



P.O. Box 319

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

13th September 2025

To: The International Dragon Boat Federation

An Open letter from the Board of Directors of the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission (IBCPC)

On behalf of the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission (IBCPC), which represents approximately 20,000 paddlers worldwide from 41 countries, including 4500 attendees at our festival in France 2026, we would like to express our concerns about the timing of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Club Crew World Championships (CCWC) in 2026. The overlap of dates with our festival poses significant challenges for our members, and we are disappointed that this issue was not addressed despite prior notification.

As you know, the IBCPC festival takes place in Aix-Les-Bains, France from August 23-31st, 2026. We announced this venue and these dates in 2023. In the past, CCWC has taken place about a week later, allowing teams to get from one event to the next in a timely manner. The timing of the 2026 CCWC as it stands would mean that most IBCPC teams would have difficulty in being able to attend, as the CCWC dates overlap with the dates of the IBCPC Festival.

Our event was sold out by early 2024 with maximum capacity for the site of 4500 being achieved. Final registration for the IBCPC festival has already taken place, and payments have been made, accommodation booked and paid and in many circumstances travel booked also. The proposed CCWC dates would not allow our paddlers to arrive on time to train, register, or attend the opening ceremony. It is highly unlikely that any paddlers could be on site until late September 1st, 2026, which is the first race day and given the 6-hour time difference between France and Taiwan, and flight times, they would arrive experiencing jetlag.

Had IDBF stayed with the dates first advised for CCWC 2026 it would have been beneficial as people have already made travel plans and will now be faced with having to change those or miss out completely. IBCPC strategically plan well in advance and are always considerate

of the dates of other events so that our athletes can attend not just participatory events but also competitive events.

In addition, many Breast Cancer Paddlers (BCP) paddle on non-BCP teams. That means that those teams will also be affected if some of their paddlers are unable to attend.

IBCPC is also perplexed by the explanatory letter signed by the Chairs of the Youth, Athletes and Women's Commissions. They advise that they consulted us, yet IBCPC was not consulted at any time by these Commissions on these matters. IBCPC represents by far and away your biggest individual cohort of paddlers. There was no prior consultation whatsoever with IBCPC with regards to dates or attendance.

The importance of these events for our competitive paddlers cannot be overstated. We urge the IDBF to collaborate with us on future championship and festival dates to maximize participation and ensure the inclusion of all cohorts. BCP paddlers are resolute athletes who deserve to be part of the 2026 CCWC regatta. Our commitment to inclusivity and providing opportunities for our paddlers to compete at every level is in line with the IDBF's inclusivity ethics code.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that our concerns will be taken into consideration. By working together, we can ensure that both the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission (IBCPC) and the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) can continue to provide inclusive and meaningful opportunities for all paddlers. We look forward to a positive resolution that allows our members to participate fully in both the IBCPC festival and the 2026 CCWC regatta.

Respectfully submitted by the
IBCPC Board of Directors