

River City Rebellion: A Small Boat Tournament
Amendments to USRowing's Rules of Rowing, 2008 Edition
5/30/16

1) Modify ARTICLE II - CONDUCT OF THE RACE, Part B - Safety and Fair Conditions, Section 2-206 as follows,

“Section 2-206 Violation of Safety Rules: A crew that violates a posted traffic pattern described in Rule 2-203, or that violates the provisions of Rule 2-204 (“Rowing Near the Course while Race in Progress”) or Rule 2-205 (“Approaching the Start; Warm-up on the Course”), may be assessed a warning **or a time penalty** as described in Rule 2-602(b **or e**) (“Types of Penalties”) by any race official. Such warnings shall be applicable to the next race in which the crew competes.”

2) Modify ARTICLE II - CONDUCT OF THE RACE, Part C - The Start, Section 2-301 Reporting to the Start, subsection (b) as follows,

“(b) A crew that is not attached to its starting station **or in its lane at the starting line** at least two minutes before the scheduled time of the race may be assessed a warning **or a time penalty** (Rule 2-602(b **or e**), “Types of Penalties”) by the Starter. A crew that is not attached to its starting station **or in its lane at the starting line** by the scheduled time of the race may be excluded by the Starter. If racing is delayed, the Starter may announce a new racing time, which shall have the same effect as the original scheduled time for purposes of this rule.”

3) Add ARTICLE II - CONDUCT OF THE RACE, Part C - The Start, Section 2-312 as follows, **“2-312 “Count up Start”**

- (a) **All Regattas utilizing reverse handicapping shall utilize a “count up” start as described in this section.**
- (b) **After the crews have been polled, the Starter shall start the race by: (1) calling out “Attention!,” and (2) after a distinct and variable pause, calling out “Go!”**
- (c) **After commanding “Go”, the Starter shall commence counting upwards in seconds (Go, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc...) until all boats have left the starting line. An electronic or automated method of counting upwards is allowable.**
- (d) **After notification to the crews, the Starter, at its sole discretion, may begin the count up start at a number prior to the first start time to shorten the count up start period.**
- (e) **After commencing the count up start, the Starter shall disregard any crew signaling it is not ready.**
- (f) **A crew may leave the starting line when its designated count up start time is called out by the Starter.**
- (g) **False Start under this section:**

- (1) A crew commits a false start when its bow crosses the plane of the starting line before its designated count up start time is called out by the Starter. More than one crew may be assessed a false start.
 - (2) The Judge at Start shall be the sole judge of whether a crew has committed a false start.
 - (3) In the event of a false start, with the Judge's approval, the offending crew may hold water, back behind the starting line and restart on, or after, it's designated start time. The offending crew shall not interfere with any other crew in the process.
 - (4) In the event of a false start, the offending crew shall be disqualified. The race shall not be stopped.
 - (5) The Judge at Start shall communicate the bow number of the offending crew to the Chief Judge and the Referee.
- (h) Failure to Start under this section:
- (1) If a crew fails to leave the starting line after its designated count up start time is called out by the Starter, the race shall not be stopped.
 - (2) If a crew that has failed to leave the starting line and is impeding the start of the next race, the crew shall be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Starter and required to immediately leave the starting area.
- (i) Broken Equipment under this section:
- (1) If a crew suffers broken equipment at any time, the race shall not be stopped."

4) Modify ARTICLE II - CONDUCT OF THE RACE, Part E - The Finish, Section 2-501 The Order of Finish; Dead Heats, Subsection (b), Sub-subsection (2) as follows,

“(2) If a dead heat occurs in a race other than a finals race, and if a proper order of finish would be necessary to determine which crews advance in the progression system, the Referee shall, wherever possible, allow all crews involved in the dead heat to advance. If such action is not possible, the Referee shall order the crews to rerow, after allowing for a rest interval, and after having taken into account the scheduled time of the next race in the event. If a crew refuses to rerow, the Referee shall award the higher place being contested to the other crew, and he or she may exempt it from rerowing the course. **If the Referee, at its sole discretion, concludes there is not adequate time to rerow prior to the next race for the crews, the higher place shall be awarded based upon the flip of a coin.**”

5) Add ARTICLE II - CONDUCT OF THE RACE, Part F - Penalties and Protests, Section 2-602 Types of Penalties, part (e) as follows,

“(e) Time Penalty:

- (1) **Time penalties assessed to a crew shall be added to the designated count up start time for the next race in which the crew competes.**

- (2) A crew that is not attached to its starting station or in its lane at the starting line at least two minutes before the scheduled time of the race may be penalized 5 seconds.
- (3) A crew that fails to yield to a crew being summoned to the starting area, or that otherwise interferes with the staging of the start, may be penalized 5 seconds.
- (4) A crew that violates safety rules may be penalized 15 seconds.
- (5) A crew that that commits interference may be penalized 5 to 15 seconds at the sole discretion of the Referee.”

6) Add ARTICLE IV - COMPETITORS, Section 4-107 Eligibility to Compete in Events, Subsection (f) as follows,

“(f) All rowers regardless of age or sex may compete in a Small Boat Tournament that has been handicapped by age and sex.”

7) Add ARTICLE IV - COMPETITORS, Section 4-111 as follows,

“4-111 Small Boat Tournament Handicapped by Age, Sex and Boat Type (Tournament):

- (a) A competitor’s age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year, rounded down to the nearest whole number. The age of a crew shall be determined by the average age of the rowers in the crew.
- (b) A competitor’s eligibility to compete in a Tournament is not affected by his or her amateur standing under Rule 4-101 or classification by skill under Rule 4-105 (“Classification by Skill”).
- (c) Handicaps shall be determined by the Local Organizing committee and posted at least one hour prior to the first race.
- (d) A Tournament shall utilize reverse handicapping and a countup start.
- (e) The designated count up start time for each crew shall be calculated by subtracting the handicap that applies to each crew from the handicap for the crew with the greatest handicap in the event or regatta.”

8) Add ARTICLE V - REGATTAS, Part B – Entries, Section 5-211 as follows,

“5-211 Progression for a Small Boat Tournament (Tournament)

(a) Seeding

- (1) For the opening round, seeding shall be determined solely by the Control Commission. The first order of logic shall be ranking from prior tournaments with priority given to the most recent years. Crews which have not competed in prior tournaments shall be seeded based upon estimated race times. The tournament champion from the preceding year shall be given the number one seed in the current year.
- (2) For subsequent rounds, seeding shall be determined by actual race results from the previous round.

- (b) **The progression system shall follow typical tournament bracket logic, for example, 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, etc.**
- (c) **The Tournament Bracket shall be posted at least one hour before the first race.**

9) Modify ARTICLE VII - THE COURSE, Part A - General Course Requirements, Section 7-102 Length as follows,

“(a) The length of a race course shall be 2,000 meters from start line to finish line, except that the race course for Masters **and Small Boat Tournaments** shall be 1,000 meters.”