



OUR MISSION

To connect people with dragon boating across Australia.

PO Box 3463, Putney, NSW 2112
0418 480 731
info@ausdbf.com.au
www.ausdbf.com.au
@AusDBF1
@ausdbf

23 February 2024

Media Release

Paradragons is an exciting new division in dragon boating that expands the AusDBF Inclusion strategy to include paddlers who have an impairment. This new division includes athletes who have some form of physical, psychological, neurological, sensory, developmental, or intellectual impairment. There are over 100 paddlers across Australia currently participating in the sport who have some form of disability.

AusDBF Inclusion Strategy incorporates increasing awareness of persons with disability and encourages their participation in the sport across the country, from club level through the athlete's pathway to elite performance. AusDBF has appointed 3 disability ambassadors from ACT, WA and Queensland to contribute to the development of the sport and that it is sensitive to the needs of impaired athletes.

Recently appointed Tanya White, Head Coach of the Australian dragon team, the Auroras, has commenced the process to put together Australia's first Paradragon squad as an integral part of our national team to compete in the next World Dragon Boat Championships in Germany in 2025. Tanya commented, "I am excited about the launch of the Paradragons division and bringing together a network of ambassadors and advisors to help make this happen"

AusDBF currently have a strategic partnership with Disability Sports Australia (DSA). This strategic collaboration falls under DSA's Sports Incubator program, designed to empower sporting organisations to enhance inclusive pathways for individuals with a disability. AusDBF Director Ian Gearey who has the portfolio of Diversity and Inclusion within the AusDBF, has been leading this initiative.

To further support AusDBF partnership with Disability Sport Australia, AusDBF has upgraded its website to include the UserWay accessibility widget which AusDBF hopes will provide a better user experience and remove barriers for participants with a disability to access online content

The inclusion of Paradragons into the national dragon boat team creates a pathway for impaired athletes to compete at the highest level in the sport.

For more information contact Director - Ian Gearey - Diversity & Inclusion inclusivity@ausdbf.com.au or Director - Sylvia Wong - High Performance highperformance@ausdbf.com.au