

Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Bylaws **Method of Conduct of the WIRA Championship**

Name:

The event is called the **Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship**.

Date:

The WIRA Championship will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday, **April 30th and May 1st 2016**.

Regatta Venue:

The WIRA Championship will be held on Lake Natoma in Sacramento, California.

Rules of Racing:

The USRA Rules of Rowing will be followed unless amended by these bylaws. **Licensed USRA officials will be utilized to ensure safe and fair racing, and the cost to maintain the USRA officiating team will be covered by WIRA annual membership dues.**

Events:

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Varsity Eight	Varsity Eight, D1/Open Varsity Eight, D2, D3, Club
Lightweight Eight Second Varsity Eight	Lightweight Eight Second Varsity Eight, D1/Open Second Varsity Eight, D2, D3, Club
Varsity Four	Varsity Four, D1/Open Varsity Four, D2, D3, Club
Lightweight Four Novice Eight Second Novice Eight Novice Four Novice Lightweight Four Pair Double	Lightweight Four Novice Eight Second Novice Eight Novice Four Novice Lightweight Four Pair Double

Regatta Format:

The order of events will be published as part of these bylaws. No changes to this schedule will occur without the approval of the Board of Stewards. The schedule will not be adjusted to accommodate equipment sharing or any special requests. Races will not be delayed in order to accommodate equipment sharing. **No special consideration will be given to a crew that is late to the start because of equipment sharing or athlete doubling.** Please remember that the regatta may fall off schedule because of a legitimate equipment breakage, false starts, re-starting a race due to interference, inclement weather, medical emergency, or

other similar causes. Nevertheless, crews will still be held responsible for making it to their start on time regardless of equipment sharing or athlete doubling. (e.g. It is not an acceptable excuse to be late for a start because a boat being used by more than one crew was involved in a previous race that had two false starts.)

Definitions:

- a.) A novice is any student-athlete who is in their first year of collegiate competition. Participation in any competition during the spring season, including scrimmages and joint practices, constitutes the use of a person's novice year. A rower who has previously competed only as a coxswain can compete as a novice rower. A coxswain who has previously competed only as a rower can compete as a novice coxswain.
- b.) Any athlete may participate in a varsity category event. An athlete may not participate in both the varsity eight and second varsity eight, or in the novice eight and second novice eight.
- c.) Male lightweight rowers may not exceed 160 pounds, no averaging. Female lightweight rowers may not exceed 130 pounds, no averaging
- d.) Coxswains for men's crews must weigh at least 125 pounds. Coxswains for women's crews must weigh at least 110 pounds.
- e.) In order to enter a second varsity eight, an institution must enter the corresponding varsity eight event.

Multiple Entries:

Generally, institutions may only enter one crew per event. The board of stewards will determine whether or not an institution is allowed to enter a "B" entry on a case-by-case basis. The stewards may elect to decline a "B" entry if it creates an additional heat. "B" entries are only allowed in the following events (for both men and women): JV8+, V4 (both DI and DII/DIII/C for women), ltwt8+, ltwtN4+, and 2N8+. "B" entries are eligible for medals but will not score towards the team point trophies.

Responsibilities:

The Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association, through the Board of Stewards, has the ultimate control over all aspects of the WIRA Championship.

WIRA bylaws will be reviewed and amended each year by the 7 WIRA Stewards to ensure that this document is relevant to the ongoing needs of the regatta.

The California State University, Sacramento Aquatic Center serves as the host venue and local organizing committee (LOC) for the WIRA Championship. The Aquatic Center will provide all the logistics for running the regatta both on and off the water.

The US Rowing Chief Referee shall appoint a jury of licensed US Rowing officials comprised of three members, including the Chief Referee as President. The jury will decide all issues related to the rules of rowing. Members of the WIRA Board of Stewards, WIRA

coaches, and members of the local organizing committee (LOC) are explicitly excluded from participating as jury members.

A Regatta Management Committee will decide all issues other than those that fall under the purview of the Chief Referee. The voting members of the Regatta Management Committee are the seven WIRA stewards. The head of the local organizing committee (LOC) and the Chief Referee may be requested to provide additional input when the Regatta management committee is in deliberation, but are not eligible to vote.

Dues

All WIRA Member programs must be current on dues payments to be considered in good standing. **Dues for 2015-2016 will be \$100 per gender program.**

Entries:

WIRA Member programs in good standing may enter as many events as desired. Non-WIRA member entries must be submitted to the board of stewards for consideration; if they are felt to enhance the racing for the membership at the regatta and do not preclude racing by any member program they will be allowed. Non-member programs will pay double entry fees (eg, \$400 for an eight) but do not have to pay dues.

Entry Fee:

The entry fee for 2016 is as follows:

Pairs/Doubles - \$75

Fours - \$130

Eights - \$200

Entries to Women's D1/Open Event

In order to enter the Women's D1/Open 2V8 a program must have an entry in the Women's D1/Open Varsity 8. In order to enter the Women's D1/Open Varsity 4 a program must have an entry in the Women's D1/Open Varsity 8 and 2V8. If a program has fewer than 18 student athletes they may petition the stewards for entry in the Women's D1/Open Varsity 4 so long as they have an entry in the Women's D1/Open Varsity 8.

Entry Deadline:

The deadline for both entry fees and race entry forms for the 2016 WIRA Championship is **Saturday April 23rd, 2016, 12:00 am PST. All entries must be submitted via Regatta Central.** There will be no exceptions made and no late entries will be accepted. No phone entries will be accepted. Changes to entries can be made before the entry deadline. No changes to entries will be accepted by phone. After the entry deadline there will be no additional entries accepted unless an event is cancelled due to insufficient entries.

Event Viability:

Events with fewer than four entries at the entry deadline may be cancelled, at the discretion of the WIRA board of Stewards.

Events that fall under 4 entries due to scratches after the entry deadline may be run at the discretion of the WIRA Board of Stewards, or risk being eliminated from the regatta schedule.

Crews that are entered into an event that is cancelled will be notified and alternative entries will be considered.

Scratch Fees:

A \$100 scratch fee must accompany each scratch. Failure to properly scratch an entry may result in the exclusion of a program's crews from the regatta.

Seeding:

The Board of Stewards or their designee will seed all eight oared events, and the Women's D1 Varsity 4. Provisional seeding will be released on **the Tuesday prior to the regatta**. Coaches will have a limited window to give the stewards feedback on provisional seeding. The deadline for feedback is **by 1:00 PM the Wednesday prior to the regatta**. The stewards will then publish **final seeding by 8:00 pm the Wednesday prior to the regatta**.

Athlete Doubling:

For 2016 athletes (rowers and coxswains) may participate in a maximum of TWO events. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Eligibility:

The intent of the Eligibility rule is to ensure that all student-athletes who compete at the WIRA championships are full time, degree-seeking students who are in good standing at their institution. The standard we use to determine eligibility is the student-athletes' ability to participate in varsity athletics, or to meet the same approximate standard if a member of a club team.

Athletes who are part of a varsity status men's or women's rowing team must meet the NCAA eligibility standards that are applicable to that institution. Coaches may submit a NCAA certification of eligibility form signed by the appropriate administrator as acceptable documentation.

Athletes who are part of a club status men's or women's rowing team must submit an eligibility roster, signed by both the Head Coach and an appropriate institutional officer (i.e. registrar), certifying that the athletes on the team meet the basic academic standards required for participation in varsity athletics at that institution. At a minimum this would include;

- a.) The athlete must be enrolled as a full-time student in a degree-seeking program at the certifying institution. (12 units or the institutional equivalent.) The only exception are students in their final term who may take less than a full-time load if it is sufficient to complete their degree during that term.

- b.) The athlete must be in good academic standing as defined by that institution. If the athlete is on some form of standing or probation that would prohibit their ability to participate in varsity athletics, they may not participate in WIRA.
- c.) The athlete may only compete for a maximum of four seasons. Participation in any competition, including fall races and scrimmages and joint practices at any time of year, constitutes the use of a season of competition. Although fall competition does not constitute the use of novice eligibility, it does count as a season of competition.
- d.) The athlete must conform to the five-year rule. All seasons of competition must be completed within five years from the time the athlete first started classes as a full-time student at any two year or four year collegiate institution. The five-year time period begins whether or not the student participates in any sport. Division II and III club programs may utilize the ten-semester rule.

Any athlete who wishes to compete in the WIRA regatta and does not clearly meet these guidelines must appeal their situation in writing to the board of stewards no later than two weeks prior to the start of the regatta. The appeal should include a full description of their circumstances as well as the support of their program's Head Coach. The stewards will consider all appeals, using the standard of "would this student-athlete be able to participate in varsity athletics at their institution," and rule no later than one week prior to the race.

Each program must submit the lineups on Regatta Central prior to the Friday night meeting. Lineups will be compared to the certified eligibility rosters. Athletes may be substituted between entered crews after the Friday meeting but before the event, but all athletes who race at the WIRA championships must appear on their programs' certified eligibility roster and must be eligible for their event (e.g., novices in novice events).

A crew's lineup may not be altered between the heat and final of an event. In the case of a medical issue serious enough to preclude the competitor from participating in a final the WIRA stewards will hear petitions for substitution requests. Substitution requests must be accompanied by documentation from an MD or ATC. Eligibility must be fully documented for any replacement competitor.

If a program is found to have raced an ineligible athlete, either during or after the regatta, they will be disqualified from any event that athlete is scheduled to participate in, or will forfeit any results earned if the discovery is made after the regatta. The board of stewards will review the situation and may apply additional penalties to the program if warranted, including but not limited to exclusion of the entire program, loss of WIRA membership, and/or exclusion from future WIRA Regattas.

Rower Weigh-Ins:

- Athlete weigh-ins will be held Friday afternoon at 3pm and will conclude at 7pm for all lightweight racing being conducted Saturday, and 3-5pm on Saturday for all lightweight races being conducted on Sunday, including finals for those athletes who successfully weighed in Saturday.
- Lightweight athletes must weigh at or below the maximum weight allowed for their appropriate weight class within one hour of first attempt, utilizing at most 3 total attempts. Athletes will be allowed the 2 additional attempts after the initial attempt only if they are at or below: 132.0 for women, 162.0 for men.

- Athletes who do not make weight within the allotted time frame will be excluded from participating in that event.
- Saturday morning weigh-in is an option for Saturday racing, but ONLY with a petition to the stewards that has been approved in advance.

Coxswain Weigh-Ins:

Coxswains must adhere to the USRA weigh-in window (no more than 2 hours, no less than one hour) before the first race each day in which they compete. Coxswains who miss the weigh-in window may cause their crew to be excluded. Coxswains do not have to weigh in for a 2nd race on the same day, but must carry their weight for all races.

Progression System:

Events with seven or fewer crews will be held with a final only format.

Events with eight to fourteen crews will be held with two qualifying heats. The first, second, and third place crews in each heat will advance to the final, all other crews will advance to the petite or 3rd final.

Events with fifteen to twenty-one crews will be held with three qualifying heats. The first and second place crews in each heat will advance to the final, the third and fourth place crews will advance to the petite final, and the 5th and 6th place crews will advance to the 3rd final. Any 7th place crews will be eliminated (i.e., no 4th finals will be run).

Events that have 22 to 28 entries will go to 4 heats, with the top 3 qualifiers from each heat advancing to one of 2 semifinals, with all other crews being eliminated. The top 3 qualifiers from each semifinal will advance to the grand final, with all other crews being eliminated. In the interest of expediency, no petite or 3rd finals will be conducted in this format.

For all progressions, 3rd finals will be run on a ‘space available’ basis, with priority going to events with higher points values or higher subscription at the discretion of the stewards.

Lane assignments In all events, heat winners will be randomly assigned to lanes 1 and 2 (8-14 entries) or lanes 1,2 and 3 (15-21 entries). 2nd place finishers will be randomly assigned to lanes 3 and 4 (8-14 entries) or 4, 5, and 6 (15-21 entries). 3rd place finishers will be assigned to lanes 5 and 6 (8-14 entries)

“Stacked Heat” Rule, In NON SEEDED EVENTS ONLY, a crew that finishes one place out of advancing (e.g., 3rd in a top two boats to final heat), but achieves a time that is faster than the WINNING crews from ALL OTHER HEATS, may by the discretion of the board of stewards be advanced to Lane 7 of the Grand Final. The stewards may elect not to use this rule in the event of a dead heat or protest in any heat that leads to the referees considering the use of lane 7 as a remedy.

Participation in the appropriate level of final (grand, petite, or third) is required.
Failure to participate in a petite or third level final may result in the program’s crews being excluded from the regatta.

Racing for Shirts:

All competitors in men's events are expected to race for shirts. The overall event winner will collect shirts from all other crews entered in the event. Failure to provide shirts to the winner of that event may result in hold of entries at the following WIRA regatta. Competitors in women's events may race for shirts on an ad hoc basis.

Awards:

An awards presentation will follow the conclusion of each finals event and medals will be handed out on the water. Medalist crews will be informed on the water and marshaled into an awards area to receive their medals from their coach. Crews that wish to take additional pictures, or get photo opportunities with the other medaling crews may use the awards stage that will be set up as in years past.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in all events.

Winning crews will have the right to order a WIRA Champion banner at their own cost. The stewards will have a vendor set up with the banner information and provide details in the regatta packet.

All-WIRA Teams:

Balloting for the All-WIRA teams will be conducted immediately after the final race of the regatta at the finish line tent for the following honors:

All WIRA First Team-Men (6 total)

Two athletes from each boat from the top 3 placing crews in the following events selected by their respective coaches

- Men's Varsity 8

All WIRA First Team-Women (12 total)

Two athletes from each boat from the top 3 placing crews in the following events selected by their respective coaches

- Women's Varsity 8
- Women's Varsity 8-Division II/III/Club

All WIRA Second Team-Men (12 Total)

One athlete from each boat from the top 3 placing crews selected by their respective coaches

- Men's 2V8
- Men's Lightweight 8
- Men's 4
- Men's Light 4

All WIRA Second Team-Women (15 Total)

One athlete from each boat from the top 3 placing crews selected by their respective coaches

- Women's 2V8
- Women's 2V8 – Division II/III/Club
- Women's 4
- Women's 4 – Division II/III/Club
- Women's Light 4

Coaches of the Year:

One coach of a men's rowing team and a coach of a women's rowing team will be selected by the WIRA head coaches. Head coaches of a men's rowing team may vote for the men's rowing team coach of the year. Head coaches of a women's rowing team may vote for the women's rowing team coach of the year. Each coach may vote however they wish. Recommended criteria to consider include the performance of the coach's crews at the WIRA Championship, the improvement that a program has made under the coach's guidance, and any hardships that the coach's program has had to overcome.

Points Competition:

There will be a WIRA Points Championship. Separate trophies will be awarded in the following categories:

Cumulative Points: Women

Cumulative Points: Men

Efficiency Award: Women

Efficiency Award: Men

Revised 2/18/2013**POINTS SYSTEM FOR CUMULATIVE POINTS TROPHY AND EFFICIENCY TROPHY**

Boat class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Varsity 8	100	94	90	87	85	83	81
2nd Varsity 8	86	84	82	80	78	76	74
Varsity 4	86	84	82	80	78	76	74
Novice 8	80	74	68	64	62	60	58
Lightweight 8	60	54	48	44	40	36	32
Lightweight 4	40	38	36	32	28	24	20
Novice 4	40	36	32	28	24	20	20
2nd Novice 8	40	36	32	28	24	20	16
Novice Light 4	24	20	16	12	8	4	4
Pair & Double	24	20	16	12	8	4	4

*DI/Open and DII, III,
and Club events are
scored equally.*

**CUMULATIVE
TROPHY**

Goes to the team
with the greatest
number of points
No minimum number of
entries
No minimum number of athletes

EFFICIENCY TROPHY

Minimum of 13
athletes
participating
(including
coxswains)
Minimum appearance in
the top 7 in at least 2
races (either in grand final
or as winner of a petite
final)
Efficiency trophy goes to the team with the greatest *efficiency
percentage*

Efficiency Percentage = total actual points divided by the total possible points.
(Total possible points would be first place finishes for all boats entered)

POINT DISTRIBUTION

If an event has less
than 7 entries, point
values awarded will
be shifted to the
right on the grid
such that
The last place boat will
receive 7th place points,

and preceding finishers
will receive 6th, 5th, 4th
place points, etc.

e.g., a 5 crew boat race would score as: 1st place-3rd place points; 2nd place-4th place points, etc. until the 5th (last) boat received 7th place points. The corresponding MAX possible for the event is shifted as well.

THERE ARE FOUR SEPARATE POINTS TROPHIES

- 1) Cumulative for
women 2)
Cumulative for men
- 3) Efficiency for
women 4) Efficiency
for men