

Warm up: Your 5,300 meter row to the starting line plus the holding area immediately downstream.

## **TIDES**

The Petaluma River is a tidal estuary. Finish Line tides on October 5<sup>th</sup>:  
**High:** 7:57 am (4.6')    **Low:** 12:42 pm (2.9')    **High:** 5:47 pm (5.9')

Those racing in the afternoon should allow at least 50 minutes to row against the tide to the start.

## **LAUNCH PROTOCOL**

Please listen carefully and follow the instructions of the Dock Master to ensure efficient launches. **NEW THIS YEAR:** separate docks for launching and landing.

## **BOW NUMBERS**

Please bring a standard lane number placard that fits in the bow clip of your boat. Three digit bow numbers with adhesive backing will be provided to secure to your number placard.

## **RULES**

USRA recommendations for safety will be followed. North Bay Rowing Club is a registered member of USRA. USRA membership for individual participants or clubs is not required.

Bow balls and heel tie-downs or quick-release shoes are required.

All craft shall remain on the westerly side of the river while traveling downstream, and easterly side traveling upstream. **THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR YOUR SAFETY. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO STAYING ON YOUR SIDE THROUGH TURNS IN THE RIVER.**

Racing crews have the right of way over all other boats. Boats warming up or returning from the finish must yield to oncoming crews and remain clear of the race course.

Overtaking crews have the right of way over slower boats. Boats being overtaken must yield to the outside of a turn or otherwise follow the instructions of the overtaking boat.

Leave all buoys marking the center of the waterway to port. No cutting corners.

Crews must use sportsman-like conduct and language.

The rules are meant for safety. Violations will result in a 30-second time penalty or disqualification at race official's discretion.

In case of any dispute, finishes will be determined by the Rules of Rowing.

## **COMPETITOR CATEGORIES/DEFINITIONS**

**MASTERS:** The event will use USRA age groups (AA:21-26, A:27-35, B:36-42, C:43-49, D:50-54, E:55-59, F:60-64, G:65-69, H:70-74, I:74-79, J:80+).

**Ages are as December 31.** Age groups may be combined based on the entries received. All Masters races in combined age groups will be handicapped. In team boats, the average age of the rowers (excluding cox), rounded down, will determine the age group and handicap.

**OPEN:** No age restriction and no handicaps applied.

**COXSWAINS:** May be any gender, age, or weight.

**MIXED:** One half (or more) women rowers.

**NOVICE:** Any rower (sweep or scull) whose first race was no earlier than one year prior to October 5, 2008.

### **LIGHTWEIGHTS:**

Men	165 Pound Maximum
Women	135 Pound Maximum

## **PETALUMA MARINA PARKING / BOAT RAMP**

Sufficient overnight parking is available in the Petaluma Marina parking lot.

There will be designated parking for trailers, and cars with roof racks. Trailer Drivers: please contact Bob Mackay for instructions (707.206.5157).

A public boat ramp and a gas dock are located adjacent to the temporary launch and recovery docks we'll be using. While scullers may use the ramp for wade-in launching of small boats, we must take care to ensure clear access to this and the gas dock at all times.

## **FOOD**

Coffee, bagels and pastries will be on sale at 6:30 a.m. to help get your morning off to a good start.

Lunch will be available for sale through a variety of local vendors on site. More details will be forthcoming at Regatta Central under the heading of "Food & Dining" (visit [https://www.regattacentral.com/index.jsp?tab=regattas&section=all\\_entries&id=854](https://www.regattacentral.com/index.jsp?tab=regattas&section=all_entries&id=854) and select relevant section).

## **OTHER VENDORS**

**JL Racing** will again be here to offer a selection of rowing apparel and accessories.

**Fine Designs, Inc.** will also be here to commemorate the 2008 Wine Country Rowing Classic with sportswear items imprinted with their full line of logos.

## **FINAL INFORMATION PACKET**

The final schedule, a race course map, and other important information will be available in the final information packet posted by October 3 at [www.regattacentral.com](http://www.regattacentral.com)