

Regatta Rules

2016 Texas Rowing Championships

April 16–17, 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>](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. Competitors with multiple USRowing memberships should be registered with a membership that has a waiver.

The **deadline** for standard registration is 11:59 PM CDT, Monday April 4, 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 are accepted only if accompanied by prescribed entry fees, which are DOUBLE the regular fees.

Before Thursday April 14, late entries must be submitted on-line at RegattaCentral. On Thursday and Friday April 14–15, 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.

In each **Junior** event, the number of entries is limited to 28, and the number of entries per club is *initially* limited to 2. Each club's entries over 2 in an event will be added as requests to the event's RegattaCentral waitlist. On Thursday March 17, waitlist requests will be accepted from each event's waiting list, up to the per-event limit of 28, in round-robin order of clubs. Each club's waitlist requests will be accepted in alphabetical order of seed.

2. Waitlists

Requests to enter full events are placed on their events' waitlists, and are accepted in order of submission.

Upon acceptance of a waitlist request, a notification is sent by e-mail to the request's RegattaCentral account holder. This e-mail is the only notification given to accepted crews. Austin Rowing Club and RegattaCentral are not responsible for missed e-mail messages.

Before Wednesday April 13, an accepted request's entrant has 48 hours to submit the entry via RegattaCentral. After 48 hours, the acceptance expires, and another request in the queue is accepted.

On Wednesday April 13 and Thursday April 14, accepted entries' lineups must be submitted on forms available at <http://tinyurl.com/kz3d3dw> and e-mailed to registrar@austinregattas.org. On Friday April 15, line-ups must be submitted between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM on paper forms filled out and handed in at the Registration table.

All waitlist requests and unsubmitted acceptances for each event expire at 6:00 PM on the day before the event.

3. USRowing Membership

Every participating team must be an organizational member of USRowing (for information about becoming an organizational member, please see the USRowing web site [<http://www.usrowing.org/join.aspx>](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 belonging to a team **must be a Championship member** of

USRowing and must race as "Unaffiliated."

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. 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 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 or canceled, 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.

7. Liability Waivers

Every competitor must have at least a Basic USRowing membership and must have signed a USRowing Release of Liability Waiver on-line at membership.USRowing.org. Basic members are charged a \$5.75 administrative fee; Championship members signing their waivers are not charged an added fee.

8. 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 15.

For an entry that scratches on or after Friday April 15, a scratch form should be submitted at the Registration table so the regatta officials can maintain an accurate accounting of which boats are racing.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Substitutions

Before Wednesday April 13, 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 April 13, 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 April 15, substitutions must be submitted on forms available at <http://tinyurl.com/kz3d3dw> and emailed to registrar@austinregattas.org. Beginning at 3:00 PM Friday April 15, 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.

12. 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.

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 2015 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 2015 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. 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 compete in a JV event, that team must also compete in the corresponding Varsity event of the same boat class and gender.

15. 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.

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 race day, between 5:30 AM and 8:30 AM. 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 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. 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.

18. NCAA Juniors Rule

Junior women shall row only in Junior events.

19. Masters Events

Masters' age categories are defined as in USRowing's [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 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.

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. 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, 2016. 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.

22. Protests and Dispute Resolution

All protests must follow USRowing rules. Please consult USRowing's [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.

23. 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. 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.

24. 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 4 and 12.

25. 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 st seed lane 4, 2 nd seed lane 3, 3 rd seed lane 5, 4 th seed lane 2, 5 th seed lane 6, 6 th seed lane 1, 7 th 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

If the number of boats starting a heat is n , then the number of boats advancing to the final is at most $n-1$. For progression purposes, the number of boats starting a heat is determined when its last boat leaves the starting area, i.e., passes the 100-meter mark.

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.

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. USRowing Rules

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

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. On-line Schedules and Results

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

30. Friday practice

The course will be open on Friday April 15, 2-6 PM. Crews are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the traffic pattern. Violations of the traffic pattern may result in penalties.

31. 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/zthlsmu>.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. Adaptive Events

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

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