



March 23, 2023

To festival teams, vendors, spectators, volunteers, and supporters,

It is with great disappointment and heavy hearts to inform you all that the 18th Annual Arizona Dragon Boat Festival and other planned dragon boating events have been postponed due to safety concerns.

As of this afternoon, Tempe Town Lake was closed to all on-water activities due to increased flows into the lake from recent storms and melting snowpack that is the deepest on record in the last 30 years. This in turn has resulted in additional debris and unsafe water conditions. Mother nature is sometimes unpredictable, and flows have been hovering around 12,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) all week, and suddenly increased to 34,000 cfs today and is expected to continue at this rate for several more days.

We discussed and evaluated all options and scenarios and out of an abundance of caution and safety, we decided it was best to postpone the festival. This was a very tough decision (probably the hardest we've ever had to make), but to us, having just one person injured would be far worse than the major inconveniences that this causes. We will continue to explore other dates for the festival.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience, time and resources spent to prepare and travel to Arizona. Thank you for your patience and continued support of the Arizona Dragon Boat Festival.

Sincerely,

Arizona Dragon Boat Association
Arizona Dragon Boat Festival Steering Committee