

# Regatta Rules

## 2012 Heart of Texas Regatta

### Austin Rowing Club

March 3–4, 2012 • Austin, TX



#### 1. Registration

Online registration, at [RegattaCentral.com](http://RegattaCentral.com), closes at midnight PST on Sunday February 19, 2012. **Any online entry whose fee is not paid in full when registration closes will be scratched, and must be resubmitted as a late entry.** Any entrant whose circumstances require alternative payment arrangements must contact the Registrar before the registration deadline. Such arrangements are accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

After registration closes, no scratches or substitutions may be made online. Any changes made online have no effect.

Entries are accepted after the deadline only at the discretion of the Registrar, and only to fill empty lanes; no heats will be added to accommodate late entries. Late entries are accepted only if accompanied by prescribed entry fees, which are **DOUBLE** the regular fees. Late entries must be submitted on the late-registration form

(<http://tinyurl.com/7nabts8>), which may be mailed to

Austin Rowing Club  
Registrar  
P.O. Box 1741  
Austin, TX 78767-1741

Alternatively, a late-registration form may be scanned and [emailed](#) to the registrar as a PDF, faxed to (512) 472-0700, or handed in at the regatta site at least two hours before its event.

Competitors should be registered under their *full names*. Nicknames should be avoided, and competitors entered in multiple events should be registered using the same name in all of them.

The number of entries in each event is limited to 21. Entries are accepted in order of submission, and in cases of oversubscription RegattaCentral will maintain a waiting list.

#### 2. The Rule of 4

Competitors should not be entered in events whose event numbers differ by less than 4. Competitors who ignore this recommendation risk being unable to get from the finish of one race to the start of their next race. Under no circumstances are races delayed to wait for tardy boats.

It is possible for a competitor conforming to the Rule of 4 to be competing in two heats that are too close together. For example, if Events 103 and 107 have heats while Events 104, 105, and 106 do not, a competitor entered in Events 103 and 107 could be racing in heats 103B and 107A, which would be back-to-back. In such cases the Regatta Committee will introduce breaks in the schedule to ensure that every competitor whose entries conform to the Rule of 4 will have at least three intervals (i.e., races or breaks) between each pair of his/her races. *No such accommodations will be made for competitors whose entries violate the Rule of 4.*

#### 3. Duplicate entries

The Regatta Committee is not responsible for detection of duplicate entries. Please coordinate with your club, as entry fees for duplicate entries will not be refunded.

#### 4. Liability Waivers

Every competitor must have signed a USRowing Release of Liability Waiver. Waivers can be signed on-line at USRowing.com (<http://tinyurl.com/7vo2bre>), and are due by the registration deadline.

#### 5. Scratches

An entry that scratches during the regatta must submit a scratch form at the Registration table. No entry fees will be refunded for entries scratched after the entry deadline.

#### 6. Regatta Check-in

All crews are required to check-in at the registration desk before racing. At that time, they can clear any problems with their entries, such as missing waivers. Entries with registration problems will not be allowed to race. On the regatta weekend, the registration desk will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday and throughout the race day on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 6:00 AM.

#### 7. Substitutions

Until Friday 2 March, any entry may replace all of its rowers and its coxswain. Beginning Friday 2 March, an entry may replace at most half of its rowers, plus its coxswain, except for single-scul entries, in which substitutions are not allowed.

For all crew changes after the registration deadline, a completed Substitution form (<http://tinyurl.com/6mrbfv4>) must be submitted. Until Friday 2 March, it may be mailed to the address in §1, scanned and [emailed](#) to the registrar as a PDF, or faxed to (512) 472-0700. Beginning on Friday 2 March, it must be handed in at the regatta site at least two hours before its event.

If substitutions in a Masters entry reduce the crew's average age to less than its event's minimum, it is scratched from that event. If an event for which the entry is now eligible has an empty lane, the entry will be allowed to enter that event. Such changes will be handled in the order in which the substitution forms are received.

If substitutions in a Masters entry cause its crew's average age to increase, the entry will remain in its original event.

No substitution may be made in an entry that has already raced in its event's first heat, unless a member of the crew has experienced a serious illness or accident during the time between the heat and the final.

#### 8. On-time arrival

Regatta officials may prohibit crews that are late to the starting line from racing. The Dockmaster may prohibit a boat from leaving the dock if in his or her judgment it cannot reach the starting line on time.

During the regatta the docks are very crowded; all crews should be practiced at quick launching and boat removal before arriving at the regatta site.

#### 9. Novice Rower Classification

Crews entered in Novice events shall include only novice rowers. Any rower qualifies as a novice in his/her first calendar year of competition, provided s/he did not race in the spring 2011 season. In addition, a collegiate rower is a novice in his/her first year of collegiate competition, provided s/he did not race *in collegiate competition* in the spring 2011 season. Novice status applies separately in each discipline—a non-novice sweep rower may compete as a novice sculler and vice versa.

#### 10. Novice Coxswains

A novice entry's coxswain is not required to be a novice.

#### 11. JV Competition

No rower who competes in a Varsity event may also compete in any JV event. For example, a rower competing in a

Varsity quad may not also compete in a JV double, and a rower in a Varsity double may not compete in a JV quad.

In order for a team to enter a JV event, that team must also have an entry in the corresponding Varsity event of the same boat class and gender.

**12. Mixed Crews**

Each mixed crew shall include at least one male rower, and at least half of the rowers must be women.

**13. Men and Women Rowers in Boats**

In accordance with USRowing rules, all rowers in men's events must be men, and all rowers in women's events must be women. A female rower shall not substitute for a man in any men's event, nor shall a male rower substitute for any woman in a women's event. Coxswains are exempt from this rule. Any entry violating this rule will be disqualified.

**14. Lightweight Rowers**

Lightweight men must weigh no more than 160 pounds, and lightweight women no more than 130 pounds. Weigh-ins for rowers in lightweight events will be conducted once each day, between 5:30am and 8:30am. Rowers will be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footwear. A rower within one pound of the weight limit is allowed one re-weigh during the 5:30am to 8:30am weigh-in window; rowers whose initial weights exceed the weight standard by more than one pound will not be allowed to re-weigh.

Lightweight rowers who make weight will be issued wristbands, which they must wear for all lightweight events. No rower without such a wristband may compete in any lightweight event. Wristbands issued on Saturday are good for Saturday races only.

**15. Coxswain's Weight**

Coxswains will not be weighed in.

**16. Open Events**

Women in high school may not compete in Open events.

**17. Juniors**

A Junior is a competitor who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full time student seeking a diploma. A competitor ceases to be a junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full time student, whichever is later.

**18. Masters Events**

Masters' age categories are defined in USRowing's [2012 Rules of Rowing](#), §4.104:

category	minimum age	category	minimum age
AA .....	21	F .....	60
A .....	27	G .....	65
B .....	36	H .....	70
C .....	43	I .....	75
D .....	50	J .....	80
E .....	55		

A rower's "rowing age" is his/her age on 31 December 2012; a crew's age is the average of its rowers' rowing ages, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Entries in Masters events must list every rower's **year of birth** in order to compete.

The Regatta Committee reserves the option to split any Masters event into two or more separate events according to the crews' age categories.

**19. Recreational Singles**

A recreational single is any boat at least 17 inches wide at the waterline and at most 22 feet long (e.g. Maas Aero). There will be no exceptions to this rule.

**20. Crew Representation**

No competitor may represent two different organizations in the Regatta. Any crew composed of competitors from different organizations must be entered as a composite crew.

**21. Dispute Resolution**

All questions of eligibility, qualification, and interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Regatta Committee, whose decisions shall be final.

**22. Required Equipment**

Every competing boat shall be properly equipped with a bow ball, quick-release shoes, and heel ties whose length is three inches or less, in accordance with USRowing's [2012 Rules of Rowing](#), §3-105 and §3-109. All boats shall be equipped with bow clips. Boats observed to be lacking any of these features will not be allowed to race.

Competitors are responsible for bringing their own bow numbers for lanes 1-7. Bow numbers may be borrowed from the dock master for a deposit of \$5 on an as-available basis.

**23. Hot-Seating of Boats**

A boats that is to change crews immediately upon arrival at the docks after a race, and race again without being removed from the water, is considered a *hot-seat* boat. The Dockmaster must be notified of every hot-seat boat before it launches for a pre-hot-seat race, and may provide the boat with an identifying marker to indicate the need for special treatment on its return. In all cases, crews should follow the instructions of the dock personnel. Also see Rule 8.

**24. Progression System**

Entries	Heats	Advancing in each Heat
1-7	0	—
8-14	2	3
15-21	3	2

The last-place finisher in a heat never advances, even if this means a final with empty lanes.

When scratches occur after the final lane draw (when it's too late to redraw the lanes), a scratch in one heat does not affect the number of boats advancing in any other heat.

**25. Schedule Changes**

The event schedule is subject to change depending upon the number of entries received. Events may be cancelled or combined if there are fewer than three entries at the entry deadline. Any crew entered in a canceled event will be contacted and offered the option to switch to another event or receive a refund of the registration fee.

**26. USRowing Rules**

Except as noted above, this regatta follows USRowing's [2012 Rules of Rowing](#).

**27. Sportsmanship**

The Regatta Committee reserves the right to rule on any issue or situation not specifically covered by these guidelines, and to penalize or disqualify any competitor or crew that appears to violate the spirit or letter of the rules of competition or sportsmanship, on the water or off.

**28. On-line Schedules and Results**

Schedules and results will be posted on-line at <http://www.austinrowing.org/liveresults/>.

**29. Awards**

Medals are awarded for first-, second- and third-place finishes, except that an event's last-place boat does not receive a medal.