

MEMORANDUM



To	Member States		
From	AusDBF		
Date	17 March 2020	Document No	M-0033
Subject	2020 AusChamps – Cancelled		

The Boards of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) and Dragon Boat New South Wales (DBNSW) and in consultation with 2020 AusChamps Organising Committee have met, and will continue to, regularly monitor the COVID-19 issue reviewing advice from Government and sporting organisations.

We regret to inform the Dragon Boat Community that the 2020 Australian National Dragon Boat Championships (AusChamps) will not take place this year and that we will be unable to celebrate the 25th National Championship as planned. The decision to cancel this year's event was made for AusDBF by the relevant government agencies and we of course support the actions being taken to help protect the health and well-being of the whole country.

We understand the concerns of our members and our Dragon Boat Community and appreciate your cooperation at this time. Please know that the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, officials, staff, partners and spectators is of paramount importance.

We apologise for any inconvenience that the cancellation of AusChamps may cause and we will be working through the financial implications of this unprecedented action. Although we have a policy of no refunds for cancellations, we will be **refunding the majority (90%)** of each club's entry fees and the process for claiming this refund is explained in the FAQ section. As everyone would be aware, there are significant expenses incurred prior to a major event such as AusChamps and we need to mitigate the damage and the small percentage of entry fees will help, but by no means cover it all.

The airlines have announced that they will issue credits for use on future flights and if we can assist with any other issues arising from this cancellation, we are here to help.

We have been asked for some guidance on what clubs can do regarding training. As the situation is constantly changing at this stage, we suggest the following:

Please abide by your State Association recommendation and guidelines

Do not attend training if –

- You have travelled either domestically or internationally and are observing the self-isolation period
- You have had contact with or suspect that you have had contact with someone affected by the COVID-19 virus
- You are unwell with any kind of cold/flu or similar illness

Of course, a person can choose not to train for the time being and as long as you abide by the above rules, it is up to the individual but please consider your own health and the health of others.

“Our Mission: To connect people with dragon boating across Australia”



Many clubs take a break after the national championships and perhaps could consider taking that break now and go back to training once the situation has improved.



Please ensure that you follow the current health guidelines and practice simple hygiene by:

- Making sure to clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow.

We encourage all our community to continue to closely monitor the situation around Covid-19 via the relevant State and Federal Health Authorities and the AIS website:

<https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19>

<https://www.health.gov.au/> - refer to your relevant State Health Departments

https://www.essa.org.au/Public/News_Room/Media_Releases1/2020/COVID-19_Response_Why_exercise_is_more_important_than_ever.aspx

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will we be receiving refunds on our entry fees now that the event is cancelled?

AusDBF will forward a refund claim form out to all the participating teams, which will need to be completed and submitted back to AusDBF for refunds to be processed. It is expected refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Refunds will be electronically transferred to the nominated accounts (merchant fees will not be refunded, as AusDBF has not control over those).

2. What about our exemption requests?

AusDBF will refund \$30 per exemption paid for all exemptions submitted regardless of approved or denied. It is expected refunds may take up to 30 days to process.

3. What about 2020 CCWC Qualifications for France?

All clubs currently qualified and confirmed to participate at IDBF Club Crew World Championships in France will be honoured.

4. My club was hoping to qualify at this year's Australian Championships. Will I still get the chance?

Any clubs who were hoping to qualify for CCWC this year or additional qualifications (in what is available) will have to submit an application to AusDBF. The AusDBF Board will assess the request based on merit. Application form can be down loaded from the website -

<https://www.ausdbf.com.au/policies/>



5. Will the 25th AusChamps celebrations be postponed to a later date?

This will now be celebrated in 2021 in Perth, WA. This will be quite fortuitous as WA hosted the 1st Australian Championships and now the 25th Australian Championships

6. I have already booked accommodation and travel, what should I do?

For all those who booked accommodation, contact your travel provider for instructions. If you booked directly with the airlines on flights, please refer to their website for cancellations.

7. We have ordered event merchandising from Team Elite. What will happen to my order?

If you have pre-ordered event merchandising from Team Elite, AusDBF and Team Elite will be in touch as to how the merchandising can be collected.

John Holland
Chair – AusDBF

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