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Berkeley Racing Canoe Center

Written Test for Steering and Safety Certification

April 2022 revision

name _____ key number _____

phone _____ email _____

team affiliation _____

This test is take-home and open book.

Collaboration with other BRCC members for background is allowed, but the answers must be the applicant's own work.

Most of the questions are true/false or yes/no. Mark the left column if the answer is True, Yes, Good Idea, or Required. Mark the right-hand column if the answer is False, No, Bad Idea, or Not Required. Questions left blank are assumed to be answered False, No, Bad Idea or Not Required.

For multiple choice questions there is only one correct answer.

Passing scores:

60/75 on questions 1-75 for non-steering keyholders.

135/155 on questions 1-155 for steering certification.

The following documents may be useful for completing the test:

From the BRCC website, <https://theBRCC.org>

BRCC Bylaws

BRCC Operating Rules

BRCC Procedures Manual

BRCC "Quick Guide for Guests"

From other web sources:

International and Inland Navigation Rules

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=NavRulesAmalgamated>

Steering and safety manual from CDBA:

https://www.cdba.org/documents/site_operations/x_cdba_safety_manual_march2013.pdf

Steering tutorial from Dragon Boat New South Wales:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sifWYT_F2s

Dragon boat crashes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayOL_DRqBoU

Basic BRCC Rules

Who can authorize the unscheduled use of a BRCC dragon boat?

1. Any BRCC officer.
2. Only the BRCC President, Vice President, Fleet Captain, Outreach Director or Competition Director.
3. Any BRCC Certified Steersperson.

4. Why does the City of Berkeley waive marina berthing fees for BRCC dragon boats, kayaks and outriggers?

A) Because BRCC and the teams that BRCC hosts have a commitment to public service and community outreach.

B) Because BRCC dragon boats often go out of their way to pick up floating plastic trash in the harbor.

C) Because BRCC dragon boats respect the right-of-way of commercial vessels in the harbor and take “early and substantial” action to keep well clear.

D) Because BRCC paddlers are good neighbors on M-Dock, leaving the docks clean and uncluttered, never blocking the dock gate open, and always coiling water hoses after use.

E) Because team coaches respect the quiet areas of the marina and do not use excessively loud commands.

F) All of the above.

Which of the following are requirements for being "Steersperson in Charge" of a BRCC dragon boat?

5. A California Vessel Operator Certificate.
6. BRCC certification as a Steersperson.
7. Completion of a US Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating course.

Which of the following are necessary conditions for children under 8 years old to be allowed to come out on a BRCC boat?

8. A parent or guardian comes out on the boat with them.
9. A parent or guardian has signed the BRCC under-age waiver form.
10. The Person in Charge (Steersperson) considers it safe for them to be on the boat.
11. Are adult guests of BRCC members or other new paddlers ever allowed on a BRCC boat before signing the BRCC waiver form?
12. Can guests or new paddlers participate in more than two practices in any three-month period without becoming BRCC members?
13. Is a parent or guardian required to sign the BRCC liability waiver form if the paddler is over 14 but under 18?

14. ___ ___ Without special authorization by the BRCC Board of Directors, is it ever okay to take out a BRCC dragon boat for a practice session without a BRCC-certified steersperson in charge?
15. ___ ___ Can a non-certified BRCC member steer a dragon boat if a BRCC certified steersperson is on the boat as "Steersperson in Charge?"
16. ___ ___ Can a non-certified BRCC member steer a dragon boat if a BRCC certified steersperson is on a nearby dragon boat as "Person in Charge" of both boats?

What is required before taking a BRCC kayak or canoe *outside* the Berkeley Marina?

17. ___ ___ Approval by the BRCC Kayak and Canoe Chair or Vice President.
18. ___ ___ Successful demonstration of a "wet exit" or "huli" recovery as applicable to that type of boat.
19. ___ ___ Current BRCC membership.
20. ___ ___ Can a non-BRCC member ever use a one-person BRCC kayak or canoe *inside* the marina under close supervision by a BRCC member who is qualified to use that boat?

Under what conditions can a BRCC dragon boat go outside the Berkeley Marina?

21. ___ ___ The wind is under ten knots and there are no visible whitecaps.
22. ___ ___ The person in charge is certified as an "Outside Steersperson" by BRCC.
23. ___ ___ A "float plan" has been filed with the Coast Guard district office.
24. ___ ___ An escort vessel maintains a communication schedule with the dragon boat.
25. ___ ___ All paddlers are wearing PFDs.

26. ___ What is the northern limit of the BRCC outside operating area?

- A) Point Isabel
- B) Fleming Point
- C) The north-west corner of Cesar Chavez Park

27. ___ What is the southern limit of the BRCC outside operating area?

- A) The old "Hs. Lordships" restaurant building at the South Cove entrance
- B) The Emeryville Peninsula
- C) Ashby Shoal

28. ___ What is the western limit of the BRCC outside operating area?

- a) 100 meters from the shoreline
- b) 200 meters from the shoreline
- c) 500 meters from the shoreline

29. ___ ___ Are inflatable lifejackets acceptable as replacements for foam lifejackets?
30. ___ ___ Is it ever safe to wear belt pack inflatable PFD around the back of the waist?

Care of the Equipment

31. ___ ___ When should the paddles and lifejackets be rinsed with fresh water?
A) After each use.
B) After each use, but only when the sun is out.
C) Only after practice on Saturday, when the sun is out.
32. ___ ___ Do the "Sesame" brand combination locks need to be set to the correct combination to close?
33. ___ ___ Which is the correct knot for tying a dragon boat to the dock?
A) The cleat hitch
B) The clove hitch
C) The half hitch
34. ___ ___ Is it okay to leave any of the paddle or PFD lockers unlocked during practice?
35. ___ ___ Who is responsible for making sure that all the paddle and lockers are locked when a dragon boat leaves the dock?
A) The Steersperson in charge of the boat.
B) The last person on the dock.
C) The coach for that practice session.
36. ___ ___ Who is responsible for making sure that all equipment is put away and the lockers are locked at the end of a practice session?
A) The Steersperson in charge of the boat.
B) The last person on the dock.
C) The coach for that practice session.
37. ___ ___ How should the steering oar be stowed when a dragon boat is tied up?
A) Center it in the boat and turn the handle so the oar blade is horizontal.
B) Leave it on the left side so that it is on the same side as the oarlock.
C) Leave it on the right side, so it crosses the boat from the oarlock.
D) Pull it all the way forward as far as it will go, so that the blade will not fall back into the water.

General Safety Considerations

What safety equipment is required to be on board a BRCC dragon boat?

- 38. ___ ___ One properly fitting lifejacket for each person on board.
- 39. ___ ___ Whistle, tied to the steering oar or carried by the steersperson.
- 40. ___ ___ Air horn.
- 41. ___ ___ Anchor and marker buoy (outside marina only).
- 42. ___ ___ First aid kit.
- 43. ___ ___ At least two large bailing buckets.
- 44. ___ ___ Cellphone.
- 45. ___ ___ Chewable aspirin.
- 46. ___ ___ VHF radio (outside marina only).
- 47. ___ ___ Smoke Flare (outside marina only).
- 48. ___ ___ Flashlights (night only).
- 49. ___ ___ Bow and stern running lights (night only).

If a dragon boat swamps inside the Marina, which of the following is usually a good idea?

- 50. ___ ___ Have all paddlers remove their life jackets and swim to the nearest dock.
- 51. ___ ___ Instruct the paddlers to stay in the water alongside the dragon boat, holding on but without pushing down, until enough water is bailed out to support their weight.
- 52. ___ ___ Remind paddlers who might be having difficulty staying afloat that they can use several paddles, especially carbon paddles, for extra buoyancy.
- 53. ___ ___ Tell paddlers who are having trouble climbing up onto a dock to swim to the edges of the Marina and pull themselves out on the rocks.

Which of the following are necessary conditions for a paddler to take off their lifejacket during a dragon boat practice?

- 54. ___ ___ They are a good swimmer and keep a lifejacket close at hand.
- 55. ___ ___ They are over 18.
- 56. ___ ___ They are a BRCC member.
- 57. ___ ___ The boat is inside the marina during daylight.

- 58. ___ ___ If the steersperson, the coach and the drummer give conflicting commands in an emergency situation, who should the paddlers listen to?
 - A) The coach
 - B) The drummer
 - C) The steersperson
 - D) The person with the loudest voice

59. ___ ___ If a dragon boat is rounding a blind corner, and the drummer or a paddler in a forward row notices a hazard invisible to the steersperson, should that person turn around and call to "hold the boat?"

60. ___ What does a red triangular flag flying from the flagpole over the marina office mean?

- A) Small Craft warnings have been posted and strong winds are expected.
- B) Gale warnings have been posted and very strong winds are expected.
- C) The Harbormaster is serving cocktails in the marina office.

Which of the following should be included in the briefing for new paddlers and guests?

61. ___ ___ Instructions about how to float with a lifejacket on

62. ___ ___ A detailed lecture on the history of dragon boats.

63. ___ ___ A summary of paddling commands, especially "hold the boat."

Medical Emergencies

64. ___ When calling from a cellphone, what is the recommended phone number to call for emergency medical assistance in the Berkeley Marina? (Other than 911, which may go through a remote CHP switchboard instead of directly to a local emergency response dispatcher.)

- A) The Coast Guard emergency number, 800-246-7236
- B) The Berkeley Police Department emergency number, 510-981-5911
- C) The Berkeley Police Department non-emergency number, 510-981-5900
- D) Vessel Traffic Service, 415 556-2760

65. ___ If you are calling for a medical emergency, where is the best place for the dragon boat to meet the ambulance?

- A) At the BRCC home berth on M-Dock. That's where we keep our first aid kit.
- B) At the launching ramp on the north side of the harbor, just east of the boatyard. The EMTs know where that is, and the ambulance can drive right down to the boat.
- C) At the Berkeley Yacht Club guest dock. The police have their parties there so they can find it quickly.
- D) At K-Dock, behind the Harbormaster's office, so the marina staff can assist.

Marina Etiquette and Public Relations

66. ___ When is it okay to leave the gate to M-dock propped open against the gangway ramp?
- A) When other team members are expected to arrive soon
 - B) Only when there are BRCC members on the dock
 - C) Only when a public open house event is in progress
 - D) When you go to your car or to the bathroom
 - E) Never, because this can seriously damage the gate when the tide rises

67. ___ Where is a good place for the pre-practice warm-up?
- A) On the dock
 - B) On the grass
 - C) In front of the harbormaster's office

Which of the following is considered good practice for BRCC members or guests?

68. ___ ___ Forming a crowd on the dock that obstructs easy passage by boat owners.
69. ___ ___ Leaving a water hose uncoiled after use.
70. ___ ___ Inviting boat-owners and their guests to come out for a practice.
71. ___ ___ Leaving a locked combination lock set one number away from the combination.
72. ___ ___ Leaving an open combination lock set to the combination.
73. ___ ___ Leaving empty water bottles on the dock or storage float after practice.
74. ___ ___ Reporting lost keys to the marina office so the key can be deactivated.
75. ___ If you have a disagreement or dispute with any other organization or individual in the Berkeley Marina, what should you do?
- A) Argue with them until they agree with you.
 - B) Cooperate as much as possible, be polite and refer the problem to the BRCC Board.
 - C) Call the Commodore of Berkeley Yacht Club.

I certify that I have reviewed the recommended background material, that I understand the questions in this test, and that the answers provided here are my own work.

Signature _____ Date ___ / ___ / _____