available at Fanshawe Conservation Area and cell reception is weak. Please do not leave waivers to the last minute! THERE WILL BE NO PAPER WAIVERS AVAILABLE.**
- ☐ Please remind your team members to dress for the weather conditions (layering is good) and to bring dry clothes to change into after practice. Dragon boating is a "water sport"! **Bring drinking water with you to rehydrate during/after practices** – especially if it's a warm night/day. PLEASE LOCK VALUABLES (including phones) IN YOUR CAR – DO NOT BRING ON THE BOAT.
- ☐ If you have not already done so, please consider fundraising for our 2025 **Paddle for a Purpose Pledge Program: [Massel Cruickshank Patient Assistance Fund](#)**. It's the first fund of its kind in Ontario to help breast cancer patients with expenses related to treatment as well as expenses such as wigs and prostheses. **Top fundraising team wins FREE entry into the 2026 Festival!!**

- ☐ **NEW THIS YEAR!!** There will be special recognition for some team-building categories at the festival on June 7th:
- Best team cheer
 - Best-dressed team
- Get creative and have fun!!!!**

ARRIVAL TO THE VENUE & PARKING!

[MAP TO PRACTICE SITE](#)

- ☐ Parking on practice nights can be VERY busy so please CARPOOL if possible and give yourself **LOTS** of time to find the site (Yacht Club) and find a parking spot.
- ☐ When you arrive at Fanshawe Conservation Area, please provide the gate attendant with your team name.

Please drive slowly through the park and follow posted speed limits – we want to respect park users, campers and the wildlife.

- ☐ Keep your windows rolled up once parked. Raccoons are always looking for a free meal!

IF THE WEATHER IS RAINY/STORMY ON THE NIGHT OF YOUR PRACTICE, PLEASE STILL COME TO THE YACHT CLUB. EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET YOU ON THE WATER, WE CAN DO "DRYLAND" TRAINING INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE. TRUST US, IT'S PRETTY EFFECTIVE!

ANY LAST-MINUTE UPDATES WILL BE POSTED TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.



**** As a courtesy to the health and wellbeing of our paddlers and volunteers (and the wildlife), please refrain from smoking and leaving cigarette litter on the Fanshawe Yacht Club grounds. ****