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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Dragon is Back!** **South Jersey's Premier Dragon Boat Competition Returns to Cooper River**

**Pennsauken, NJ** ... After pausing for the pandemic, North America's fastest growing athletic event is returning to South Jersey on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The 5th Annual Cooper River Dragon Boat Festival will feature 200-meter races along Cooper River from 8:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. for novice or intermediate community teams (mixed and women's), and competitive sport teams (mixed & women's) seeking ERDBA qualification. More than 25 teams from the Delaware Valley and mid-Atlantic region are expected to compete for divisional medals and the grand prize, the 200-Meter Sprint Champion.

Dragon boats are the largest flat-water racing canoes in the world. A crew of 20 paddlers paced by a drummer at the bow and guided by a steersperson at the stern combine power and rhythm to achieve maximum acceleration and speed over a 200-meter, 500-meter or 2,000-meter course. Dragon boating is unique in that total novices can compete with very little training or instruction. A perfectly synchronized team is not only visually spectacular but almost always defeats a stronger but less coordinated competitor.

"We are so excited to have teams return to our festival, especially after losing last season to Covid. I can think of no other competition that brings together such a wide range of participants – from weekend warriors to regional and national champions," said Joanne Hoffman, event Chair and member of the Cooper River Dragon Boat Club, a South Jersey women's dragon boat team that organizes the event.

While Cooper River has played host to numerous rowing competitions, this event offers South Jersey's premier dragon boat competition. The water venue is ideal for dragon boating, drawing praise from athletes and international experts for its sheltered and mild current race course.

Expect a day of friendly competition, produced by one of North America's best dragon boat organizers, 22 Dragons: [www.22dragons.com](http://www.22dragons.com).

For more information about registering a team or serving as a sponsor, please visit: [www.cooperriverdbf.org](http://www.cooperriverdbf.org).