

MINAMATA PADDLE FESTIVAL 2025 – Event Guidelines

Overview

By holding races for both Seribune (traditional boats from Minamata) and globally popular Dragon Boats at the same event, we aim to honor tradition while incorporating new elements, contributing to regional revitalization.

Venue

Ecopark Minamata (near Minamata Port Visitor Berth)

Organizers

Minamata Paddle Festival Executive Committee
Minamata Seribune Association
Seri-Bune Tournament Executive Committee

Supporters

Minamata City
Sports Commission Minamata
Heart Link Minamata
Minamata Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Minamata Canoe Association
Minamata Outrigger Canoe Club
Shiranuhi
Minamata Ryushu (Dragon Boat Team)

Date

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Schedule

06:30 – Venue opens, tent setup
07:30 – Registration
08:30 – Opening ceremony & athlete meeting
09:00 – Races begin
16:00 – Closing ceremony

Note: Schedule may change depending on the number of participating teams.

Competition Categories

1. Race Divisions

Dragon Boat Division

- Open Class: All paddlers must be junior high school age or older (no gender restrictions).
- Ladies Class: All paddlers must be junior high school age or older and female.

Seribune Division

- Adult Class: All paddlers must be junior high school age or older (no gender restrictions).
- Kids Class: Paddlers must be elementary school age (3rd grade or older recommended) up to junior high school.

Individual Entry Option

For individuals who would like to participate but are not part of a team or lack enough members to form one.

You can enter with 1–3 people. On the day of the event, we will form a team with other individual applicants to participate in either the Dragon Boat or Seribune division.

Please note: the division you join will depend on availability and team composition.

2. Team Assignments

The organizing committee will decide matchups based on the number of participating teams.

3. Race Details

Each category will compete over a 200-meter course. Team composition is as follows:

- Dragon Boat: 10 paddlers, 1 steerer, 1 drummer
- Seribune: 10 paddlers, 1 steerer, 1 bell ringer, 1 captain

Each team can register up to 16 members, including substitutes.

In the Kids Class, adults must act as the steerer and captain.

Teams may not enter multiple divisions.

Entry Fees

- Dragon Boat Division (each class): ¥15,000 per team
- Seribune Adult Class: ¥10,000 per team
- Seribune Kids Class: ¥5,000 per team
- Individual Entry: ¥1,000 per person

[How to Apply]

- Please apply using the Google Form below.
- After we confirm your application, we will send the team roster sheet to the registered email address.
- Your provisional registration will be complete once we receive your team roster.
- Participation fees should be paid on the day of the event at the venue.

[Application Form]



- Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each class is limited to a maximum of 10 teams.

Once the limit is reached, registration will be closed.

- Application deadline: Friday, September 12, 2025

Please note that the deadline for team roster submission is also September 12.

- Participation fees must be paid on the event day at the venue.

In case the event is canceled due to severe weather, no payment is required.

[Other Information]

- The official practice period is scheduled from September 12 to October 4.

Teams wishing to practice during this time (limited to teams based in Minamata City) should indicate so on the application form.

- A limited number of tents will be available for teams traveling from outside Minamata City.

Reservations are required in advance and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rental fee: 3,000 yen per tent

- In case of accidents during the practice period or on the day of the event, the organizers will only be able to provide first aid and will not be responsible for any further treatment.

The organizers are also not responsible for theft, loss, or accidents in the venue or parking area.

- The decision to cancel the event will be made by 5:00 AM on the day of the event or by the day before.

All teams will be notified directly.

Cancellation information will also be posted on the Minamata Seri-Bune Association website and Instagram.

[Contact]

Please contact us via DM on the Seri-Bune Association's official Instagram account.

