

2005 Head of the Brazos Rules of Racing

Coxswains and Coaches meeting

The Coxswains and coaches meeting will be held one hour prior to the first race, approximately 8:00am at the judges' tower. Each crew will be required to have a representative at the meeting.

On Time Start

ON TIME STARTING WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED! All crews must be at the start line of course, 10 minutes before the scheduled starting time of their race. No late start will be permitted. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!

Traffic pattern

Boats are required to keep to the **Left** of the river while proceeding to the start. This rule will apply on Race Day; those crews which do not follow the traffic pattern will be issued a penalty.

Bow numbers

Each boat shall carry a bow number denoting their assigned start order. Failure to carry the bow number issued will result in a penalty.

Foot gear release

Where the feet of the competitor are held by foot gear affixed to the stretcher of the boat, the design of such foot gear shall provide for the quick release of the competitors feet in case of capsize, without the use of hands. Such design may consist of Velcro or pull strings at the heels.

All boats will be checked for such appropriate foot gear. If such foot gear is not present, at all seats, that boat will not be launched. This checking of the boats will occur immediately prior to the launch. All boats, even if they row in multiple races, will be checked prior to each race.

Launching

Boats must queue for launch in bow number order. Please listen to the directions of the officials. All oars must accompany boats to launch docks.

Launch schedule

Launch schedules will be issued during the Coaches and Coxswains' meeting on October 9th. There will be three calls to launch prior to each event and launch Officials at the Launch Docks to insure all boats launch on time. REGISTERED BOATS FAILING TO LAUNCH DURING THE APPROPRIATE LAUNCH WINDOW FOR THEIR RACE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RACE, AND WILL INCUR A \$10.00 SCRATCH FEE. ANY ORGANIZATION WITH SCRATCH FEES DUE WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM LAUNCHING ANY BOATS UNTIL ALL SCRATCH FEES ARE PAID.

The start

Marshals shall be positioned in a launch in the starting area for the purpose of organizing participating crews above the start into the proper starting order and time interval. **Boats must be in the starting area at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled start time - LATE STARTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED!**

Crews shall be responsible for maintaining their proper order, for maintaining their proper interval between themselves and other crews and for staying in the starting chute.

For safety purposes and efficiency of starting boats, the committee asks coaches to please refrain from sending first time or inexperienced coxswains out. If, in the judgment of the Dock master or Starter any coxswain is considered inexperienced, the boat will be turned back.

At the start, crews will be called to the start chute at approximately ten second intervals. Starting order shall be determined by random draw.

All crews not currently involved in the staging of the start shall yield to crews being summoned by the Marshall. Interference with the staging of the start shall result in a penalty.

If racing is delayed, the Starter shall provide for a sufficient amount of time between events so that crews in different events do not overlap at the finish line.

Right of Way

A crew is deemed to be overtaking another crew when it has moved to within one length of open water of the crew ahead. On the portions of the course that are straight, a crew being overtaken shall move to the starboard and allow the overtaking crew to pass. Where the course turns, a crew being overtaken shall move to the outside of the turn and allow the overtaking crew to pass along the shorter path.

The Finish

After crossing the finish line, crews shall continue to row to the last buoy and turn around continuing on to the take out dock, avoiding interfering with the following crews. Crews shall be disqualified if they cross the finish line missing a crew member.

Protests

Intent to file a protest must be indicated on the water immediately following the finish of a race to an Official before the crew leaves the finish area. After a crew returns to the takeout docks, all right to protest is waived.

The regatta will consider a protest from each coach or coaching representative (only 1 coach/coaching representative per protest is allowed) per USRA rules at a fee of \$25.00. The protest must be filed with Control Commission at Registration headquarters and the fee paid within 45 minutes of the last boat finish time for the race in question. The protest must be filed with the Control Commission at the Registration headquarters. The Regatta Jury will consider appeals from crews who have been assessed a penalty. No crew shall receive a time advantage from a decision by the Jury.

All race results become "Official" 45 minutes following the last boat to finish in an event if no protests are pending.

Penalties

A twenty second penalty shall be assessed for each buoy that a crew passes incorrectly. A crew passes a buoy incorrectly when its hull passes on the wrong side of the buoy.

A ten second penalty may be assessed to crews entering the start chute out of order.

A ten second penalty may be assessed to any crew failing to yield to a crew being summoned to the starting area, or that otherwise interferes with the staging of the start.

A thirty second penalty may be assessed to any crew which fails to yield to a crew having the proper right of way.

A sixty second penalty may be assessed to any crew crossing the starting line without its required bow number, weather conditions permitting.

Hot Seating

"Hot Seating", or changing crews in a boat on the water is permitted. Each boat in each event must register with the Dock master before the first call of the event that they are hot seating for and launch from the designated launch areas.

Coxswain weigh-in rules

There will be no weigh-in for Coxswains.

Awards

Medals will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers in each event, with the exception of last place finishers. Team champions will be recognized with awards in Collegiate and Junior categories. No points will be awarded to any non-collegiate club team. Additional trophies may be awarded to winners of various events. A Men's and Women's Team Points trophy will be awarded to the collegiate teams, in 4+'s and 8+'s only, that achieves the greatest total points using the following scoring system:

Collegiate

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
V8+	100	80	65	55	40	0
V4+	90	70	55	45	30	0
N8+	80	60	45	35	0	0
N4+	70	50	35	25	0	0

Men's and Women's Team Points trophy will be awarded to the juniors teams, in 4x's and 2x's only, that achieves the greatest total points using the following scoring system:

Juniors

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
4x	100	80	65	55	40	0
2x	90	70	55	45	30	0

Note: In the event a non-collegiate club crew finishes ahead of a collegiate crew in the open events, the collegiate team will receive points in the order they finish in according to the other collegiate teams, for instance: 1st place: collegiate team one, 2nd place: club team, 3rd place: collegiate team two. The collegiate team that finished first will receive the first place points, the club team that finished second does not receive any points, the collegiate team that finished third will receive the second place points. All questions on this issue will be answered at the Coaches and Coxswains meeting on October 9th at approximately 8:00am.

NEW!! Masters:

Masters rowers will be handicapped according to the official USRowing handicapping chart in all events. The chart can be found at the following location: <http://www.usrowing.org/uploads/docs/mhandchart.pdf>