



Head of the Colorado Regatta Sunday, October 29, 2023 Lady Bird Lake, Austin, Texas

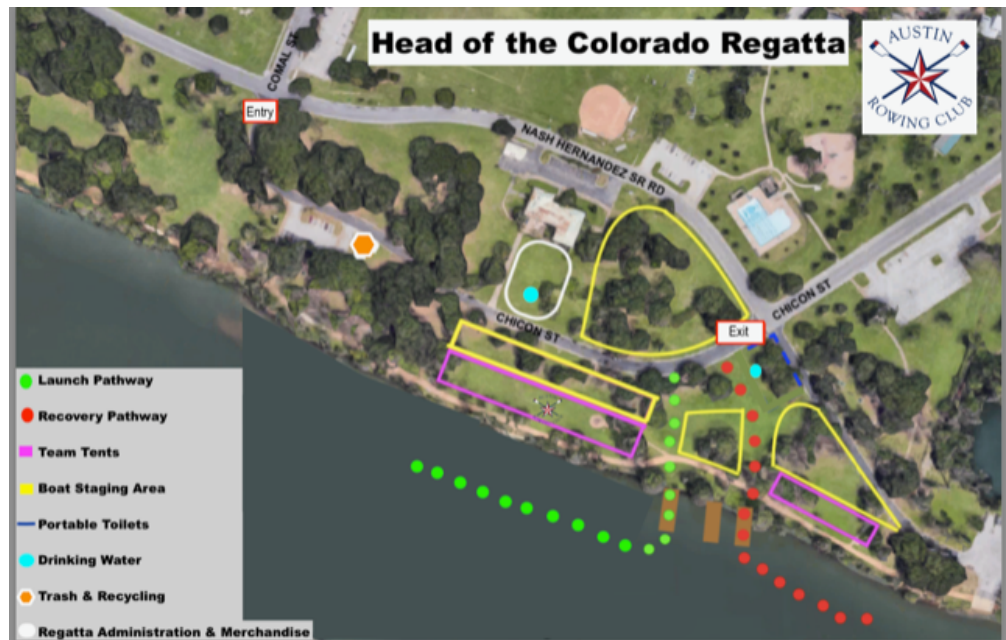


NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES OR CLARIFICATIONS TO:

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I. Venue Information

Location:
Festival Beach Park
Lady Bird Lake
Austin, Texas 78702



ALL CREWS REQUIRED TO LAUNCH FROM THE MAIN VENUE SITE

II. Parking

Parking within the venue will be limited on race days to boat trailers and the vehicle that was used to tow the boat trailer. Parking permits are only issued to boat trailer tow vehicles. Please visit the website for trailer parking maps and additional information. Trailers and tow vehicles are limited to the loop of Chicon only.



For vehicles without permits: No equipment vehicles other than the boat trailer and tow vehicle are allowed to park within the venue. The venue is defined as the inner circle of Chicon Street.

Parking on the grass is not permitted for any reason.

Tow vehicles and trailers are not allowed to enter/exit the inner loop except for the times specified below.

Vehicles will be allowed to enter/exit the inner circle of Chicon Street 60 minutes after the conclusion of the last race. Please plan accordingly.

Competitors, parents, and other spectators can look for street parking along Nash Hernandez. Parents, booster clubs, and additional equipment vehicles are only allowed inside the venue during the following times:

- Saturday: Before 1pm and after 6:30pm
- Sunday: 60 minutes after the conclusion of the final race of the day

No vehicles are allowed to enter/exit the inner circle of Chicon Street starting 90 minutes prior to the first race of the day. Anyone missing this window will need to park outside the venue, even if they have a parking permit.

No vehicles are allowed to park in the small parking lot within the venue without a parking permit — they will be towed. If you need to use the parking lot, please contact info@austinrowing.org prior to the regatta to request a parking permit. For vehicles without permits: No equipment vehicles other than the boat trailer and tow vehicle are allowed to park within the venue. The venue is defined as the inner circle of Chicon Street.

Austin Rowing Club is working closely with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department to better enforce regatta-parking guidelines.

Any vehicle found not adhering to the above rules will be towed immediately.

III. Coach, Coxswain, and Blind Boat Meeting

Attendance is mandatory on Sunday. The Chief Referee will take attendance to make sure each team has a representative at the meeting. If not at the meeting, you must speak with the Chief Referee prior to being allowed to launch, which may delay your crew's launch and not allow for the crew to reach the start line on time. Meeting starts at 6:45 am on Sunday, October 29.

IV. Course Orientation

The course will be available for an orientation row Saturday afternoon: October 28th. Crews may launch for practice from 2–5:00pm. All crews must be off the water by 6pm. No crews will launch for practice before 2:00pm on Saturday October 28th.

Critical note: This opportunity is a course orientation row only. Crews should not expect to be at full pressure. Recreational traffic (kayaks, SUPs, etc) will be present on the course. This window is for coxswains and bows to have an understanding of the race course before race time. Refs and support launches will be available throughout the course to help navigate the recreational traffic.

V. Mandatory Volunteer Policy

We are implementing the volunteer policy that USRowing used this past season.

Every registered team will be required to provide at least one (1) volunteer to work one (1) 4-6 hour shift during the regatta.

Upon registering the someone from the LOC will send an email requesting the contact information for your team's volunteer. This is so that we can send volunteer sign up information to your volunteer.

VI. Rules and Membership

Except as noted in this packet the 2023 Head of the Colorado Regatta will be governed by the 2023 USRowing Rules of Rowing. The Head of the Colorado Regatta is a USRowing Registered Regatta. In order to compete in this event all organizations will need to adhere to the following:

- A. All attending organizations must be current USRowing organizational members.
- B. All unaffiliated rowers must have a USRowing Championship membership.
- C. All competitors must be a basic member and have a current (online) signed waiver.

Every competitor must have signed a USRowing Release of Liability Waiver online through USRowing. **No paper waivers will be available for this regatta.** If any club has a question on how to renew membership or sign an athlete waiver please contact the USRowing membership department directly at members@usrowing.org or you can call 1-800-314-4769.

VII. Registration/Entries

- A. Important Entry Deadlines:
 - 1. Standard Registration
 - a. Opens: Monday, September 18, 2023 @ 9:00am CDT
 - b. Closes: Monday, October 16, 2023 @ 10:00pm CDT
 - 2. Late Registration
 - a. Opens: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 @ 12:00am CDT
 - b. Closes: Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 10:00pm CDT
 - 3. Line-Up Deadline: Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 10:00 PM CDT
- B. Waiver Submission Deadline: Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 10:00 PM CDT
- C. **Payment:** Payment is due at time of registration. Any entry that is scratched before the standard registration deadline will be refunded through Regatta Central.
- D. **On-Site Registration:** On-site registration will begin on Saturday, October 28 from 3-6pm, and throughout race day on Sunday beginning at 6:30am. Crews who need to make scratches or substitutions may do so during these times. After 6pm on Saturday, October 28, please see Section VI-G for rules regarding substitutions.
- E. **Late Entries:** Late entries are accepted after the standard registration deadline at the discretion of the registrar. Prescribed late entry fees must accompany late entries. Before October 23 at 10:00pm, late entries must be submitted online at Regatta Central. After this time, late entries will only be accepted on-site during registration hours on Saturday. No late entries will be accepted after 6:00pm on October 28th. No late entries will be accepted on race day.
- F. **Max Cap per athlete:** There is a max race per athlete cap of 2 races. This does not apply to coxswains. If our schedule can accommodate additional races per athlete, we will broadly communicate that.
- G. **Scratches:** Fees for scratched entries made after the standard registration deadlines are non-refundable, **with no exceptions.** After the standard registration deadline, scratches can still be

made on Regatta Central through October 23, 2023 at 10:00pm. All scratches made after this time will need to be done at the registration tent. Scratch forms are available at the registration tent, or online at RegattaCentral.

- H. **Substitutions: There will be no line-up substitution restrictions through Saturday's on-site registration hours.** After on-site registration ends on Saturday, the following substitution rules go into effect: A crew other than a single scull may substitute up to one half of its rowers, as well as the coxswain. On race day, the LOC may prohibit such substitution if it is not submitted in writing at registration at least one hour before the event in which the crew is entered.

Substitution forms are also available online at RegattaCentral.

- I. Duplicate Entries: Fees will not be refunded for duplicate entries.

VIII. Competitors

A. Junior/Youth Rowers

A crew entered in a Youth event shall include only Youth rowers. A Youth is a Competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A Competitor thus ceases to be a Youth 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. Rule 4-104.1.

B. Novices

Crews entered in novice events shall include only novice rowers. A rower qualifies as a novice provided s/he has been competing for under one calendar year and did not compete before **October 29, 2022**. Novice eligibility for sweep rowing and sculling are not considered separate. To enter in to a novice event, the rower must have been rowing for under one year, regardless of discipline.

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

C. Masters

Masters' age categories are defined in [USRowing's 2023 Rules of Rowing](#). A rower's "rowing age" is his/her age on December 31, 2023; 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. All rowers in a Masters boat must have a rowing age of at least 21, but the Coxswain need not be a Master.

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

Masters Crews will be given handicaps according to the boat's average age according to the following formula:

$$HC = (\text{age} - 27)^2 * Z * 5$$

where Z is 0.020 for 8+'s and 4x's, 0.0216 for 2x's and 4+'s, and 0.025 for 1x's and 2-'s. Boats with an average age of 27 or lower will be given a zero handicap.

D. Adaptive Athletes

The Head of the Colorado Regatta follows the 2023 USRowing Rules governing Adaptive rowing. The LOC has additional rules in place for Adaptive boats:

1. Registration for Adaptive events will be done through the LOC (Austin Rowing Club). Please contact Megan.getman@austinrowing.org if you wish to register an Adaptive event.
2. All rowers in Adaptive events are required to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
3. Each Adaptive boat is required to have a coach or assistant present for the duration of their time on the water. The coach/assistant shall be picked up by a referee, and remain in the launch for the duration of the warm-up, race, and row back to the docks. In the event of a boat flip: if the athlete requires assistance, it will be the coach/assistant's responsibility to perform a water rescue. The coach/assistant present in the boat must have the training/skills necessary to perform a water rescue in the event that it becomes necessary.
4. Each Adaptive boat on the water for a race will require a separate coach/assistant trailing their race. One coach/assistant is not permitted to be responsible for more than one boat in an event.
5. Practice: Adaptive crews wishing to practice on the course may do so during the same practice time as all other competitors. The same rules regarding a coach/assistant in a chase boat for racing also applies to practice.

IX. Policies

A. Required Equipment: All boats are required to comply with the 2023 USRowing Rules of Rowing regarding bow balls, footgear release, and bow numbers.

All crews must have a bow number on the boat and a numbered bib on the bow seat's back. Bow numbers and bibs will be provided in the entry packet. Bow numbers must be the correct and clearly visible. Control Commission will hold a crew from launching if they have an incorrect bow number or it is not deemed visible enough.

B. Official Regatta Water and Row Back Policies

The official area designated for the Head of the Colorado Regatta extends from the power lines east of Bird Island, west to the Railroad Bridge (see course map for details). **Crews are not permitted**

to proceed west through the Railroad Bridge. If a crew chooses to pass these landmarks, they have exited the protected Regatta water, and the LOC is not responsible for any accidents that may occur. In addition, no referees or safety marshals will be patrolling the areas outside of the Official Regatta Water.

Local crews who wish to row boats back to their boathouse will be allowed to launch at the discretion of Control Commission staff. If the docks are experiencing a high volume of crews trying to launch, priority will be given to racing crews, and row-back crews will be required to wait for as long as Control Commission deems necessary. Any rude or disrespectful treatment of Control Commission officials, regatta staff, or volunteers will be subject to the same penalties as racing crews. Youth rowers who are rowing back to a local boathouse should have an escort waiting for them once they row through the Railroad Bridge, since they will have exited protected regatta water, and no safety marshals will be located west of the bridge.

C. 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. Control Commission must be notified of every hot-seat boat before it launches, so that they can confirm the crew for the hot-seated event has launched, and has the correct bow number. **Failure to check-in a hot-seated boat could lead to exclusion from the race.**

Hot-seating and registering for events that are scheduled close together is done at each competitor's own risk. The LOC and referee staff make no guarantee to crews about reaching their event on time—it is the responsibility of the coaching staff and athletes to make sure they have enough time before the start of their next race.

D. Reporting to the Start

Boats should be in the starting area at least 10 minutes before their scheduled start time. A boat arriving late to the start for an event may be excluded from that event. Control Commission staff can prohibit a boat from leaving the dock if in his/her judgment it will be unable to reach the start on time.

Please note: Crews should plan their launch and warm-up schedule based on race start times posted on HereNow. If a crew feels that racing is running behind or delayed, and chooses to launch late, they do so at their own risk of not arriving on time, and potentially being excluded from the event.

E. Sportsmanship

Per the [2023 USRowing Rules of Rowing](#), “Unsportsmanlike Conduct” shall include, but not be limited to, failure to heed the instructions of Race Officials, use of obscene language or gestures, delaying a Race without just cause, intentional or flagrant disregard of principles of safety and fairness, or abusive behavior toward a Race Official, Team member, or spectator as witnessed by a Race Official.

A Crew or Team that engages in Unsportsmanlike conduct, as witnessed by a Race Official, may be assessed by a Race Official with one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”), regardless of whether such conduct otherwise constitutes a violation of these rules. If another Crew’s opportunity to win, place, or advance is affected by such conduct, the Race Official shall take appropriate action to restore that opportunity, pursuant to Rule 2-603 (“Restoring Opportunity of Winning; Altering Results”).

Any Team member, including a Competitor, who engages in Unsportsmanlike conduct at any time during the Regatta, as witnessed by a Race Official, may have his or her further participation at the Regatta curtailed or prohibited by a Race Official.

If any Team member engages in personally abusive language or conduct, the incident shall be reported by a witnessing Race Official to USRowing.

Any individual or group of individuals engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct after the conclusion of their events is still subject to the above rules, and is at risk for potential exclusion from future regattas.

F. Weigh-Ins

There will be no Weigh-Ins at the 2023 Head of the Colorado Regatta.

X. 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 standard registration 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.

XI. Seeding

Competitors will be randomly seeded based on their Regatta Central seed values, except for singles entries. Seeding for starting order of singles entries within a non-master’s event is as follows:

- A. First are on-time entries that placed 1-5 at the 2021 Head of the Colorado, in order of their previous finish.
- B. Next are all other on-time entries, in order of their Regatta Central seed values; entries with the same seed value are ordered randomly.
- C. Last are late entries, in the order in which they are received by the Registrar.

XII. Violations and Penalties

Late arrivals at the start, late departures from the dock, excessive time on the docks, unsportsmanlike conduct, bridge arch/buoy violations, 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 and will be posted at the regatta venue.

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 shall 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.

Dispute Resolution/Protest: All questions of eligibility, qualification, and interpretation of rules shall be referred to the Chief Referee and the Regatta Director, whose decisions shall be final. Any protest filed will be in accordance with the 202 USRowing Rules of Rowing.

No stopping zone: There will be a no-stopping zone directly after the finish line. It will be at least 20 strokes under light to moderate pressure past the finish line. A safety launch will mark the end of the no stopping zone. **Stopping in this area will be considered a Disregard for Safety and be penalized accordingly.** A Disregard for Safety is: **“A crew that acts in a way shows blatant and severe disregard for their own safety or the safety of the other will receive a 60-second penalty or face disqualification.”**

Head of the Colorado Regatta Penalty Guide

SO	Start Order Violation	Entering the starting chute in the wrong order is grounds for a 30 second penalty. This includes boats that are late to the starting line and therefore asked to start at the end of their event. A boat that is so late to the start that it cannot row in its event may be excluded.
AR	Arch Violation	Rowing through an out-of-bounds arch results in a 60 second penalty.
BV	Buoy Violation	Oars crossing a small buoy will result in a 10 second. A boat's hull crossing on the wrong side of a buoy will result in a 60 second penalty (or possible exclusion if it leads to a Disregard for Safety violation).
IS	Severe Collision: Yield committed by boat ahead	An incident in which there is hull-to-hull, oar-to-hull, or hull-to-rower contact or damage or injury. “Clash of oars” does not count as a collision. If a passing boat forces a boat off the course into a fixed obstacle (bridge arch, shoreline), or hits or cause damage to the overtaken boat, the passer may be assessed a 60 second penalty. Severe collisions are often preceded by a Non-Yield committed by the boat ahead.
IN	Interference: Non yield	When an overtaking boat closes within 1 boat length of the stern of the boat ahead (and continues to close) and there is no visible effort on the part of the boat ahead to yield (where yielding can be done safely), a 60-second penalty is assessed. As a rule of thumb, the yielding action should be well underway by the time the passing boat is within ½ boat length.
SV	Disregard for Safety	A crew that acts in a way that shows blatant and severe disregard for their own safety or the safety of other will receive a 60-second penalty or face disqualification. Traffic violations may fall into this category.
UC	Unsportsmanlike conduct	Gross, directed profanity or other actions that violate the bounds of civil conduct will result in a 60-second penalty or possible exclusion. This includes incidents on or off the water.

XIII. Awards

Medals are awarded for first, second, and third place finishes. In the event of a three-boat race, no medal will be awarded for third place. Medals will be available for pick up at registration approximately one hour after the race results are official, beginning at 10am.

XIV. 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 USRowing and bears ultimate responsibility for the regatta's safety. When a regatta is truncated or canceled, no registration fees are refunded.

XV. Lady Bird Lake is no touch water

NO swimming or throwing the cox into the water is permitted on Lady Bird Lake.

XVI. Event Drone Policy

The Local Organizing Committee, working in conjunction with the chief referee, is charged with approving the use of any and all drones at the regatta venue both on shore and in the field of play, including the airspace above the course (in accordance with local and FAA drone regulations for the specific venue).

Anyone wishing to operate a drone at the regatta venue, including media, competing organizations (including athletes, coaches, support personnel, parents or fans) or spectators must have prior approval from the LOC. If a competing organization (including athletes, coaches, support personnel, parents or fans) is found to be operating a drone without the prior approval of the LOC, the competing organization's crew may be excluded from the race the drone was following.

Any drones operating in the field of play must be controlled from the shore with an experienced drone operator. The drone itself must remain at least 10 meters behind the crew in its lane and at least 10 meters above the highest point of the referee launch. A drone may not operate in front of a crew in the field of play. At no time may a drone fly directly above a crew or referee in the field of play.

A drone may follow racing on the side of the course, but it must remain at least five meters away from the outside lane and 10 meters above the highest point of the referee launch. A drone may not follow racing on the side of the course being used as the travel lane for launching crews unless there is enough space to have both a five-meter buffer between the drone and the side of the course, as well as a five-meter buffer between the drone and the travel lane.