

# Regatta Rules

## 2015 Texas Rowing Championships

### April 18–19, 2015 • Austin, TX



#### 1. Registration

All on-time entries must be registered, and fees paid, at [RegattaCentral.com](http://RegattaCentral.com). Entrants whose circumstances require alternative payment arrangements must contact the Registrar <[registrar@austinregattas.org](mailto: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 competitors entered in multiple events should be registered using the same name in all of them.

In each **Junior** event, the number of entries is limited to **28**, and the number of entries per club is limited to **4**. For every event that is oversubscribed, RegattaCentral will maintain a **waiting list**. The first entry accepted from an event's waiting list will be that of the club with the fewest accepted entries in that event; ties will be resolved in favor of the earliest entry. Entries on the waiting list at the close of standard registration will be accepted, over the 4-per-club limit, up to the per-event limit of 28.

The deadline for standard registration is 11:59 PM CDT, Monday April 6, 2015. 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 are accepted only if accompanied by prescribed entry fees, which are **DOUBLE** the regular fees.

Before Thursday April 16, late entries must be submitted on-line at RegattaCentral. On Thursday and Friday April 16–17, late entries must be submitted on paper late-entry forms available at the Registration Table, and handed in there before 6:00 PM Friday.

No late entries will be accepted on race days.

#### 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-scul 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. Crew Representation

A team is a group of rowers, representing a single high-school or club program, which has practiced and competed with distinct location, colors, and coaches for the entire competitive season beginning March 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.

#### 4. The Rule of 3

Competitors entered in events whose event numbers differ by less than 3 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 3 may nevertheless be competing in races that are too close together.

For example, if Events 103 and 106 have heats while Events 104 and 105 do not, a competitor entered in Events 103 and 106 could be racing in heats 103B and 106A, which would 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 3 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 3.*

#### 5. 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.

#### 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 19 April 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 19 April, 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 by email <[registrar@austinregattas.org](mailto:registrar@austinregattas.org)> of scratches that occur before Friday April 17.

For an entry that scratches on or after Friday April 17, please submit a scratch form at the Registration table so the regatta officials can maintain an accurate accounting of which boats are racing.

#### 8. Substitutions

Before Wednesday April 15, 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.

Beginning Wednesday 15 April, an entry may replace **at most half** of its rowers, plus its coxswain, except for **single-scul** entries, in which substitutions are **not allowed**. Before Friday 17 April, substitutions must be submitted on forms available at <http://tinyurl.com/kz3d3dw> and emailed to [registrar@austinregattas.org](mailto:registrar@austinregattas.org). Beginning at 3:00 PM Friday 17 April, 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, it is scratched from that event. If an event for which the entry is now eligible has an empty lane, the entry is entered in that event at no charge. Such changes are handled in the order in which the substitution forms are received.

If substitutions in a Masters entry increase its crew's average age, the entry remains 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.

**9. Juniors**

Junior events are restricted to junior crews from Texas.

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's junior status ends on 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.

**10. NCAA Juniors Rule**

Junior women shall row only in Junior events.

**11. JV Competition**

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

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

**12. Masters**

Masters' age categories are defined as in USRowing's [2015 Rules of Rowing](#), §4.104.1:

category	min. age	category	min. 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 2015; 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.

**13. 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 2014 Texas Rowing Championships, 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 2014 Texas Rowing Championships, 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.

**14. 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. Coxswains are exempt from this rule.

**15. Mixed Crews**

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

**16. Lightweight Rowers**

Lightweight men must weigh no more than 160 pounds (for Junior men 150), and lightweight women no more than 130 pounds. Weigh-ins for rowers in lightweight events will be conducted once each day, between 5:30 AM and 8:30 AM. Rowers will be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footwear. A rower within one pound of the weight limit is allowed one re-weigh during the 5:30 AM to 8:30 AM 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.

**17. Seeding and Progressions**

For the quad events, seeding will take place after the Texas Junior Seeding Scrimmage. All coaches will have the opportunity to evaluate the seeding and make comments. Lane assignments from seeding will be as follows:

2-7 entries	Final	1 <sup>st</sup> seed lane 4, 2 <sup>nd</sup> seed lane 3, 3 <sup>rd</sup> seed lane 5, 4 <sup>th</sup> seed lane 2, 5 <sup>th</sup> seed lane 6, 6 <sup>th</sup> seed lane 1, 7 <sup>th</sup> seed lane 7
8-14 entries	2 heats	Heat A: seed 1, 3, 6 Heat B: seed 2, 4, 5 Top 3 advance
15-21 entries	3 heats	Heat A: seed 1, 4 Heat B: seed 2, 5 Heat C: seed 3, 6 Top 2 advance
22-28 entries	4 heats 2 semifinals	Heat A: seed 1, 5 Heat B: seed 2, 6 Top 3 advance to semifinal 1 Heat C: seed 3, 7 Heat D: seed 4, 8 Top 3 advance to semifinal 2

For progression purposes, the number of boats in a heat is determined when its last boat leaves the starting area, i.e., passes the 100-meter mark.

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.

**18. Regatta Check-in**

All crews are welcome to check-in at the registration desk before racing. At that time, they can 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 on Saturday and Sunday from 5:30 AM until after each day's medals ceremony. The registration desk has blank forms for late registrations, substitutions, scratches, and protests.

**19. 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 [2015 Rules of Rowing](#), §3-105 and §3-109. Boats observed to be lacking any of these features will not be allowed to race.

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

**20. 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).

**21. Friday practice**

The course will be open on Friday, April 17, 2–6 PM. Crews are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the traffic pattern. Violations of the traffic pattern may result in penalties.

**22. Coach/Bow/Cox Meetings**

The coach/bow/cox meetings will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Registration tent at 5:45 AM. Attendance is required for all competitors responsible for steering their boats.

**23. Race safety**

All competitors should understand how to back boats into a starting dock, and should be able to “scull” their boat to achieve alignment without pulling forward and away from the stake boat holders. Please review the ARC Guide to Start Platforms and Starts at <http://tinyurl.com/yzd7g6u>.

**24. On-time arrival**

Regatta officials may prohibit boats 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.

**25. Hot-Seating of Boats**

A boat that is to change crews immediately upon arrival at the docks after a race, and 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 4 and 24.

**26. Schedule Changes**

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

**27. Protests and Dispute Resolution**

All protests must follow USRowing rules. Please consult USRowing's [2015 Rules of Rowing](#) for the details on protesting. All protests involving the conduct of a race shall be lodged by the crew at the finish line while it is still on the water. For all protests, a crew representative must submit a protest statement written on a Protest Form available at Registration, along with \$50, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. The regatta officials will be consulted on all protest decisions.

All questions of eligibility, qualifications, and interpretation of the rules are referred to the Regatta Committee, whose decisions are final.

**28. 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.

**29. Medals**

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

The ceremony at which medals are awarded will take place 15 minutes after each day's last event. Medalists are encouraged to appear at the awards ceremony in uniform.

**30. State Championships**

Crews from outside Texas may compete in masters events and earn medals, but junior events are restricted to junior crews from Texas. Championship trophies will be awarded only to crews from Texas.

**31. Adaptive Events**

Special medals for adaptive rowers will be awarded only in events designated as adaptive events.

**32. On-line Schedules and Results**

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

**33. Cancellation Due to Weather**

Occasionally regattas have to be truncated, usually in order to avoid exposing competitors, officials, and volunteers to unsafe weather conditions. No regatta is truncated except with the approval 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, no registration fees are refunded. If a regatta's sponsoring organization, whose expenses are not reduced by the cancellation, 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.

**34. USRowing Rules**

Except as noted above, this regatta follows USRowing's [2015 Rules of Rowing](#).