

Regatta Rules

2015 Head of the Colorado

October 31, 2015 • Lady Bird Lake • Austin, TX



1. Registration

All on-time entries are registered and paid for at RegattaCentral.com (no paper registration). **Any entry whose fees are not paid in full when registration closes will be scratched, and must be resubmitted as a late entry.** Any entrant whose circumstances require alternative payment arrangements must contact the Registrar before the registration deadline (October 19). Such arrangements are accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Competitors should be registered under their full names. Nicknames should be avoided, and competitors entered in multiple events should be registered using the same name in all of them.

Crews that practice under their own crew names (e.g., "Oarsome Foursome") are encouraged to enter under those names at RegattaCentral.

All rowers are responsible for the accuracy of their entries on RegattaCentral; for rowers entered in Masters events, this includes birth dates (which determine handicaps). Contact the registrar about entry problems by [email](mailto:).

September 18: Registration begins.

October 19: Registration closes at 11:59pm CDT.

2. Late entries

Entries submitted after the deadline are accepted only at the discretion of the Registrar, and must be accompanied by prescribed entry fees, which are **DOUBLE** the regular fees.

Before Wednesday 28 October, late entries must be submitted on-line at RegattaCentral. After 28 October, late entries must be submitted on paper late-entry forms available at the Registration Table, and handed in there between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM Friday.

After Friday 30 October, no entries will be accepted.

3. Duplicate entries

The Regatta Committee is not responsible for detecting duplicate entries. Please coordinate with your club, as entry fees for duplicate entries are not refunded.

4. Liability Waivers

Every competitor must have signed a USRowing Release of Liability Waiver. Competitors who have not signed a waiver, either on line or on paper, before an event's first race **will be ineligible for medals** in that event.

Waivers should be signed on-line at USRowing.org (tinyurl.com/nzvzube), the earlier the better.

Competitors whose on-line waivers do not appear in RegattaCentral's USRowing Waiver Compliance Report at 9:00am on Friday 30 October will be required to sign a paper waiver at the venue; this may involve standing in long lines, and waivers of minors can be signed only by their parents or legal guardians.

Beginning at noon on Friday 30 October, competitors' waiver status will be posted on-line at

tinyurl.com/ke4hqcd.

5. USRowing Membership

Every participating team must be an organizational member of USRowing (please see the USRowing web site www.usrowing.org/join.aspx for further information about becoming an organizational member), and every entry's members must belong to a participating team (composite entries are allowed).

The only exception: Single-scull entries are not required to belong to teams. Every single sculler not rep-

resenting a team must be an individual Championship member of USRowing (tinyurl.com/ovxjme3) and must race as "Unaffiliated."

6. Crew Representation

A crew is a group of rowers, representing one junior, collegiate, or club program or organization, which has practiced and competed with distinct location, colors, and coaches for the entire competitive season beginning September 1, 2015. A junior rower is eligible to compete in this regatta only if s/he has represented the same team for the entire season.

No competitor may represent two different organizations in the Regatta. Any entry composed of competitors from different organizations must be entered as a composite entry. Composite entries are not permitted in junior events.

7. Schedule Changes

The event schedule is subject to change depending upon the number of entries received. Masters events may be split into separate age categories, and events may be cancelled or combined if there are fewer than three entries as of the standard registration deadline. Any crew entered in a canceled event will be contacted and offered the option to switch to another event or to receive a refund of the registration fee.

8. Substitutions

Before Wednesday 28 October, any entry may replace all of its rowers and its coxswain, and all changes must be made by updating the entry's lineup at RegattaCentral.com.

Beginning Wednesday 28 October, an entry may replace at most half of its rowers, plus its coxswain, except for single-scull entries, in which substitutions are not allowed. Line-up changes must be submitted on paper Substitution forms available at the Registration Table, and handed in there at least two hours before their events.

If substitutions in a Masters entry reduce the crew's average age to less than its event's minimum, it is moved to the oldest event for which the entry is now eligible.

If substitutions in a Masters entry cause its crew's average age to increase, the entry will remain in its original event.

9. Scratches

No entry fees will be refunded for scratches made after the standard registration deadline. Please inform the registrar by email registrar@austinregattas.org of scratches that occur before Friday 30 October.

For an entry that scratches on or after Friday 30 October, please submit a scratch form at the Registration table so the regatta officials can maintain an accurate accounting of which boats are racing.

10. Regatta Check-in

All crews are required to check-in at the registration desk before racing to pick up their bib and bow numbers. The registration desk will be open from 3:00PM to 6:00PM on Friday October 30 and throughout the race day on Saturday beginning at 6:00AM.

11. Bow/Coxswain Meeting

A meeting for all coxswains, single scullers, and bow rowers of 4x, 2x, and 2- entries will be held at **6:45AM**

on Saturday. All competitors are responsible for knowing the information covered at the meeting, including the traffic patterns on the water.

12. Required Equipment

Every competing boat shall be properly equipped with a bow ball, quick-release shoes, and heel ties whose length is three inches or less, in accordance with USRowing's *Rules of Rowing*, §3-105 and §3-108

(tinyurl.com/nepbz5h). All boats must be equipped with bow clips. Boats observed to be lacking any of these features will not be allowed to race.

A bow number and shirt numbers will be issued to each entry in its entry packet. If a boat fails to carry the correct number for its event, its start and finish times may fail to be recorded.

13. Launching

Rowers who are members of an Austin-based rowing club or rowing team may launch and recover their equipment from any dock on Lady Bird Lake. To ensure the best regatta experience and guarantee the most efficient use of equipment in hot-seating, all rowers should claim and utilize boat and tent space at the regatta venue.

14. On-time arrival

Boats should be in the starting area 10 minutes before their start time. A boat arriving late to the starting line for an event may be excluded from that event. The Dockmaster can prohibit a boat from leaving the dock if in his or her judgment it could not reach the starting line on time.

15. Novice Rower Classification

Crews entered in Novice events shall include only novice rowers. Any rower qualifies as a novice provided s/he did not compete as a rower in the 2014 Head of the Colorado or in any previous regatta. In addition, a collegiate rower is a novice in his/her first year of collegiate competition, provided s/he did not row in collegiate competition in the 2014 Head of the Colorado or in any previous regatta. Novice status applies separately in each discipline—a non-novice sweep rower may compete as a novice sculler and vice versa. Coxing experience has no bearing on novice rower classification.

16. Novice-2 Events

Rowers who compete in First Novice events may not row in Second Novice events. A team that submits a Second Novice entry must also have an entry in the corresponding First Novice event.

17. Novice Coxswains

A novice entry's coxswain is not required to be a novice.

18. Rowers in Mixed Crews

Each mixed crew shall include men and women rowers. Doubles require a crew of one man and one woman, quads/fours crews may have either one man or two, and eights crews may have two, three, or four men. Coxswains are exempt from this rule. Any entry violating this rule will be excluded.

19. Men and Women Rowers in Boats

All rowers in men's events must be men, and all rowers in women's events must be women. A female rower cannot substitute for a man in any men's event, nor can a male rower substitute for any woman in a women's event. Coxswains are exempt from this rule. Any entry violating this rule will be excluded.

20. Weighing of Rowers

The weight of rowers in lightweight events will be determined on race day between 6:00am and 9:00am. Lightweight men must weigh no more than 160 pounds

(for Junior men 155), and lightweight women no more than 135 pounds. Competitors will be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. A rower within one pound of the weight standard is allowed one re-weigh during the 6:00-9:00am window; a rower whose initial weight exceeds the weight standard by more than one pound will not be allowed to re-weigh.

Lightweight rowers who make weight will be issued wristbands, which they must wear for all lightweight events. No rower without such a wristband may compete in any lightweight event.

21. Open Events

Open events may be raced by club, collegiate, or masters rowers, all of whom shall be eligible for medals. No junior, nor any athlete under the age of 18 who is not enrolled at a college or university, may enter an open event as either rower or coxswain.

22. Juniors

A Junior is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full time student seeking a diploma. A competitor ceases to be a junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full time student, whichever is later.

No junior is allowed to row in any non-junior event, nor to enter as a coxswain in any open event.

23. Masters Events

Masters entries' age categories are defined in USRowing's *Rules of Rowing*, §4.104: (AA) 21-26, (A) 27-35, (B) 36-42, (C) 43-49, (D) 50-54, (E) 55-59, (F) 60-64, (G) 65-69, (H) 70-74, (I) 75-79, (J) 80 and over. All rowers in Masters events must be at least 21 years old.

A rower's age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year, rounded down to the nearest whole number. A crew's age is the average age of its rowers, rounded down to the nearest whole number. For example, a crew whose average age is 44.8 would be considered 44 years old for regatta purposes.

A Masters event having six or more entries may be divided into two or more smaller events by USRA age categories. For example, given a particular set of entries in the M Ma 1x, it might be divided into M AA-C 1x, M D 1x, and M E-J 1x, subject to the requirement that every new event have at least three entries.

Time handicaps, applied in all Masters events, are computed using the formula on page 31 of USRowing's *Rules of Rowing* and multiplied by 4.097 to account for the length of the course.

24. Recreational Singles

A recreational single is any boat at least 17 inches wide at the waterline and at most 22 feet long (e.g., Maas Aero). There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Note that recreational singles are subject to the bow-clip requirement (Rule 12).

25. Dispute Resolution

All questions of eligibility, qualification, and interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Regatta Committee, whose decisions shall be final.

26. Seeding

Seeding for order of entries within an event is as follows:

1. First are on-time entries that placed 1–5 in the same event last year, in order of their finishes last year. Single-scul entries are identified as individuals; all others are identified by affiliation.
2. Next are all other on-time entries, in order of their RegattaCentral seed values; entries with the same seed value are ordered randomly.
3. Last are late entries, in the order in which they are received by the Registrar.

27. Violations and Penalties

Late arrivals at the start, late departures from the dock, excessive time on the docks, and other violations may result in time penalties or exclusion, as deemed appropriate by regatta officials. A table of violations and penalties is available online (tinyurl.com/q73pfrh) and will be posted at the regatta venue. Note that buoy penalties are no longer in force.

28. Passing During a Race

When passing, an overtaking boat has the right of way. A boat being overtaken must give way on the side chosen by the overtaking boat; generally this will be the shortest line that gives an advantage. No boat should press its right of way to the point of collision. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Boats showing disregard for safety may be penalized or excluded.

29. Traffic pattern on the water

If a boat **can** be rowed, it **must** be rowed from start to finish. No boat should leave the course for any reason, or turn around prior to the start for any reason, unless directed to do so by an official.

30. USRowing Rules

Except as noted above, this regatta follows the United States Rowing Association's *Rules of Rowing* (tinyurl.com/nepbz5h).

31. Sportsmanship

The Regatta Committee reserves the right to rule on any situation not specifically covered by these guidelines, and to penalize or disqualify any competitor or crew that appears to violate the spirit or letter of the rules of competition or sportsmanship, on the water or off.

32. Awards

Medals are awarded for first-, second- and third-place finishes, except that an event's last-place boat does not receive a medal. Medals for each event will be available for pickup at the registration table 30 minutes after the posting of the event's results, beginning at 10:00 AM. All medals must be picked up within 30 minutes after the posting of the results of the last event; no medals will be mailed.