

RULES and REGULATIONS

2008 Head of the Colorado Regatta

Austin Rowing Club

October 25, 2008 ▪ Austin, TX



1. Entry Deadlines and Late Entries

- September 9:** Registration opens
www.RegattaCentral.com
(online only, no paper registration)
Please contact the Registrar if you wish to enter a late entry.
- October 17:** Registration closes at midnight. Waivers may be mailed or faxed by October 19, brought to the Friday night October 26 packet pickup, or turned in by 8am on race day with no penalties.
- October 25:** Registration opens at 6:00am on Saturday. Race day entries are allowed up to two hours before the scheduled event at the race committee's discretion. **(NOTE: Fees are DOUBLE for late entries.)**

All entries received after registration closes will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar and will be based on space availability. Entries are not considered complete without payment and late fees will apply. Late entries on race day are allowed, schedule permitting. Competitors will not be allowed to race until all fees are paid and waivers are submitted.

2. Liability Waivers

Every competitor must have signed a Masters Rowing Association Release of Liability Waiver. Waivers may be mailed, faxed or emailed directly to the Austin Rowing Club, ATTN: Registrar. Every competitor must fill out a MRA waiver, even if he/she has signed a USRA online waiver. The registrar will supply additional waiver forms on races day if necessary. Under absolutely no circumstances will entries with missing waivers be allowed to race.

3. Regatta Day Check-in

All crews are required to check-in at the registration desk when they arrive. At that time, they can clear any holds on their entries, such as late fees or missing waivers. Entries with missing registration information will not be allowed to race. The registration desk will be open from 3pm to 7pm on Friday and will open at 6am on Saturday.

4. Substitutions

A Scholastic or open crew may substitute the entire crew in a race. A Masters crew may substitute up to half of its rowers, as well as the coxswain. No single (1x) events can make a substitution. A completed Crew Substitution form must be submitted at the registration table at least two hours before the event. Complete information is required for all replacement competitors, including full name, birthdate (not age), and a signed liability waiver.

5. Scratches

No entry fees will be refunded for scratches made after the entry deadline.

6. On-time arrival

Boats arriving late to the starting line for an event may be excluded by the regatta officials from the event. Boats, which in the judgment of the dockmaster, cannot reach the starting line on time may be prohibited from leaving the dock, and thereby prohibited from racing.

7. Novice Rowers

A junior rower is considered a novice if this is his/her first year of junior competition. A collegiate rower is considered a novice if this is his/her first year of collegiate competition. All other rowers are considered to be novices if this is their first year of competition. Crews entered in Novice events shall include only novice rowers.

8. Novice Coxswains

The coxswain of a novice entry is not required to be a novice.

9. Novice-2

Rowers who compete in Novice-1 sweep events may not row in Novice-2 sweep events. In order for a team to enter a Novice-2 event, that team must also have an entry in the corresponding Novice-1 event.

10. Mixed Crews

Each mixed crew shall include men and women rowers. Doubles will continue to require a crew of one man and one woman, quads/fours crews may have a minimum of one man, but not more than two; and eights crews may have a minimum of two men, but not more than four.

11. Men and Women in Boats

As per USRA rules, the rowers in men's events are all men, and the rowers in women's events are all women. A woman cannot substitute for a man in any men's event, nor may a man substitute for any woman in a women's event. Any violation of this rule will result in a disqualification of the entry in question.

12. Lightweight Rowers

Lightweight men must weigh no more than 165 pounds, and lightweight women no more than 135 pounds. Weigh-ins will be Saturday beginning at 6:00 am. Rowers in lightweight crews/boats will be given wristbands when they make weight, and must wear these wristbands for all lightweight events. Any rower who loses the wristband must make weight again to receive another wristband. Rowers cannot weigh in more than two hours before their first lightweight event. Rowers who do not make weight by one hour before their event will not be allowed to row as a lightweight and will be given the option of rowing in open-weight events as room permits.

13. Open Events

Open events may be raced by club, collegiate, or masters rowers, all of whom shall be eligible for medals. No junior, or any rower under the age of 18, unless enrolled at a college or university, may enter an open event. This includes the coxswain.

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14. Coxswain's Weight

Coxswain minimum weight limits are 110 pounds for women's races and 120 pounds for men's and mixed races. Coxswains will not be required to weigh in; adhering to the weight limit or carrying appropriate weight is on the honor system.

15. Juniors

A junior 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 junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or when he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full time student, whichever is later. No junior is allowed to enter or coxswain any open or collegiate event.

16. Masters Events

A competitor's age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year, rounded down to the nearest whole number. All masters rowers must qualify for at least AA age classification of 21 years old. A crew's age is the average age of its rowers, rounded downward to the nearest whole number. For example, a crew whose average age is 44.8 would be considered 44 years old for regatta purposes. Masters races may be separated into multiple events, depending on the number of entries and the ages of the entries. An age grouping for a race should have at least three entries. All masters events are handicapped.

17. Single-Shell Categories

Single shells are classified for purposes of entry into restricted events as follows: A recreational single is any boat at least 17 inches wide at the waterline and at most 22 feet long (e.g. Maas Aero). There will be no exceptions to this recreational ruling.

18. Crew Representation

No competitor may represent two different organizations in the Head of the Colorado Regatta. Any crew composed of competitors from different organizations will be categorized as a composite crew.

19. Dispute Resolution

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

20. Seeding

Seeding for order of crews within an event will be as follows:

- 1st: On-time entries that competed in the same event last year, in order of their finish last year
- 2nd: On-time entries that did not compete in the same event last year, in order of the last modifications of their Regatta Central records
- 3rd: Late entries, in the order in which we receive them

21. Duplicate entries

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

22. Safety Equipment

Every competing boat shall be properly equipped with a bow ball. Every competing boat shall also be equipped with quick-release shoes. Please note: three-inch or less heel ties for quick-release shoes will be a rule of emphasis at this regatta. It is a crew's responsibility to check their equipment for these safety measures prior to launching for the race.

23. Penalties

Violations of the course boundaries (marked by buoys), late arrivals at the start, late departures from the dock, excessive time on the docks, and other violations may result in time penalties or disqualification, as deemed appropriate by regatta officials.

24. Passing During a Race

When passing, the overtaking boat has the right of way. The 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 should press its right of way to the point of collision. Good sportsmanship prevails at all times. Boats showing disregard for safety may be penalized or disqualified.

25. Hot-Seating of Boats

No Hot Seating of competitors or equipment is allowed at the Head of the Colorado. A competitor and/or boat may be entered in only one event per series. No allowances will be made for entrants who do not report to the starting line on time.

26. Entry Problems

Please note that all rowers are responsible for the accuracy of their entries on RegattaCentral - this includes birthdays (which affects handicaps for masters). Contact the registrar about entry problems by e-mail at registrar@austinrowing.org.

27. 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.

28. Schedule Changes

The Regatta Committee retains the exclusive right to alter or amend the race schedule as deemed necessary. Crews 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.

29. USRA Rules

Except as noted above, this regatta follows the Rules of Rowing, 2006 Edition of the USRA.

<http://www.usrowing.org/uploads/docs/rulesofrowing.pdf>