

Regatta Rules

2016 Heart of Texas Regatta

Austin Rowing Club

March 5-6, 2016 • Austin, TX



1. Registration

All on-time entries must be registered, and fees paid, at RegattaCentral.com. Entrants whose circumstances require alternative payment arrangements must contact the Registrar (registrar@austinregattas.org) before the registration deadline. Such arrangements are accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

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

Except for Masters events, the number of entries in each event is limited to **21**. Entries are accepted in order of submission, and in cases of oversubscription RegattaCentral will maintain a **waiting list** for each event.

The **deadline** for standard registration is 11:59 PM CDT, Monday 22 February 2016. Entries are accepted after this deadline only at the discretion of the Registrar, and only to fill empty lanes; no heats will be added to accommodate late entries. Late entries must be accompanied by prescribed entry fees, which are **DOUBLE** the regular fees.

Before Wednesday 2 March, late entries must be submitted on-line at RegattaCentral. On Wednesday and Thursday 2-3 March, late entries must be submitted on forms available at <http://tinyurl.com/kz3d3dw> and emailed to registrar@austinregattas.org. On Friday 4 March, late entries must be submitted 3:00-6:00 PM on paper forms filled out and handed in at the Registration table. No late entries will be accepted after 6:00 PM on 4 March.

2. USRowing Membership

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

The only exception: Single-scully entries are not required to belong to teams. Every single sculler not representing a team must be an individual member of USRowing and must race as "Unaffiliated."

3. The Rule of 4

The event numbers of any given competitor's events should differ by at least 4. Competitors entered in events whose event numbers differ by less than 4 risk being unable to get from one race's finish to their next race's start. Under no circumstances are races delayed to wait for tardy boats.

A competitor conforming to the Rule of 4 may nevertheless be competing in heats that are too close together. For example, if Events 103 and 107 have heats while Events 104, 105, and 106 do not, a competitor entered in Events 103 and 107 could be racing in heats 103B and 107A, which could be back-to-back. In such cases the Regatta Committee will add breaks to ensure that every competitor whose entries conform to the Rule of 4 has at least three races or breaks between each of their races. *No such accommodation will be made for competitors whose entries violate the Rule of 4.*

4. Duplicate entries

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

5. Cancellation Due to Weather

Occasionally regattas have to be truncated or canceled, usually in order to avoid exposing competitors, officials, and volunteers to unsafe weather conditions. No regatta is truncated or canceled except by order of the City of Austin or of the Chief Referee, who is trained and certified by the United States Rowing Association and bears ultimate responsibility for the regatta's safety.

When a regatta is truncated or canceled, no registration fees are refunded. If a regatta's sponsoring organization, whose expenses are not reduced by cancellations, had to bear the entire risk of weather events, entry fees would have to be raised (if the regatta could be staged at all). Instead, the risk is distributed among the entrants. Any entrant unwilling to assume a share of that risk should not submit an entry.

6. 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.com (<http://tinyurl.com/7vo2bre>), the earlier the better.

Competitors whose on-line waivers do not appear in RegattaCentral's USRowing Waiver Compliance Report at 9:00am on Friday 4 March will be required to sign a paper waiver at the venue; *waivers of minors can be signed only by their parents or legal guardians.*

Beginning at noon on Friday 4 March, competitors' waiver status will be posted at <http://tinyurl.com/ke4hqcd>.

7. Scratches

No entry fees will be refunded for scratches made after the standard registration deadline. Please inform the registrar (registrar@austinregattas.org) of scratches that occur before Friday 4 March.

For an entry that scratches on or after Friday 4 March, please submit a scratch form at the Registration table so the regatta officials can maintain an accurate accounting of which boats are racing.

8. Regatta Check-in

All crews are welcome to check-in at the registration desk before racing to clear any problems with their entries, such as missing waivers. Entries with registration problems will not be allowed to race. On the regatta weekend, the registration desk will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday and throughout the race days on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 5:30AM.

9. Coach/Bow/Cox Meetings

The coach/bow meetings will be held at the Registration tent on Saturday and Sunday at 5:45 AM.

10. Substitutions

Before Wednesday 2 March, an entry may replace all of its rowers and its coxswain, and all such changes must be made by updating the entry's lineup at RegattaCentral.com.

Beginning Wednesday 2 March, an entry may replace **at most half** of its rowers, plus its coxswain, except for **single-scully** entries, in which substitutions are not allowed. Before Friday 4 March, substitutions must be submitted on forms available at <http://tinyurl.com/kz3d3dw> and emailed to registrar@austinregattas.org. Beginning at

3:00 PM Friday 4 March, substitutions must be submitted on paper forms at the Registration table at least two hours before their events.

If substitutions in a Masters entry reduce its rowers' average age to less than its event's minimum, the entry is scratched from that event. If an event for which the entry is now eligible has an empty lane, the entry will be allowed to enter that event. Such changes will be handled in the order in which the substitution forms are received.

If substitutions in a Masters entry increase its rowers' average age, the entry will remain in its original event.

No substitution may be made in an entry that has already raced in its event's first heat, unless a member of the crew has experienced a serious illness or accident during the time between the heat and the final.

11. On-time arrival

Regatta officials may prohibit crews that are late to the starting line from racing. The Dockmaster may prohibit a boat from leaving the dock if in his or her judgment it cannot reach the starting line on time.

During the regatta the docks are very crowded; all crews should be practiced at quick launching and boat removal before arriving at the regatta site.

12. Novice Rower Classification

Crews entered in Novice events shall include only novice rowers. A rower qualifies as a novice in a given discipline (sweep or sculling) provided s/he did not row in the 2015 Heart of Texas Regatta, or in any previous regatta, in the same discipline. In addition, a collegiate rower is a novice, provided s/he did not row *in collegiate competition* in the 2015 Heart of Texas Regatta, or in any previous regatta, in the same discipline.

Coxing experience has no bearing on novice rower classification. A novice entry's coxswain is not required to be a novice.

13. JV Competition

No rower who competes in a Varsity event may also compete in any JV event. For example, a rower competing in a Varsity quad may not also compete in a JV double, and a rower in a Varsity double may not compete in a JV quad.

In order for a team to compete in a JV event, that team must also compete in the corresponding Varsity event of the same boat class and gender.

14. Men and Women Rowers in Boats

In accordance with USRowing rules, all rowers in men's events must be men, and all rowers in women's events must be women. Coxswains are exempt from this rule.

Each mixed crew shall include at least one male rower, and at least half of the rowers must be women.

15. Lightweight Rowers

Lightweight men must weigh no more than 160 pounds (Junior men 150), and lightweight women no more than 130 pounds. Weigh-ins for rowers in lightweight events will be conducted once between 5:30 AM and 8:30 AM on Saturday and Sunday. Rowers will be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. A rower within one pound of the weight limit is allowed one re-weigh during the weigh-in window; rowers whose initial weights exceed 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. Wristbands issued on Saturday are good for Saturday races only.

Coxswains will not be weighed in.

16. Juniors

A crew entered in a Junior event shall include only junior rowers. A Junior is a competitor who 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.

17. NCAA Juniors Rule

Junior women shall row only in Junior events.

18. Masters Events

Masters' age categories are defined in USRowing's [Rules of Rowing](#), §4.104.1:

category	minimum age	category	minimum age
AA	21	F	60
A	27	G	65
B	36	H	70
C	43	I	75
D	50	J	80
E	55		

A rower's "rowing age" is his/her age on 31 December 2016; a crew's age is the average of its rowers' rowing ages, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Entries in Masters events must list every rower's **year of birth** in order to compete.

The Regatta Committee reserves the option to split any Masters event into two or more separate events according to the crews' age categories.

19. 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).

20. Crew Representation

No competitor may represent two different organizations in the Regatta. Any crew composed of competitors representing different organizations must be entered as a composite crew.

21. Dispute Resolution

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

22. 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 §3-109. All boats shall be equipped with bow clips. Boats observed to be lacking any of these features will not be allowed to race.

Competitors are responsible for bringing their own bow numbers for lanes 1-7. Bow numbers may be borrowed from the dock master for a deposit of \$5 on an as-available basis.

23. Hot-Seating of Boats

A boat that is to change crews immediately upon arrival at the docks after a race, and to race again without being removed from the water, is considered a *hot-seat* boat. The Dockmaster must be notified of every hot-seat boat before it launches for a pre-hot-seat race, and may provide the boat with an identifying marker to indicate the need for special treatment on its return. In all cases, crews should follow the instructions of the dock personnel. Also see Rules 3 and 11.

24. Progression System

Entries Heats Advancing in each Heat

1-7	0	—
8-14	2	3
15-21	3	2

If the number of boats starting a heat is n , then the number of boats advancing to the final is at most $n-1$.

When scratches occur after the final lane draw (when it's too late to redraw the lanes), a scratch in one heat does not affect the number of boats advancing in any other heat.

25. Schedule Changes

The event schedule is subject to change depending upon the number of entries received. Events may be canceled or combined if there are fewer than three entries at the entry deadline. Any crew entered in a canceled event will be contacted and offered the option to switch to another event or receive a refund of the registration fee.

26. USRowing Rules

Except as noted above, this regatta follows USRowing's [Rules of Rowing](#).

27. Sportsmanship

The Regatta Committee reserves the right to rule on any issue or 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.

28. On-line Schedules and Results

Schedules and results will be posted on-line at <http://www.austinrowing.org/liveresults/>.

29. Awards

Medals are awarded for first-, second-, and third-place finishes, except that no medal is awarded to an event's last-place boat.