**2019 St. Denis Head Race**

**Regatta Information Packet**

Welcome to the Inaugural St. Denis Head Race located in beautiful downtown Natchitoches, Louisiana. The event will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 on the Cane River Lake. The regatta will be a 4500-meter head race and will offer crews early season racing on a protected and challenging course. The race is hosted by Northwestern State University and sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and the Cane River Waterway Commission. We are excited to have you take part in this exciting event. Except where indicated below, 2019 US Rowing Rules will be followed.

Trailer Parking

Trailer parking will be on the downtown riverbank on Rue Beauport Street. The address to use to trailer parking is 504 Front Street, Natchitoches, LA. This will lead you to the gate for trailer entry. Please note: Only trailers will be allowed on the riverbank. Vans and buses will unload on Front Street. See venue and course map.

Practice

The course is open from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8. No boats will be permitted to launch after 5:15 p.m. No coaches’ launches will be permitted on the river during practice. All boats must be off the water by 6:00 p.m.

Safety Meeting

Coaches and Coxswains meeting will be held at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 6th on the stage of the riverbank. Mandatory that all teams be represented at this meeting.

Launch & Recovery Dock

There will be two docks, a launch and a recovery dock. The right dock (farthest from the bridge) will be for launching and the left (closest to the bridge) will be for recovery. When launching and recovering, crews must keep buoys on their port side. See attached course map.

Race Course

The map of the race course is attached in the packet. Please have your coxswains and bowmen familiar with traffic pattern on the water and when launching and recovering

No Passing Zone

There is a 90 degree turn on the course. The turn is a unique challenge for our regatta and offers an opportunity to crews to showcase their navigational skills. Once crews enter the buoys on the turn, there will be no passing allowed. USRowing officials will be working the turn and will stop upgoing traffic to allow racing crews right-of-way in case they cannot successfully negotiate the turn. Please launch your crew with enough time to get to the start with the potential stoppage on the warm up. Please see course map for details.

Results

Results will be posted on the stage on the riverbank. Medals may be picked up on the stage of the riverbank within an hour after the race results become official. Medals will be available for the Top 3 in each category.

River

The course is on an oxbow lake that is smooth and well protected. Apart from bad weather, expect a flat course with very little wind and no current.

Fees

The entry fees are as follows: $50 for eights, $40 for fours/quads, $30 for pairs/doubles, & $20 for singles. Please register and pay via credit card on regatta central. If your program requires payment by check, please make checks out to St. Denis Head Race. Bow numbers will not be available until your entry fees are paid in full.

Check In

Check in will be from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, November 8th and 6 a.m-9 a.m. on Saturday,

November 9th. Bow numbers will be distributed in your packets. Bow numbers are to be placed on your bow deck. Bib numbers will be for the back of your bow seat and one for the back of your coxswain. Entry fees must be paid in full before you receive your packet.

Weigh Ins

Weigh Ins for lightweight rowers will be available on the stage on Friday afternoon from

3-6 p.m. and on Saturday morning from 6 a.m.-9 a.m. There will be no coxswain weigh in.

Entry Categories

Masters: Will all race under masters’ events (no senior masters or veterans events exist). We

will use the standard US Rowing Rules of Racing 1,000-meter handicap, which will then be

multiplied by 5.0.

Collegiate Novice: Collegiate rowers and coxswains with no collegiate rowing experience prior

to 7/1/2019.

Youth Novice: High school rowers and coxswains who have not competed prior to 7/1/2019.

Coxswains: Will not be weighed in and no weight restrictions apply.

Lightweight Men: No rower can weigh more than 165 pounds.

Lightweight Women: No rower can weigh more than 135 pounds.

Lightweight Weigh Ins: Will be available from 3-6 p.m. on Friday, November 8th and

from 6 a.m.-9 a.m. on Saturday, November 9th Any crews who do not weigh in within the given timeframe or miss weight will be allowed to race, however it will be as exhibition only.

Penalties

-Each buoy passed incorrectly will result in a 20 second penalty. A buoy is passed incorrectly when any part of its hull passes on the wrong side of the buoy.

-A crew that fails to yield to a crew having proper right of way shall be penalized 30 seconds. A crew that fails to yield to a crew being properly summoned to the starting area or interferes with the staging of the start may be penalized 10 seconds by the Marshal or Starter.

-Passing in a no passing zone will result in a 30 second penalty

Protests

The regatta will consider a protest from a crew per USRowing rules. A fee of $50 will be charged for each protest. The protest must be filed with the Chief Referee within 1 hour of the last boat finish time for the race in question. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.

Inclement Weather Plan

Weather conditions have a significant impact on rowing and often result in potentially hazardous rowing conditions. It is important to be aware of the potential safety hazards resulting from the impact of rain, wind, currents, fog on the river, extreme temperatures and even large amounts of debris floating on the river. Crews will not be called to launch if such conditions exist or are seriously threatening.

The Chief Referee, working with the Regatta Director, will discuss the conditions and potential risks to begin racing and/or continuing to row on the course.

All decisions pertaining to rowing on the course will come from the Chief Referee and will be communicated and implemented through the Control Commission and the Dock Master.

The safety and the well-being of crews are paramount to the referees and the St. Denis LOC.

Conditions that may result in delay or cancelation include:

Fog on the river and/or throughout the course

Heavy rainfall on the course

Thunder and lightning in the area

Strong winds and heavy chop on the course

Extremely cold weather

Considerable amounts of debris in the river

Actions may include:

**Fog & Heavy Rain**: Delay racing for 1 hour

Review conditions on the course after 1 hour lapse

Delay racing for 2nd hour

Review conditions on the course after 2nd hour

Continue review and decision process until it is safe to restart rowing

**Thunder and Lightning:** Clear the course including referees and start personnel immediately

Delay racing until 30 minutes after last lightning strike

Procedure for boats on the water when lightning strikes in the area

Return to launch and recovery docks

**Changes that may be implemented when racing is restarted**:

Reduce length of racecourse depending on river conditions.

Eliminate novice races

Eliminate singles, doubles and/or pairs events

Eliminate fours events

Cancel all events

Gym Stay

There is an opportunity for rowing teams to stay in Northwestern State’s gym at no cost on Friday night. If your team is interested in staying, please contact Jason Stelly at 318.357.5341 or at [stellyj@nsula.edu](mailto:stellyj@nsula.edu)