

Regatta Rules

2010 Heart of Texas Regatta

March 6–7, 2010 • Austin, TX



1. Registration

Online registration, at RegattaCentral.com, closes at midnight PST, February 19, 2010. After registration closes, no scratches or substitutions may be made on-line; any changes made online have no effect. **Any on-line entry whose fees are not paid in full when registration closes will be scratched, and must be resubmitted as a late entry.** Any entrant whose circumstances require alternative payment arrangements must contact the Registrar before the registration deadline. Such arrangements are accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Entries are accepted after the 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. Late entries must be submitted on the late-registration form (<http://tinyurl.com/ybbc8j3>), which may be mailed to

Austin Rowing Club
Registrar
P.O. Box 1741
Austin, TX 78767–1741

Alternatively, a late-registration form may be scanned and **emailed** to the registrar as a PDF, faxed to (512) 472–0700, or handed in at the regatta site at least two hours before its event.

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. Every entry must include each crew member's USRowing Membership ID; free (non-privilege) membership IDs can be obtained from USRowing.org.

The number of entries in each event is limited to 21. Entries are accepted in order of submission, and in cases of oversubscription RegattaCentral will maintain a waiting list.

2. The Rule of 4

Competitors should not be entered in events whose event numbers differ by less than 4. Competitors who ignore this recommendation risk being unable to get from the finish of one race to the start of their next race. Under no circumstances are races delayed to wait for tardy boats.

When heats are drawn, it is possible for a competitor conforming to the Rule of 4 to be competing in two heats that are too close together. For example, if Events 103 and 107 have heats while Events 104, 105, and 106 do not, a competitor entered in Events 103 and 107 could be racing in heats 103B and 107A, which would be back-to-back. Even if the problem entries were moved to 103A and 107B, the competitor would still have difficulty getting to 107B on time.

In such cases the LOC will introduce breaks in the schedule to ensure that every competitor whose original entries conform to the Rule of 4 will have at least three intervals (i.e., races or breaks) between each pair of his/her races. *No such accommodations will be made for competitors whose original entries violate the Rule of 4.*

3. Scratches

An entry that scratches during the regatta must submit a scratch form at the Registration table. No entry fees will be refunded for scratches made after the entry deadline.

4. Liability Waivers

Every competitor must have signed a USRowing Release of Liability Waiver. Waivers can be signed on-line at USRowing.com (<http://tinyurl.com/8y6ofq>), and are due by the registration deadline. Any competitor whose online waiver is not signed before registration closes may be required to sign a paper waiver at the regatta site. Under absolutely no circumstances will entries with missing waivers be issued their race packets or be allowed to race.

5. Regatta Check-in

All crews are required 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 throughout the race day on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 6:30 AM.

6. Substitutions

An entry in a non-single event may substitute up to half of its rowers, and also its coxswain. No single-scutt (1x) entry may make a substitution.

A completed Substitution form must be submitted at the registration desk at least two hours before the event. Complete information is required for every replacement competitor, including full name, USRowing Membership ID number, year of birth (for Masters events), and proof of a signed liability waiver.

No substitution may be made in an entry that has already raced in the first heat of its event, unless a member of the crew has experienced a serious illness or accident during the time between the heat and the final.

7. On-time arrival

Regatta officials can prohibit boats that are late to the starting line from racing. The Dockmaster can prohibit a boat from leaving the dock if in his or her judgment it cannot reach the starting line on time.

8. Novice Rower Classification

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

9. Second Novice Events

Rowers who compete in First Novice events may not row in Second Novice events. In order for a team to submit a Second Novice entry, they must also have an entry in the corresponding First Novice event.

10. Novice Coxswains

A novice entry's cox is not required to be a novice.

11. JV Competition

No rower who competes in a Varsity or Open event may also compete in any JV event. For example, a rower competing in a Varsity quad may not also compete in a JV double, and a rower from an Open 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. Mixed Crews

Each mixed crew shall include men and women rowers. Doubles require a crew of one man and one woman, quads/fours crews may have either one man or two, and eights crews may have two, three, or four men.

13. Men and Women Rowers in Boats

In accordance with USRA rules, all rowers in men's events must be men, and all rowers in women's events must be women. A female rower cannot substitute for a man in any men's event, nor can a male rower substitute for any woman in a women's event. Coxswains are exempt from this rule. Any entry violating this rule will be disqualified.

14. Lightweight Rowers

Lightweight men must weigh no more than 160 pounds, and lightweight women no more than 130 pounds. The weight of rowers in lightweight events shall be determined once each day between 6:00am and 8:00am. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. A rower who fails to make weight may weigh in again once during the same weigh-in window. No rower who fails to make weight during the allotted period may compete in any lightweight event.

Lightweight rowers who make weight will be issued wristbands, which they must wear for all lightweight events. Wristbands issued on Saturday are good for Saturday races only.

15. Coxswain's Weight

Coxswains will not be weighed in.

16. Open Events

Women who are in high school may not compete in Open events.

17. Juniors

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 ceases to be a junior 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.

18. Masters Events

Masters' age categories are defined in USRowing's *Rules of Rowing*. Entries in Masters events must list every rower's **year of birth** in order to compete. Entries listing only ages will not be allowed to compete.

Any Masters event may be split into two or more separate events according to the crews' ages.

19. 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 Aeros). There will be no exceptions to this rule.

20. Crew Representation

No competitor may represent two different organizations in the Regatta. Any crew composed of competi-

tors from different organizations must be entered as a composite crew.

21. Dispute Resolution

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

22. 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.

23. Required Equipment

Every competing boat shall be properly equipped with a bow ball. Every competing boat shall also be equipped with quick-release shoes and heel ties whose length is three inches or less. Every boat will be checked for this equipment each time it is launched.

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-needed, as-available basis.

24. Hot-Seating of Boats

Boats that are to change crews immediately upon arrival at the docks after a race (and go back out to race without being removed from the water) are considered *hot-seat* boats. The Dockmaster must be notified of every hot-seat boat before the boat goes out for its first race. In all cases, crews should follow the instructions of the dock personnel. 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. 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 at the entry 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.

26. Progression System

Entries	Heats	Advancing in each Heat
1-7	0	(Finals only)
8-14	2	3
15-21	3	2

The last place finisher in a heat never advances, even if this means a final with empty lanes.

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.

27. USRA Rules

Except as noted above, this regatta follows the United States Rowing Association'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.