

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

**Name:**

The event is called the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships.

**Date:**

The WIRA Championships will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday, **April 26-27, 2025**.

**Regatta Venue:**

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

**Rules of Racing:**

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

**Events:**

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Open Gender</u>
Varsity Eight	Varsity Eight, D1/Open	Double
Lightweight Eight	Varsity Eight, D2/D3/Club	<i>See definition for more details</i>
Second Varsity Eight	Lightweight Eight	
Third Varsity Eight	Second Varsity Eight, D1/Open	
Varsity Four	Second Varsity Eight, D2/D3/Club	
Lightweight Four	Varsity Four, D1/Open	
Novice Eight	Varsity Four, D2/D3/Club	
Second Novice Eight	Lightweight Four	
Novice Four	Novice Eight	
Novice Lightweight Four	Second Novice Eight	
Pair	Novice Four	
Double	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. The regatta may fall off schedule because of legitimate equipment breakage, false starts, re-starting a race due to interference, inclement weather, medical emergency, or other 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) Any athlete may participate in a varsity category event. An athlete may not participate in both the varsity eight and second varsity eight. No doubling is permitted within the women's D1/Open varsity eight, women's D1/Open second varsity eight, and women's D1/Open varsity four events (i.e. those must be 23 different athletes).
- b) In order to enter a second varsity eight, an institution must enter the corresponding varsity eight event.
- c) In order to enter a women's D1/Open varsity four, an institution must enter a women's D1/Open varsity eight and a women's D1/Open second varsity eight. It is presumed that the women's D1/Open varsity eight will be the team's highest priority followed by the women's D1/Open second varsity eight followed by the women's D1/Open varsity four.
- d) 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. An athlete may not participate in both the novice eight and second novice eight.
- e) Male lightweight rowers may not exceed 160 pounds, no crew averaging. Female lightweight rowers may not exceed 130 pounds, no crew averaging.

- f) Open-Gender Double will consist of at least one person who identifies as trans or non-binary. This is a non-medaling/final-only event on Sunday, and is limited to 8 entries on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- g) Coxswains for men's crews must weigh at least 125 pounds. Coxswains for women's crews must weigh at least 121 pounds.

### **Multiple Entries:**

Generally, institutions may only enter one crew per event. "B" entries will only be considered for the following events (for both men and women): any varsity 4, lightweight 8, second novice 8, and Pair/double events. All requests to enter a "B" entry must be accompanied by a rationale for the request. 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 will not be confirmed by the stewards until after the entry deadline. "B" entries are eligible for medals but will not score toward the team point trophies. If entries warrant, the Stewards may elect to race all "B" entries in their own straight final rather than in heats with "A" entries. No "B" entry will be allowed if the resulting addition pushes the event to have 22-28 entries and to a semi-final racing format.

### **Responsibilities:**

The Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association, through the Board of Stewards, has the ultimate control over all aspects of the WIRA Championships. WIRA bylaws will be reviewed and amended each year by the WIRA Stewards to ensure that this document is relevant to the ongoing needs of the regatta. The Stewards may elect to hire a Regatta Director to oversee the day-to-day business of the regatta, but will retain control over the Bylaws and overall management of the Association.

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

The USRowing Chief Referee shall appoint a jury of licensed USRowing 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 2024-2025 will be \$400 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 (e.g. \$800 for an eight) but do not have to pay dues. Non-member programs must meet all appropriate eligibility requirements.

**Entry Fee:**

The entry fees for 2025 are as follows:

Pairs/Doubles - \$200 prior to April 1st, \$250 after April 1st

Fours - \$275 prior to April 1st, \$325 after April 1st

Eights - \$375 prior to April 1st, \$425 after April 1st.

**Entry Deadline:**

The deadline for both entry fees and race entry forms for the 2025 WIRA Championships is Saturday, April 19th, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Changes to entries can be made before the entry deadline. 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. No changes to entries will be accepted by phone. After the entry deadline there will be no additional entries accepted unless an event is canceled due to insufficient entries.

**Event Viability:**

Events with fewer than four entries at the entry deadline may be canceled at the discretion of the WIRA Board of Stewards. Crews that are entered into an event that is canceled will be notified and alternative entries will be considered. Events that fall under four entries due to scratches after the entry deadline may be run at the discretion of the WIRA Board of Stewards, but do risk being eliminated from the regatta schedule.

Any event with fewer than four entries and therefore canceled two years in a row will be eliminated from the schedule by the stewards. Coaches can request reinstatement for the following academic year at the annual Fall meeting.

### **Scratch Fees:**

Scratches to entries made before the entry deadline (April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:59 PM) will be refunded less a \$25 administrative fee. Scratches to entries made after the entry deadline but prior to the start of racing will not be refunded. Scratches during the regatta are only allowed for documented medical reasons or with express approval of the board of stewards and will not be refunded

### **Seeding:**

The Seeding Committee will seed all eight oared events, the Women's D1/Open Varsity 4, and the Women's D2/D3/Club Varsity 4. Provisional seeding will be released on the Monday prior to the regatta. Coaches will have a limited window to give the seeding committee feedback on provisional seeding. The deadline for feedback is by 1:00 PM the Wednesday prior to the regatta. The seeding committee will then publish final seeding by 8:00 pm the Wednesday prior to the regatta.

### **Athlete Doubling:**

For the 2025 Regatta, athletes from Club and Division III Varsity programs may compete in up to two events. Athletes from Division I or II Varsity programs may compete in only one event. Coaches from Division I or II programs may petition the stewards for an exception to this rule, with a strict maximum of two events per athlete. No changes to the racing schedule will be made to accommodate doubling athletes. It is the responsibility of the entering coach to ensure their athletes are able to successfully double during both the heats and finals prior to the start of racing.

### **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 academic standing at their institution. The standard used to determine eligibility is the student athlete's 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. No documentation must be submitted as long as all participating student-athletes are on an approved institutional squad list.

Club status men's and women's rowing teams must submit an eligibility roster, signed by both the Head Coach and an appropriate institutional officer (e.g. registrar), certifying that the

athletes on the team meet the basic academic standards required for participation in varsity athletics at that institution. The Club Eligibility Roster is due by the Regatta Entry Deadline (April 19th, 11:59 PM) and the appropriate form can be found at RegattaCentral on the WIRA Regatta page. The minimum standard for all athletes are:

- 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 eligibility guidelines must appeal their situation in writing to the board of stewards no later than four 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 three weeks prior to the race.

Each program must submit all lineups on Regatta Central by Thursday, April 23rd at 11:59 PM. Lineups will be compared to the certified eligibility rosters. Lineups cannot be changed after the lineup submission deadline without an explicit written request to the stewards and subsequent approval by the stewards. Last minute lineup changes must not result in violating any WIRA bylaw, including but not limited to the rule on athlete doubling.

A crew's lineup may not be altered between the heat and final of an event other than changes in seat assignment. In the case of a medical issue serious enough to preclude the competitor from participating in a final, the WIRA stewards will entertain written 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, that finding coming either during or after the regatta, they will be disqualified from any event in which that athlete participated, 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 starting at 3:00 pm and will conclude at 7:00 pm for all lightweight racing being conducted on Saturday, and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday for all lightweight races being conducted on Sunday, including finals for those athletes who successfully weighed in on Saturday. Saturday morning weigh-in is an option for Saturday racing, but ONLY with a written petition to the stewards that has been approved in advance.

Each rower shall have only one (1) initial opportunity to weigh in. A rower within one (1.0) pound or less of the weight standard is allowed one (1) re-weigh within the same window as their initial opportunity. A rower whose initial weight is greater than one (1.0) pound above the weight standard will be ineligible to compete in the event.

### **Coxswain Weigh-Ins:**

Coxswains must adhere to the USRowing weigh-in window (no more than two hours, no less than one hour) before **the originally scheduled time** of the first race each day in which they compete. Coxswains who miss the weigh-in window may cause their crew to be excluded. Coxswains who do not weigh in prior to a race or fail to carry their required weight will cause their crew to be excluded. Coxswains do not have to weigh in for a second 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. All women's D1/Open events will have a race for lanes.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>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 fifth and sixth place crews will advance to the 3<sup>rd</sup>final. Any seventh place crews will be eliminated (i.e., no 4<sup>th</sup>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 3<sup>rd</sup>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 (when there are two heats) or lanes 1, 2 and 3 (when there are three heats). Second place finishers will be randomly assigned to lanes 3 and 4 (when there are two heats) or 4, 5, and 6 (when there are three heats). Third place finishers will be randomly assigned to lanes 5 and 6 (when there are two heats).

**“Stacked Heat” Rule:** In NON SEEDED EVENTS ONLY, a crew that finishes one place out of advancing (e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **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.

#### **All-WIRA Teams:**

Ballots for the All-WIRA teams must be submitted prior to the pre-regatta meeting.

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

Boat Class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Varsity 8+	120	112	106	100	96	92	88	84	80	76
Lightweight 8+	96	89	84	80	77	74	70	67	64	60
2nd Varsity 8+	96	89	84	80	77	74	70	67	64	60
Novice 8+	80	74	70	66	64	61	58	56	53	50
Varsity 4+	60	56	53	50	48	46	44	42	40	38
Lightweight 4+	60	56	53	50	48	46	44	42	40	38

2nd Novice 8+	48	44	42	40	38	36	35	33	31	30
Novice 4+	40	37	35	33	32	30	29	28	26	25
Novice Light 4+	40	37	35	33	32	30	29	28	26	25
Pair & Double	30	28	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19

The DI / Open and DII / DIII / Club events are scored equally.

The cumulative points championship is awarded to the team with the greatest number of points with no minimum number of entries and no minimum number of athletes.

The efficiency awards championship is awarded to the team with the highest efficiency percentage: actual points scored / total possible points. The team must have a minimum of 13 participating athletes: an athlete competing in two events will only count as one athlete toward the total of 13. The team must place in the top seven places in at least two events.

For all points competitions, full points are only awarded if there are ten or more entries in an event. For each entry less than ten, one place worth of points will be voided, starting with first place points. The possible points for the efficiency awards are based on the points available with the actual number of entries, not the maximum value on the table. Example: In an event with 7 entries, the point values from first through third will be voided because of the three missing entries. The first place finisher would be awarded the fourth place points. e.g. In the varsity eight, the first place crew would score 100 points, the fourth place crew would score 96 points, etc. The possible points would be 100, not 120.

For all points competitions, if a team has two entries in an event, only one boat is eligible to receive points. If both boats finish in positions qualifying for points, the higher of the qualifying point values will be awarded. The other boat is ignored and the point values for lower finishing boats move up on the points scale. Both entries are eligible to win medals, even though only the higher finisher will be awarded points.

If an event has 22 or more entries, no petite final is held. Points for seventh through tenth place will be distributed based on times in the semifinals.