



UNITED STATES DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION



# USDBF Club Crew National Championships

**Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota, FL  
October 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**Invitation and Informational**

## **Bulletin #1.1**



UNITED STATES DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION



## Message from USDBF President, Mark Kane

Fellow Dragon Boaters,

I am excited to invite you all to the 2021 Club Crew National Championships in Sarasota, Florida. The Competition and Technical Committee, the Board of Directors, and Volunteers of the USDBF have been working diligently to prepare for this world-class event. Club Crews from all over the USA will join us at Nathan Benderson Park to compete for the title of National Champion in their respective divisions. In addition, the top five standard boat crews and top two small boat crews in each division will win an invitation to return to Florida for the Club Crew World Championships in 2022.

The United States Dragon Boat Federation is delighted to be hosting this wonderful event at Nathan Benderson Park, a world-class paddling facility. We would like to thank Nathan Benderson Park, Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, and Visit Sarasota for their support of this event. This is the first time the Federation will be distributing all CCWC berths at the same event and we are looking forward to this being the largest national championship event in Federation history. I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2021!

Paddles up!  
Mark M. Kane  
President  
United States Dragon Boat Federation



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Greetings Paddlers,

On behalf of Visit Sarasota County, we are ecstatic to welcome you to our destination to compete in the 2021 USDBF Club Crew National Championships at Nathan Benderson Park.

Host to numerous past national and international competitions, including the 2014 IBCPC Dragon Boat Festival, Nathan Benderson Park is one of the most technologically advanced courses in the world and has received countless praises for the competition experience it provides to athletes of all skill levels.

Beyond the competition venue, Sarasota County is known as a coveted vacation destination. World renowned beaches, eclectic dining and a vibrant arts and culture scene are just a few of the features frequently enjoyed by visiting athletes and fans.

We at Visit Sarasota County stand ready to assist in making your Championships experience unforgettable, and invite you to visit our website, [VisitSarasota.com](http://VisitSarasota.com), for information and inspiration to plan your trip.

Best Regards,

Shelby Connett  
Director of Sports

301 N Cattlemen Rd • Suite 203 • Sarasota, FL • 34234 • 941-955-0991 • [visitsarasota.org](http://visitsarasota.org)

LONGBOAT KEY | ST. ARMANDS | LIDO KEY | SIESTA KEY | CASEY KEY | VENICE | MANASOTA KEY | ENGLEWOOD | NORTH PORT

13<sup>th</sup> USDBF Club Crew National Championships  
Sarasota, Florida October 1-3, 2021



UNITED STATES DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION



April 2021

Dear athletes, coaches and dragon boat families,

On behalf of the Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA), we look forward to welcoming you to Nathan Benderson Park in the Sarasota-Bradenton area of Florida. Nathan Benderson Park was just named the #1 Rowing race course in North America and we are confident you will find it to be the best facility for Dragon Boat racing as well. Beyond the state-of-the-art year-round buoyed course, consistent minimum water depth of 3.5 meters, fair racing lanes, starting platform, start system and more, we are committed to making your experience first class both on and off the course.

When you arrive, you will find that Nathan Benderson Park is conveniently located adjacent to I-75, just miles from the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, minutes from numerous hotel options and conveniently situated in walking distance to a major retail district with dozens of restaurant options.

We invite you to come early to train on our flat waters, where motorized water craft are not permitted, and to stay longer and enjoy our beautiful beaches. To learn more, visit us at [NathanBendersonPark.org](http://NathanBendersonPark.org) or check us out on social media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen V. Rodriguez".

Stephen V. Rodriguez Chief  
Operating Officer

Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates. • 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle  
• Sarasota, Florida 34235 • [www.NathanBendersonPark.org](http://www.NathanBendersonPark.org)



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## CONTACTS

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For any questions please contact [competition@usdbf.org](mailto:competition@usdbf.org)

Paula Humphries, USDBF Competition and Technical Officer  
Barb Michaels, USDBF Competition and Technical Committee Chair  
Bob Ricks, USDBF VP2

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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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The USDBF launched a national membership system effective January 1, 2021. All competing athletes, coaches, and team managers at 2021 Club Crew National Championships will be required to register with our membership system. ***Crews entering the USDBF Club Crew National Championships must be current Members of the USDBF. Club Crew participants must be prepared to present USDBF Membership ID cards at the event. Your USDBF membership card (photo ID) will serve as your credentials for CCNC. Payment for your membership must be received by the USDBF no later than July 15, 2021.*** Crews entering the USDBF Club Crew National Championship must also be members in good standing of their respective regions.

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## LOCATION AND VENUE

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Nathan Benderson Park (NBP), located in Sarasota, Florida, is a world-renowned paddling and aquatics facility, set in one of the most pristine beach destinations in the United States. Dragon boat racing is a major component of the Park's regular programming, including four community teams and hosting at least two regattas each year. NBP is a unique 600-acre Sarasota County park, operated and managed privately under contract with the County. Over \$40 million has been invested into the facility's development, including 2,000-meter racing lanes and straight shorelines, coaching lanes, a wave-attenuator system, starting gates and a state-of-the-art finish tower.

As the site of multiple past international and national events, including the 2014 IBCPC Participatory Dragon Boat Festival, the 2017 World Rowing Championships, the 2018 World Rowing Championships, 2019 World Rowing U23 Championships and the future host of the 2022 IDBF Club Crew World Championships, hundreds of thousands of athletes and fans have experienced unforgettable competition on NBP's course.

The park is in Sarasota County, situated on the County line with Manatee County just to the north. The region is south of Tampa on Florida's Gulf Coast. The area is well-known as a vacation destination, famous for award-winning beaches such as Siesta Beach. The Park itself is situated within a vibrant entertainment district called University Town Center, consisting of dozens of restaurants and an upscale shopping mall just within walking distance from the course.



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## REGATTA COURSE

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**Address:** 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota, Florida 34235

**Width:** 130 meters

**Depth:** 3.5 meters minimum

**Racing Lanes:** 9 lanes each of 13.5 meters wide

**Docks:** multiple – and will be positioned for greatest flexibility and ease of loading

**Water Quality:** healthy quality and tested monthly; the lake is part of an overall water system which feeds into the water supply for the City of Bradenton

**Avg Temp:** October average temperatures are a low of 72 and a high of 87

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## COMPETITION FORMAT

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The USDBF Club Crew National Championships will be conducted according to the USDBF Competition Regulations and Racing rules which align with the IDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing. The racing will be conducted by appointed USDBF Race Officials. Officials will be assisted by appointed volunteers.

The Championship will use the IDBF Race Plans to determine the racing program.

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## PROVISIONAL ENTRY / REGISTRATION PROCESS

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Clubs will use the USDBF website for all registrations. Follow [this link](http://www.usdbf.org/events/96738/) (www.usdbf.org/events/96738/) to register your club in the 2021 Club Crew National Championships. Please note: The individual registering the crew for CCNC must be a USDBF member to access the registration system.

You can register your crew at any time. Once you have registered your crew you will be emailed a login code to access the IDBF system, along with directions so that you can enter your paddlers into the IDBF registration system. This system can be found at <https://idbfchamps.org/nats>. All entry details will be made on this system. **Final payment must be made to the USDBF no later than June 30, 2021.**

Just a reminder that your club must be a member of your region in order to register for the CCNC. All paddlers on your club roster for the CCNC must be members of the USDBF.

Please be sure to direct all paddlers, coaches and managers participating in the USDBF Club Crew National Championships to the USDBF website <https://www.usdbf.org/registration> to complete the USDBF Membership enrollment process. Note: all participants in the USDBF Club Crew National Championships will be required to present USDBF Membership ID cards at the event. This process must be completed and payment must be received prior to July 15, 2021.



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## REGISTRATION FEES

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<b>Total fees are based on your age group and boat size:</b>	Registration Fees
Adult Standard boat crew aged 19 and over	2,075.00
Adult Small boat crew aged 19 and over	1,725.00
Paradragons Standard boat crew	1,150.00
Paradragons Small boat crew	975.00
Youth Standard boat crew aged 18 and under	1,150.00
Youth Small boat crew aged 18 and under	975.00

**All registration fees are due and must be paid before June 30, 2021.**

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## NAMED ENTRIES

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The 2021 USDBF Club Crew National Championships will be a test event for Club Crew World Championships to be held at Nathan Benderson Park in the summer of 2022.

As part of that process team entries must be made on the IDBF registration system at <https://idbfchamps.org/nats>. All entry details will be made on this system. Once the USDBF has received a crews' registration information (see the Registration Process found on page 6 above) the crew will be provided a login code to access the IDBF system along with directions to enter Provisional Entry details.

Clubs can register at any time, using the USDBF Registration Process found on page 6 above. Clubs are required to submit their Named Entries no later than July 15, 2021. Named entries include team member details and photographs.

Further details regarding Named Entries will be included in Bulletin #2.



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## BERTH AWARDS

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For the first time, competing at the USDBF Club Crew National Championships will be the only way for US crews to be awarded berths for the IDBF Club Crew World Championships. For each racing division, up to five standard and two small boat berths for CCWC 2022 will be awarded.

The 2021 CCNC welcomes true club teams based in the United States. We will follow the IDBF guidelines regarding club membership. **Please see the IDBF regulations below:**

### **12.3. Dragon Boat Clubs (IDBF Bye-Laws Ed 8, Jan 2020)**

*A Dragon Boat Club is defined as being a single Crew or group of Crews which have a formal Sports Club Constitution which, in general terms, shows that the Club's individual members are responsible for the Club's affairs; that they elect representatives to their governing Dragon Boat organization; that they elect Club Officers and Officials to manage the affairs of their Club; that the Club keeps properly maintained and controlled accounts; that the Aims and Objectives of the Club and its Constitution or Statutes, are consistent with those of their own governing Dragon Boat Association, where one exists and where appropriate, the IDBF. (Sep 02)*

### **4.3 Club Crews (IDBF Competition Regulations Ed 8, Jan 2020)**

*In IDBF Championships for **Club Crews** a Racer can only represent one Dragon Boat Club. The rules for National Crew Representation need not apply but all competitors must have been bona fide members of the Dragon Boat Crew that they represent, for at least SIX (6) months before the Club Crew Championships in question.*

*4.3.1. A bona fide Club Member is one that has regularly trained and/or competed for the Club Crew that they represent during the minimum period of six months shown in 4.3. A bona fide Club Member will normally be resident in the Country in which the Club Crew is located. A Club Member who trains and competes with a Club Crew from a different Country or Territory or a geographical Region within a Country to the one in which the Club Member himself (or herself) is normally domiciled, will only be considered as a bona fide Club Member if they can prove that they have physically attended their Club to train or compete for a period or of at least twelve (12) weeks, over a minimum period of two (2) racing seasons. (Nov 06)*

In addition, all clubs registering crews for CCNC 2021 must be members of their regional organization. If a crew is awarded a berth for CCWC 2022, they must be prepared to show evidence that all competitors on their roster are true members of their club.

Further information regarding Club Crew composition can be found in the "Frequently Asked Questions" document found on the USDBF website by clicking [here](#).





**DIVISIONS, RACING CLASSES, COMPETITION AND RACE DISTANCES**

Both Standard and Small Boat Championships are available at this event.

If a team wishes to enter a standard boat and small boat in the same competition class, the competitors in the standard boat must be completely different from those in the small boat; therefore the 26 competitors (including reserves) in the standard boat must be completely different from the 14 competitors (including reserves) in the small boat. Competitors from the Open and Women classes may combine to form Mixed crews.

USDBF Club Crew National Championships will be decided based on 200, 500, and 2000-meter races. Races will be conducted using the USDBF Rules of Racing. Teams will be awarded points based on performance in each competition class and distance.

**Standard Boat Championships (22 competitors)**

Racing Class	Premier Division	Senior A, B & C Division	* BCP Division	ACP Division	24 & Under	University Division	18 & Under	PD1 Division	PD2 Division
Open	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m	200m 500m
Women	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m		
Mixed	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		

\* In the BCP Division, crews may race with male BCP crew members



**Small Boat Championships (12 competitors)**

Racing Class	Premier Division	Senior A, B & C Division	* BCP Division	ACP Division	24 & Under	University Division	18 & Under	PD1 Division	PD2 Division
Open	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m	200m 500m
Women	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m		
Mixed	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m	200m 500m 2000m		

\* In the BCP Division, crews may race with male BCP crew members

**Disclaimer:** The USDBF will award berths in the divisions and classes listed above. However, competition opportunities at IDBF Club Crew World Championships are ultimately determined by having a sufficient number of entries in each division/class.

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**AGE REGULATIONS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For all age groups, ages shown below are as of December 31st, **2022** (The year of competition for the next CCWC is 2022).

The 2021 CCNC will follow the IDBF regulations for age classes:

Junior U16	12th to 16th birthday falls in the year of the competition (with the exception of the helm)
Junior U18	12th to 18th birthday falls in the year of the competition (with the exception of the helm)
U24	12th to 24th birthday falls in the year of the competition
University	Competitors must be a bona fide student of a University or College (proven by the institute)
Premier	No age limit
Senior A	40th or later birthday falls in the year of the competition (with the exception of the drummer)
Senior B	50th or later birthday falls in the year of the competition (with the exception of the drummer)
Senior C	60th or later birthday falls in the year of the competition (with the exception of the drummer)



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## MULTIPLE AND CROSS ROSTERING

Participants may race with only one club at the 2021 CNCC, with an exception made for paddlers whose primary club is single-gender. Those paddlers may compete in Mixed races only, with one other club. An exception is also made for athletes who compete with a Paradrakon crew, whose athletes may compete with another crew. A participant may race with more than one crew within a club, but in no case will racing be held up to allow the transfer of a participant from one crew to another. Shared helms and drummers between crews in the same club will be allowed based on the race program.

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## CANCER SURVIVORS

Breast cancer and all-cancer survivor crews (BCP/ACP) are dragon boat crews formed from competitors who have been diagnosed with breast cancer or another form of cancer.

In recognition of Dana Nelson, the BCP (formerly BCS) Cup Challenge will be continued. Dana's contribution to the Breast Cancer Paddler division is well known, and a Memorial Cup will be awarded to the National Champion in the BCP division each year in her honor.

Everyone on the roster of a team registered in the ACP division must be a cancer survivor. For BCP teams, everyone on the roster must be a breast cancer survivor. In both divisions, these rules apply to the drummer and helm, as well as to the paddlers.

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## ELIGIBLE PARADRAGON CLUBS

The USDBF is actively working to promote Paradrakon Club participation at USDBF Club Crew National Championships.

The Paradrakon category is relatively new to our sport. IDBF is prepared to waive normal qualification requirements for teams wishing to enter the Paradrakon category at the IDBF Club Crew World Championships. IDBF is willing to accept entries from 'composite clubs' formed specifically to participate in the CCNC, USDBF will allow and encourage participation in the same way, and use results from these championships to help decide which clubs can then enter the IDBF CCWC.

It should be noted that clubs winning berths wishing to advance to the IDBF Club Crew World Championships must meet scoring/eligibility requirements found in the IDBF Paradrakon Rules (see link below) and will be subject to a Validation Audit at IDBF Club Crew World Championships.

PARADRAGON RULES: [https://0471ca54-276c-4c11-8f24-79273f2e52aa.filesusr.com/ugd/81bcd4\\_19c60f6829a94d948b926fcabfad631.pdf](https://0471ca54-276c-4c11-8f24-79273f2e52aa.filesusr.com/ugd/81bcd4_19c60f6829a94d948b926fcabfad631.pdf)

For further clarification please contact the USDBF Paradrakon Committee at [Paradrakon@usdbf.org](mailto:Paradrakon@usdbf.org)



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## GENDER COMPOSITION FOR MIXED CREWS

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### CR 2.1.3 Mixed Class (IDBF Competition Regulations, Ed 8, Jan 2020)

Crews must contain a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) of each gender. There are no restrictions on age, except for the 12 years old rule shown in CR2.1.1. For Small Boat Races this shall be 4 to 5 of either gender.

#### Standard boat

10 male paddlers / 10 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
10 male paddlers / 9 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
9 male paddlers / 10 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
10 male paddlers / 8 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
8 male paddlers / 10 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
9 male paddlers / 9 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender

#### Small boat

5 male paddlers / 5 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
5 male paddlers / 4 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
4 male paddlers / 5 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender
4 male paddlers / 4 female paddlers	+ drummer and helm of either gender

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## REGISTRATION DEADLINES

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**The final deadline for registering a crew on the USDBF website will be June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021.** Fees are per crew, not per club.

The final deadline for registering crew members on the IDBF website (Named Entry) is July 15, 2021.

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## SITE RENTALS

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Nathan Benderson Park is offering the rental of such items as tents, chairs, and tables. You can reserve these items by going here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7f45a7b9f3244026a288f3b8bca9be16>.

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## BOOKING PRACTICES

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Each crew's registration fees will include two practices which will be held at the event site, on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Registration fees must be received in full and confirmed before the practices may be booked. Information on scheduling practices will be available in Bulletin #2.



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## RACE OFFICIALS TRAINING COURSE

USDBF will present a one-day Officials training class on Wednesday September 29th. The IDBF Officials class will be two days, Wednesday and Thursday September 29th and 30th. Plan your accommodation accordingly. More details and registration will be available in Bulletin #2.

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## TRAVEL INFORMATION

For information on direct flights and airlines serving the Sarasota area, visit [SRQ-Airport.com](http://SRQ-Airport.com) or [TampaAirport.com](http://TampaAirport.com).

For destination information, visit [VisitSarasota.com](http://VisitSarasota.com) and [BradentonGulfislands.com](http://BradentonGulfislands.com)

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## ACCOMMODATION

The USDBF requests that all non-commuting teams registering for this event make all hotel accommodations using our Championship housing services. Please do not call the hotels directly. Please book through the hotel reservation link below. The hotel rates arranged through our housing services will be lower than each hotel's published best-available rate and usually includes breakfast for your team. We appreciate your support as these partnered hotels assist in sponsoring our event.

The United States Dragon Boat Federation is proud to partner with HBC Event Services, a housing agency with a nationwide reputation for excellence in managing travel for sports events. HBC Event Services provides an easy way for you to book your hotel rooms with our partnered hotels at the best rates.

***A Travel Protection Plan is now available for purchase for all new reservations booked through this website.***

Most importantly this plan has a **"Cancel for Any Reason"** benefit that will protect 75% of your non-refundable hotel booking and event registration costs for only \$21.05 (based on a 2-night stay). Book your hotel reservation and select YES to add the Travel Protection Plan and protect your trip. Alternatively, you can call HBC directly at 505-346-0522 (Travel Protection Plan can only be added to your booking within 20 days of your hotel reservation date). To see the full terms and conditions of the Travel Protection Plan, please click [here](http://www.tripmate.com/wpf700h). (www.tripmate.com/wpf700h)

## HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

Please call HBC Event Services at +1.505.346.0522 and/or [support@hbceventservices.com](mailto:support@hbceventservices.com) if you have any questions and/or have any special hotel requests.



**TRANSPORTATION**

Recommendations for transportation between accommodation and the race site will be included in Bulletin #2, which will be published in July 2021. These will include transportation options.

**SCHEDULE**

DATE	SCHEDULE
04/12/21	Provisional Registration opens: <a href="https://idbfchamps.org/nats">https://idbfchamps.org/nats</a>
06/30/2021	Deadline to withdraw from CCNC with refund
06/30/2021	Deadline to change entry (Example: standard boat crew to small boat crew)
06/30/2021	USDBF Club Crew Registration System closes
06/30/2021	Crew Entry Fee due
07/15/2021	Named Entries Close on the IDBF Site
09/29-30 /2021	IDBF Race Officials course
09/29/2021	USDBF Race Officials course
09/29/2021	Crew Practice Day
09/30/2021	Crew Practice Day
10/01/2021	Awakening Ceremony Day 1 Racing
10/02/2021	Day 2 Racing
10/03/2021	Day 3 Racing Closing Celebration