

Canberra Grammar School Dragon Boat Team

Dragon boats follow the required direction of traffic around the lake during training sessions: ie staying on the starboard side of the lake. However, that requires dragon boats to cross the lake when ready to return to base, so that they can be on the starboard side travelling back. If dragon boats are unable to go more than 200m from shore, they will need to travel back the same side they came. As they are now travelling in the opposite direction, they will be on the port side, travelling against the traffic, including of other dragon boats. This creates unnecessary hazards and undermines the purpose of the flow of traffic rules.

Clause 6(a)(i) introduces a new requirement (not in the previous regulation) which apparently prohibits the operation of a dragon boat on the Lake unless the dragon boat is within 200 m of the shore.

If introduced, such a restriction (which does not apply to any other users of the Lake) would:

1. Significantly impede and restrict the ability of the many hundreds of members of the ACT's dragon boating community (comprising people aged from school age to those in their 70s including Dragons Abreast) from conducting the sport in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Limit the ability to conduct regatta competitions on the regatta course which are currently regularly attended by many interstate clubs as well as the 11 ACT Clubs.
3. Impede the development of a sport which provides significant health and well-being outcomes to the ACT community, and which has seen significant success by ACT club and territory representatives in national and international competition.
4. Have significant implications for the viability of the development of the Dragon Boat Centre which is underway with the significant financial support of the ACT Government and the Dragon Boating community.

There is no safety rationale for requiring a dragon boat to be operated close to shore. A dragon boat contains 11-20 people all of whom have safety and emergency drill training. No such restriction applies to any other users of the Lake, such as sailboards, paddleboats, rowing boats, kayaks, canoes and recreational boats.

We request that this sub-clause be removed from the Ordinance.