

International Dragon Boat Federation uses Zebra card printers for competitor IDs

Central to a sport spanning over 6000 years, the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) promotes dragon boat racing worldwide. Over 70 countries are members and 2500 competitors are involved in the World Championships each year from a vast variety of accredited clubs.

A software and printer solution has now been developed specifically for processing Dragon Boat regatta participants, using Zebra's ZXP series 3 printers to print personalised race ID cards and streamline the competitor accreditation process.

The Challenge

Prior to implementing the Zebra solution the Federation faced a huge challenge in tracking competitors and their eligibility to race for a country or club in IDBF championships. They also faced difficulty checking that the right people were in the correct racing boats.

Previously ID cards were made by manually filling in competitor details on cardboard forms and attaching printed photographs. There was considerable inconsistency between the different ID card formats across the various clubs, as each club issued their own badges, with different accreditations using different badge types and databases.

Issuing the badges was also costly and time intensive, and crucially, the cards were prone to fading when wet !

The Solution

Following a recommendation from the database designer, the IDBF briefed Zebra to develop a solution that could be fed from a central database of all IDBF competitors through software designed specifically for handling dragon boat regatta issues.

From this the Federation can now print common accreditation badges where each competitor gets its own unique PIN number, which stays with them throughout their career. Organisers can now print multiple personalised accreditation cards at each location, using the portable Zebra printer.

Zebra ZXP 3 printers were chosen due to their portability, speed, cost effectiveness and ease of use. Now the IDBF can print badges linked to a central database, allowing them to instantly identify the status of each competitor at any given location.



Solution Technology

- Zebra® ZXP Series 3™ card printer
- Bespoke specialist software with integrated competitors and members database



Badge IDs now show championship logo, year and sponsor logos and contain embedded information including competitors' name, passport number, photograph, boat competition and competitor class.

The Benefits

- Cost effective: The Zebra ZXP 3 printer allows the IDBF to keep costs down - A crucial requirement for a voluntary organisation, which also ensures that membership and entry fees can stay low
- Time savings: As the printer is highly portable, quick and easy to use it saves a significant amount of time in administrating the races
- The ID badges can now contain an array of useful competitor information which makes it easy for marshalls to check competitors and adds an element of professionalism to the team logistics
- As the federation adopts an increasing number of competitors, the barcoding system allows them to instantly identify who they have in each race and where they are at any given moment. Competitors moving from event to event now also have the same ID.

The IDBF now benefits from the enterprise standard for ID passes across all its 2500 competitors. During 2012 the system is likely to be extended to 30 of its 80 country membership base, by which time a total of 25,000 ID badges will have been issued through Zebra's ZXP 3 series card printing solution.

Quote

"Zebra's ZXP 3 card printer is perfect for our needs. It quickly produces clear ID's loaded with useful information. As a voluntary organisation we also appreciate a solution that is cost effective and easy to maintain....like all things we've gone on recommendation and Zebra were one of the best in the business and that's why we went for it."

**Mike Haslam,
President,
International Dragon Boat
Federation, UK**

