AUSTRALIAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 17 April 2002
Venue: Broadbeach Surf Life Saving Club, Broadbeach

Attending:		
	Trevor Huggard	VDBA* – Chairman
	Jon Taylor	DBNSW* – Admin Dir
	Phil Rallings	QDBF – Marketing Dir
	Kylie Bade	QDBF*
	Naomi Johnson	QDBF*
	Janine Lette	QDBF*
	Alan Kuczynski	QDBF
	Marie Mann	QDBF*
	Julie Daff	QDBF
	Melanie Cantwell	DBNSW* (+ 1 proxy)
	Thomas Cribb	DBNSW*
	Steve Dawes	DBNSW
	Peter McGrath	DBNSW
	Richard Thomson	DBNSW
	Nicholas Swales	CDBA* (+ 1 proxy)
	Meridan Biziak	CDBA*
	Les Williams	CDBA*
	Chris Wood	DASA* (+ 3 proxies)
	Peter Smith	DASA
	John Holland	DASA
	David Annesley	DBNT*
	Vic Fazakerley	DBNT
	Gayle Elliott	DBNT
	Ken Dwyer	DBNT
	Ron Remfrey	DBNT
	Janice Chin	DBNT
	Sandra Grljusich	DBFWA
	Alison Jennings	DBFWA
	Viv Wigg	DBFWA
	Simon Jenjk	DBFWA
	Michelle Hanton	Dragons Abreast
		* delegate

Meeting commenced at 8.00pm

1. **Identification of Delegates**. 18 delegates, in person or by proxy, were identified as present. This dropped to 17 after the DBNT delegate left the meeting at 9.15pm.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Motion to accept minutes of previous AGM (Darwin 16/5/02) proposed M Cantwell, seconded Kylie Bade. Carried unanimously.

3. **Brief Board Reports & Presentation of Financial Statement**.
   3.1 President. Trevor said it was unfortunate he was unable to attend the Council Meeting last November. However, he was in Philadelphia for the IDBF World Champs and Congress and was very impressed. A number of significant milestones were achieved – the acceptance by IDBF of AusDBF's Full Member application and the acceptance by the Asian Dragon Boat Federation of AusDBF. Trevor said the Australian Team made a significant impression at the event.
   3.2 Administration Dir. Jon tabled the Administration Director's report. Attachment 1.

Australian Dragon Boat Federation
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Members

Canberra Dragon Boat Ass
Dragonboat Assoc of SA
Dragon Boats NSW
Queensland Dragon Boat Federation
Victorian Dragon Boat Ass
Western Australia Dr Boat Assoc

Associate Member

Dragon Boats NT
Dragon Boat Federation W

Executive

President
Trevor Huggard

Administration
Jon Taylor

Cultural
Raymond Leung

Development
Julie Clinch

Finance
Naomi Johnson

Marketing
Phil Rallings

Technical
Melanie Cantwell

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3.3 Marketing Dir. Phil reported on the success of obtaining the Mainfreight sponsorship for the 2002 Nats. Mainfreight have a history of dragon boat sponsorship in New Zealand. He recommended the incoming Mkting Dir pursue further contact with Mainfreight with a view to sponsorship at the 2003 and 2004 Nationals.

3.4 Finance. Jon reported that while he wasn't able to table the financial statement he was able to provide a reasonably accurate estimate of the current financial position of AusDBF as there were very few transactions on the AusDBF bank account. The balance as at the last AGM was $4,620.55. Since then the only expenses have been $600 for IDBF membership and $670 for lapel badges and plaques used in Philadelphia. The income for the same period is approx $3,200 from membership renewals. The current balance is approx. $6,700.

4. **2002/2003 Board of Management Elections**. Elections were held for the Board of Management. The nominees for each Board position were elected unopposed. Members of the incoming Board of Management are:

4.1 President	Trevor Huggard
4.2 Admin Director	Jon Taylor
4.3 Finance Director	Naomi Johnson
4.4 Marketing Director	Phil Rallings
4.5 Technical Director	Melanie Cantwell
4.6 Development Director	Julie Clinch
4.7 Cultural Director	Ray Leung

5. **New Member Applications**.

5.1 No new member applications.

5.2 Tasmania. Michelle Hanton flagged that there is no dragon boat racing in Tasmania and that some effort should be made to investigate developing dragon boat racing in the area. Michelle Hanton, Julie Clinch & Jon Taylor will form a working group to look at introducing dragon boat racing into Tasmania.

5.3 WADBA/DBFWA. Jon Taylor summarised development since the last AGM. DBFWA had replied to the AusDBF Membership Questionnaire with a detailed response. No response had been received from WADBA. Jon said he had sent WADBA a reminder email and rung twice and left messages prior to the AGM but had not had any response from WADBA. The meeting requested an update from one of the DBFWA representatives at the meeting and was advised that the majority of paddlers in WA are members of DBFWA, that one of the WADBA clubs (Spirit of Bunbury) was likely to join DBFWA and that WADBA had not recently organised any sport orientated regattas. The outgoing Board recommended that should an application for full membership to AusDBF be received from DBFWA then it should be accepted. WADBA would be eligible for associate membership. A motion to this effect was proposed by Les Williams; seconded Melanie Cantwell. Motion carried unanimously. Jon stated that now that the membership issue had been resolved that both WADBA and DBFWA would be able to put aside their differences and jointly promote dragon boating within WA.

6. **2002 Nationals**. Kylie Bade gave a brief summary of the organisation of the 2002 Nationals. Melanie Cantwell congratulated QDBF on getting their state organisation and the Nationals regatta organised within 12 months.

7. **2003 Nationals**. Chris Wood from DASA gave a brief summary of the current state of preparations for the 2003 Nationals in Adelaide.

7.1 Dates are 9-13 April 2003

7.2 Venue is Westlakes – a world class rowing venue close to Adelaide CBD.

7.3 Sports SA have been contracted to take on administration chores.

7.4 DASA are talking to several potential sponsors.

7.5 The event website will be up by the middle of this year.

7.6 The race format will be the same as the 2002 Nationals – 3 days, day 1 – State Champs 500m, day 2 – Club Champs 500m, day 3 – Club Champs 250m.

8. **2004 Nationals**. Jon advised he had no report from WADBA on this subject and that he would contact WADBA next week and for an indication of their intentions. DBFWA reps indicated DBFWA would be interested in organising the 2004 Nationals.

9. **Selection of Australian Teams for 2002 Rome, 2002 Aioi, 2003 Shanghai**. Selection for these events was confirmed as:
   9.1 Asian Dragon Boat Champs, Japan, July 2002. Australia can send one Open, one Mixed and one Women's crew. The crews are National crews. The winners of the State Champs on Thursday will be offered first chance to form part of the Australian Team.
   9.2 IDBF Club Crew World Champs, Rome, Aug 2002. This event is for club crews. Australia can have 3 crews per competition class in Open, Mixed and Women's and 2 crews per competition class for Masters and Juniors. Winners and placegetters in the Club Champs on Fri and Sat would be offered the first chance to participate at this event.
   9.3 IDBF World Champs, Shanghai, 2003. This competition is for National crews. Australia will probably be entitled to send a Team consisting of up to 252 persons (84 Premier, 84 Masters, 84 Junior). Australian Team selection will be based on performance in the State v State event at the 2003 Nationals in Adelaide.
   9.4 Trevor reminded attendees that Penang would be celebrating their 25th Anniversary event next year.

10. **IDBF Update**. Jon stated that the main IDBF matter to report was the ongoing issue with ICF. IDBF had made a formal submission in Nov 2001 to the Mediator appointed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

11. **Australian Sports Commission Update**. AusDBF has been in regular contact with Australian Sports Commission since making a request for formal ASC recognition late last year. Progress has been slow as other ASC issues have received a higher priority than AusDBF request.

12. **Bid for 2007 IDBF World Champs Update**.
   12.1 Melanie reported on progress regarding the 2007 World Champs bid. The SIRC venue has been booked and some basic planning meetings held. The work for the bid presentation in Shanghai will begin now that the DBNSW season has ended.
   12.2 Trevor reported that since the Nov 2001 Council Meeting at which it was agreed to award DBNSW the organising rights to the 2007 Champs he had received several written offers of support ($100,000 from Vic Government; $50,000 from Melb City Council; $25,000 from Melb Lord Mayor) towards hosting the 2007 World Champs in Melb. Furthermore, two persons would be made available to undertake administrative and coordinating tasks for up to 12 months prior to the 2007 event. Trevor advised that as part of hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games Melb was building a new rowing centre that would be used the 2007 dragon boat event.
   12.3 Further discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of these offers and the previous decision to award the 2007 event to DBNSW.
   12.4 A motion was put to rescind the earlier decision to award DBNSW the 2007 event. Proposed Chris Wood; seconded Janine Lette. Vote: 8 For; 7 Against; 2 Abstentions. Motion carried.
   12.5 A motion was put to reopen the bid process and for Members to present their bids at the next Council Meeting (approx Nov, 2002). Proposed Chris Wood; seconded Janine Lette. Vote: 12 For; 3 Against; 2 Abstentions. Motion carried.

13. **Bye laws to cover participation of International Teams at AusDBF Events**.
   13.1 The participation of Waikato at the AusDBF National Champs had raised a number of issues.
   13.2 A motion was put to continue to invite international crews but that they should race in their own international category. Proposed Les Williams; seconded Chris Smith. Vote: 5
   For; 9 Against; 3 Abstentions. Motion not carried.

13.3 A motion was put that future AusDBF Nationals would be closed to international crews. Proposed Melanie Cantwell; seconded Nick Swales. Vote: 9 For; 6 Against; 2 Abstentions. Motion carried.

14. **National Guidelines – sweep accreditation, officials training, risk management**. Jon advised that draft documents covering sweep accreditation and officials training had been developed and circulated to Board Members. Jon undertook to circulate these drafts to all states for further comment.

15. **General Business**

15.1 Dave Annersley (prior to leaving) had raised the question of raising funds for touring AusDBF rep sides. He suggested a $1/paddler member levy. The meeting suggested Dave to further articulate his suggestions in a written submission to the Board.

15.2 Kylie said that the rules regarding state and club eligibility need to be tightened up.

Meeting Closed: 11.00pm.

Attachment 1.

Administration Director's Report 2001/2002

IDBF World Champs in Philadelphia, Aug 2001

This was a substantial and successful exercise for AusDBF. Success was both on and off the water. A large Australian Team (84 athletes and supporters) were based in Philadelphia for 8 days.

IDBF Congress Aug, 2001

a) AusDBF's Full Membership Application to IDBF was ratified by the IDBF Congress Meeting in August, 2001.
b) Jon Taylor appointed to IDBF Council as Regional Rep for Australasia.
c) AusDBF bid for 2007 World Champs noted.

IDBF Accredited Officials

Jon Taylor & Ray Leung sat for (and passed) the IDBF Officials (Grade 2) exam. Trevor Huggard & Vic Fazakerley (NT) passed the IDBF Officials (Grade 1) exam while in Philadelphia.

Recent DBA "happenings"

Generally quiet.
DBA have advised the Asian DBF Organisers requesting to send a team to Festival event running at the same time as the Asian DBF Championships. Organisers have told DBA to seek sanctioning from AusDBF.
Some recent statements from Ray Woodcock (5/3/02) at a club meeting in WA relating to Dragons Abreast (came to nothing) and an email from Ray (15/11/01) after the Worlds generally bagging AusDBF and myself. Again came to nothing.

Australian Sports Commission Update

AusDBF have kept the ASC informed of all the major developments since Sept 1998. The Admin Dir and reps from DBNSW & CDBA met Bob Kershaw at the ASC last year to discuss recent progress. AusDBF wrote to ASC on 22 Nov 2001 requesting formal recognition. Currently, that request is pending a) recommendation by Bob Kershaw and b) final approval by ASC Board.

2000/2001 AusDBF Membership

Association/Club	*Membership Status*	*Comments*
Dragon Boats NSW Inc	Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
Canberra Dragon Boat Assoc Inc	Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
Victorian Dragon Boat Assoc Inc	Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
Dragon Boat Association of SA Inc	Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
WA Dragon Boat Assoc Inc	Member	2001/2002 Membership to be renewed
Queensland Dragon Boat Fed	Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
Dragon Boats NT Inc	Associate Member	2001/2002 Membership renewed
DBFWA	Associate Member	2001/2002 Membership to be renewed

National Guidelines

Draft guidelines on a national Officials Scheme and Sweep Accreditation Guidelines circulated to Members.

Communications

National Newsletter sent to all members and interested parties May 01, Oct 01 and Mar 02.

Issues needing to be addressed

1. Website
2. Insurance
3. Structure & funding appropriate to next stage of development

AusDBF Financial Statement - 2002/2003

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Opening Balance: 1 July 2002			$5,414.62
			$5,414.62
Income			$5,414.62
4/9 VDBA 2001/2002 Membership		$400.00	$5,814.62
25/9 DBFWA 2001/2002 + 2002/2003 Membership		$500.00	$6,314.62
1/10 DBNT 2002/2003 Membership		$400.00	$6,714.62
2/10 DBNSW 2002/2003 Membership		$400.00	$7,114.62
10/10 QDBF & DA 2002/2003 Membership		$500.00	$7,614.62
16/10 CDBA & DASA 2002/2003 Membership		$800.00	$8,414.62
15/11 Payment for 900 paddle stickers from DBNSW		$450.00	$8,864.62
20/11 VDBA 2002/2003 Membership		$400.00	$9,264.62
			$9,264.62
			$9,264.62
			$9,264.62
Expenses			$9,264.62
Bank fees	$0.30		$9,264.32
15/8 Statement Fees	$35.00		$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
Closing Balance as per Bank Statement: 30 Nov 2002			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
Funds received not banked:			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
Cheques written but not presented:			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
			$9,229.32
Invoices to be paid:			$9,229.32
Paddle stickers (2,000) for 2002 Nationals	$1,221.00		$8,008.32
IDBF Membership 2002 - US$400	$800.00		$7,208.32
			$7,208.32
			$7,208.32
Nett AusDBF Funds			$7,208.32

AusDBF Recommended Sweep Accreditation Scheme for State Bodies

Purpose

To ensure that all sweeps are competent.
To ensure sweeps are capable of commanding novice crews at events.

Structure

Sweeps should do a two part practical examination (outlined below) where their basic sweeping skills and safety knowledge are assessed. If they pass, they will be given provisional accreditation. This will allow the Sweep to sweep experienced teams in races.

Once the Sweep has swept 4 races successfully (to be completed over two events), they will gain full accreditation. This will allow them to sweep novice crews at events.

Once a sweep has received full accreditation it is valid for 3 years.
After 3 years a sweep is required to under go re-accreditation.

The purpose of the accreditation course is not to train new sweeps. This remains the responsibility of the individual clubs.

Pre-requisites

1. Applicants for accreditation should train with a currently accredited and experienced sweep.
2. Applicants will have trained in a variety of conditions prior to the accreditation test (day and evening, windy and calm, full boat and half boat, etc)
3. Applicants will have had control of a training boat on at least 10 - 15 different occasions before undertaking the test.

Recommended - It is highly desirable that the canidates will hold either a First Aid or CPR certificate

Practical Examination

Sweeping Test

Each sweep will steer a full boat (no less than 16 paddlers) and must demonstrate certain skills:

- Steering a straight line under simulated race conditions. This is to be over the shortest race distance of 250m
- Moving up to a start line.
- Reversing the boat accurately and safely.
- Maintaining the boat on a start line.
- Stopping a boat quickly.
- Use a standard set of calls, which are:
  - Head count – Number off
  - Stopping – Brake the Boat / Dig it in/Hold water
  - Paddles up – Paddles up
  - Start Paddling – Go
  - Paddles to go backwards – Back Paddle / Paddles behind
  - Start paddling backwards – Go
  - Brace stroke – Paddles flat / Flat paddles
  - Stop paddling – Paddles out / Let it run
- Balancing the boat when steering.

Oral Test

Sweeps will be asked some questions relating to safety practices and procedures

AusDBF Recommend Sweep Safety Practices & Procedures

Accidents in the sport of Dragon Boating can and do occur. Unfortunately the consequences can be fatal. Adherence to these guidelines will reduce the risk of accidents and provide a safe paddling experience.

While on the water the sweep is in control of the boat and has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the crew.

Calls

Are you ready?	- Q from sweep or race starter. Hold up a hand if you are not ready.
Head Count	- at the beginning before leaving the bank / beach / pontoon
Rest / Relax	- crew members lean forward with arms straight with the paddle at a 90 degree angle, nearly touching the paddler in front of them
Attention	- the call from the starter
Paddles Up	- move to the start position (paddles up). In some events paddles can be in the water.
Go	- start paddling - In a race, the starter usually blows a horn or megaphone siren
Paddles Behind	- paddles are held in a backward position then start paddling backwards when instructed to go
Paddles Flat	- paddlers press the blade of the paddle flat on the water to stabilise the boat
Stop the boat/ Dig it in/ Hold Water	- paddlers stop the boat quickly by holding the blade vertically in the water
Paddles Out/ Let it run	- paddles come out of the water and let the boat glide
Draw left or right	- is used by the front nominated seats to pull the nose of the boat back in line. The opposite side should hold paddles flat.
Back 2/3/4 rows only	- these seats only paddle, *under the sweeps instruction*, while other paddlers have their blades out of the water. Use this to manoeuvre for start position. It is best to advise your crews to respond on your instructions not the starter. Sometimes you end up with a whole boat reacting to the starter and its too much power!

Basic Guidelines for Preventing Accidents

- One of the likely times a boat will capsize is when paddlers are loading or unloading the boat.
- Safe lifting technique (bend at the knees, not at the back) when lifting and carrying the boats.
- Make sure enough people are there to carry the boat. Ask other teams for help if needed. It requires 10 or more paddlers to move a boat.
- Lower the boat slowly when putting it down.
- Two people hold the front of the boat to steady it, pointing the back of the boat into the water.
- Paddlers load and unload the boat from the front, 2 at a time.
- Decide seating positions before getting into the boat.
- Avoid erratic movements.
- Keep the weight low when moving in a boat
- When seated, put paddles on the water (brace stroke).
- Do not push the boat while people in it are not seated. Always call out the boat is about to be moved.
- The strokes and drummer should enter the boat last and leave it first.
- When the full team is in the boat, the sweep will call for a head count. This starts with the drummer or the right stroke, number off down the boat. Repeat until everyone knows their number.
- When leaving shore and arriving carry out a head count.

- All paddlers should take note of their buddy who will be the person sitting next to them. In some cases, such as the drummer or sweep, paddlers will have 2 buddies. This is the person you will look out for if there is a capsize. Your buddy's safety depends on you.
- The boat should be balanced left and right before leaving shore.
- Do not lock or tie yourself into the seat - you would be stuck if the boat were to capsize.
- Paddlers require suitable footwear when getting in and out of the boat
- If you cannot swim more than 50m with clothes on, wear a life jacket.

The Sweep's Responsibilities

Training

- The sweep issues paddling commands that control the boat.
- Use a loud voice - with clear instructions.
- Paddlers must listen and obey!
- Always balance the boat before commencing a training session. Take a few strokes and then adjust.
- If necessary, a sweeps instructions must be followed over the desires of the coach!
- Practise stopping the boat. The boat must be stopped in a short distance – especially in race conditions.
- Be comfortable reversing. You should practise this regularly. Remember to only dip your sweep oar into the water as you may catch a crab! Reverse towards your new line not away from it. Point the back of the boat towards the direction you intend to go BEFORE reversing. Remember - do not reverse quickly.
- Paddles flat should always be used when a crew enters the boat, during movement in the boat while on the water or if the waters choppy and stability is needed.
- Novices should only paddle in reasonable conditions
- Sweeps need to be aware of all other boats, and give them a wide birth. Paddling boats have right of way over powerboats – except for river cats and ferries. Rowing boats move faster but they are facing backwards so give way! If you have stopped then the boat moving past you has right of way. The sweep should be periodically checking behind to ensure awareness of approaching boats. Common sense should prevail if unsure.
- *The sweep is responsible for head counts before leaving the shore and after a capsize.*
- If choppy, try to face the boat into or away from the waves, not side-onto the waves.
- Boats should generally be moving in an anti-clockwise Direction with the land to your right.
- Only venture where the boat will be stable and the water is flat.
- You should be no more than 100m from shore
- *Be certain all paddlers can swim or ensure they are wearing a lifejacket*

Training at night

- It is the sweeps responsibility to ensure the boat does not go out without lights. You must have them on from sundown.
- Lights must be on both the front and back of the boat, clearly visible (not obstructed by paddlers) and white. They need to be approx. a meter above the boat and should be waterproof.
- Use a loud voice - with clear instructions
- Be extra observant!

Training in all weather

- You must NEVER be on the water in a thunderstorm
- Sweeps should monitor weather patterns – be aware of when a high or low tide or King Tide is expected.
- Paddlers should bring plenty of water. It is important to stop to enable paddlers to drink. Remember the muscles need water to function and recover! Always advise paddlers to spit out the first mouthful, as it will be salty.
- Avoid sunburn!

- When it is wet and cold teams need to keep moving – sometimes short sessions are better. Sweeps need to help the coaches monitor paddler's well being. Watch fro hypothermia.

Racing

- Safety comes before results, stay in your allocated lane, stop the boat if necessary. Crews will be disqualified for moving out of their lane or endangering others.
- Check the race rules and ask any questions at the briefing.
- *If a collision is imminent you must stop the boat!*
- If you are not ready or experience a problem hold your hand up. This ensures the starter or judge is aware of a difficulty.
- When lining up to race on courses without regular lane markers be sure you have talked to the sweeps besides you. This way everyone knows what to aim for.
- Brace yourself for the surge at the start – sweeps have been known to fall off the back!
- Please keep the crew calm and balanced once the race has finished. The finish line is when most capsizes occur! This is especially so for corporates who like a water fight – please stress the necessity for this to be avoided.
- Move to the staring line promptly – crews can be left behind!
- Alcohol – no crew should race if they have been drinking
- Park your boat at the lane number allocated – this makes it easier for the next crew to load

Capsize Drill

If you feel the boat is going over and you cannot keep it balanced be sure to push the sweep out the back - this helps you to avoid being hit by the oar.
It is best to try and push yourself away from the boat as it rolls over

Instructions

- Make sure you are OK, get your head above water. If you come up underneath the boat swim under and to the side of the boat and then resurface.
- *Stay with the boat* – be carefull as the boat will roll if all paddlers are holding onto the one side.
- Forget about the paddles – they float!
- Paddlers need to find their seat buddy. Call out if necessary. Note the boat position to land marks
- The sweep calls for a head count. Do this twice. *It is extremely important that the crew remains quiet!*
- If you can't find someone - alert others. Search if people are missing.
- Distribute yourselves around the boat and hold onto it to stop it rolling over. Do not swim under the boat. Swim around it. Carefully turn the boat over so it is right side up.
- The sweep then does another head count
- All swim with the boat to the shore. Do another head count. Ring 000 if needed.
- Report any training capsize to your State controlling body. Prepare a short report and forward by the end of the week. Race capsizes will be investigated during the event.

Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF)
RACE OFFICIALS SCHEME
Gradings and Assessment

1. AusDBF recognises that the standards of officiating at Australian National Championships must be of the highest order if AusDBF events are to earn credibility and respect and if such competition is to develop in a full and meaningful way. The training and assessment scheme for the Australian Race Officials Licence (AROL) and the grading system associated with it have been formulated to ensure that the highest standards of officiating are developed at National level and maintained throughout Australia.

2. AusDBF Race Officials Scheme (AROS), follows on from Officials Training undertaken at State Level and consists of three (3) levels (or grades) of assessment and grading as follows:

Level	Award
Grade 1.	Australian Race Officials Certificate (AROC)
Grade 2.	Australian Race Officials Licence (AROL)
Grade 3.	Senior Australian Officials Licence (SAOL)

3. The outline requirements for the different Grades of the AROS are shown below but all those applying to become an Australian Official must first hold a **State Race Officials Certificate (SROC) or be able to provide a Statement of Attainment from the relevant State Association.**

4. **State Officials Certificate.** Those people who wish to become AusDBF Technical Race Officials are required to attend a State Officials basic training course, organised by or through an AusDBF Member Organisation. Such training should be followed by at least one seasons practical experience at dragon boat events, during which time the competence of the Trainee Official is assessed, before qualifying as a State Race Official and being awarded a State Race Officials Certificate. This (or Statement of Attainment) also qualifies the official for entry into the Australian Race Officials Scheme.

5. **Australian Race Official (AROC) - Grade 1.** State Race Officials, with at least two (2) years of officiating at State Level may apply to the AusDBF Technical Director to take the AusDBF Race Officials Examination. This examination consists of a written paper on the AusDBF Statutes, Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing, followed by a verbal interview to assess the candidates knowledge of the sport and officiating experience. Successful candidates will be awarded the AusDBF Race Officials Certificate (AROC), which is the first Grade of the AROS scheme. Those holding a AROC will be entered on the AusDBF Register of Officials as Grade.1 Australian Race Officials and authorised to officiate under supervision at AusDBF events.

6. **Australian Race Official (AROL) - Grade. 2.** Australian Race Officials holding an AROC, with at least four (4) years of officiating at State Level, including acting as a Race Official in at least two (2) AusDBF races, may apply to the AusDBF Technical Director to be assessed for their AusDBF Race Officials Licence. This assessment is a verbal interview and a practical test of a candidates abilities, carried out at a mutually agreed State Race or an AusDBF Championship event. Successful candidates will be awarded their AusDBF Race Officials Licence (AROL), which is the second Grade of the AROS scheme. Those holding an AROL will be entered on the AusDBF Register of Officials as Grade 2. Australian Race Officials, and authorised to officiate at AusDBF Sanctioned Races, up to and including Chief Official and at AusDBF National Championships up to and including Race Director (Organisers) level.

7. **Australian Race Official (SAOL) - Grade 3.** Australian Race Officials holding an AROL will be eligible to apply to the AusDBF Board, or be nominated by the Board, for Senior Official status. Such status indicates that the official concerned has a wide range of experience of organising dragon boat events and officiating at both State and Australian level over a number of years, and who, in the opinion of the Board is capable of carrying out the duties of the Chief Official at AusDBF National Championship level. Those granted Senior Official status will be entered on the AusDBF Register of Officials as Grade 3 Australian Race Officials, with the authority to organise and sanction races on behalf of AusDBF. Only Senior Australian Officials will be authorised to act as Chief Officials at AusDBF National Championships.