An Introduction to Dragon Boat Racing

Dragonboating is a time-honored tradition originating from southern China. Dragon boats are twenty meter vessels with decorative dragonheads in front and a tail on the back. A full crew consists of 20 paddlers, a drummer that synchronizes the strokes of the paddlers, and a steersperson to guide the boat. Paddlers sit two by two on ten benches and stroke in unison to fly the dragon boat across the water.

Dragon boating is a sport much akin to canoeing. The key to moving fast is synchronization and not necessarily speed or strength, which means that anybody can participate! Rather than relying on brawn or muscle, dragon boating typically relies on paddlers working together as a team and good technique. It’s not uncommon to see seemingly “weaker” teams win races. Dragonboating is all about having heart!

The Columbus Asian Festival is proud to bring the excitement and tradition of Dragon Boat racing back to Columbus for a third consecutive year. Last spring 10TV and the Columbus Chinese Academy brought home first place in their respective divisions. This year’s festival is expected to be just as exciting!

 Races are typically 500 meters long and usually last between two to three minutes, however the Columbus Festival will be holding 300 meter races. Currently the festival is looking for teams and individuals from around the Columbus area to compete in the only Dragon Boating festival in Central Ohio on Mother’s Day, May 11, 2014. The Dragon Boat Festival welcomes any and all competitors to participate in this amazing event!

You can find out more about the 4th Annual Columbus Dragon Boat Festival at:

Website: http://asian-festival.org/dragonboat/

Or contact Victor Shambora: victor.shambora@gmail.com for more information.

Additionally, you can check us out on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusOhioDragonBoatRacing.

Festival date: May 11, 2014, Mother’s Day
Time: 8AM - 4PM
Location: Scioto Audubon Metro Park