



June 15, 2019

The Pacific Dragon Boat Association (PDBA) Board of Directors has been watching the recent events in our country with great sadness and disappointment. The systemic racism in this country has deep and long-standing roots, and a number of unique conditions are coming together to form this crucial moment of opportunity for change. The PDBA will not be silent at such a critical moment. We add our voices to the many in support of the Black Community whose suffering has not been meaningfully acknowledged. We will take action to heal the damage wrought by their systemic oppression.

Most of us are proud of the inclusive nature of our sport of dragon boating. The numbers in our ranks include beginning athletes to world-class competitive athletes, youth to senior citizens, members of the LGBTQ community, cancer survivors, athletes with a very wide range of disabilities, and, most would say, great racial diversity. However, upon closer inspection, we see that the diversity within our organization does not reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. We must ask ourselves why this is, and then resolve to find ways to change that.

We, the PDBA, commit to taking action for change. The Board of Directors is in discussions to identify what we can do to increase outreach and inclusion of BIPOC in our sport, both directly as an organization, and in partnership with organizations that know better than we do what needs to be done. We encourage our members to take a stand against systemic racism by contributing time or donations to the organizations that will best serve your local communities. If you need help knowing where, here are two resources for starting points:

- <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- https://www.obama.org/anguish-and-action/?fbclid=IwAR0GUcPdXfu3xYnJdbeW_1ynksv2bhM7EBnW4kcQfmbmD10qpzqydqs2JrA

In service,

The PDBA Board of Directors.