



DRAFT ENTRY PACKET



Welcome to the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships!

USRowing and Sacramento State Aquatic Center are excited to present the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships! This event provides crews from the region with the opportunity to qualify for the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships.

Please review this packet carefully, as it contains essential information about entries, rules, events, Youth Nationals qualification criteria, eligibility, and the policies governing this regatta.

USRowing would like to thank the Sacramento State Aquatic Center and the Southwest Stewards for their guidance in organizing this year's event.

Be well and row fast,
USRowing



NOTE: Sections marked with an asterisk (*) have wording unique to the specific Youth Series event.

NOTE: This entry packet is posted for comment to all USRowing members from December 1-31st.
The final entry packet will be posted on February 1, 2026.

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IMPORTANT DATES & SCHEDULE INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

1

MARCH 9, 2026

Registration opens on RegattaCentral.

2

APRIL 21, 2026

Deadline to input entries for the regatta without paying late fees. Last day to scratch entries and receive a full refund of the entry fee

APRIL 21, 2026

Declaration deadline.

***To Be Announced Feb. 1**

Deadline to submit Southwest Youth Team Information Form.

APRIL 27, 2026

Event schedule published.

APRIL 28, 2026, 7:00 PM PST

Athletes and Coaches Pre-regatta Meeting (virtual)

APRIL 28-29, 2026

Late entry period.

APRIL 29, 2026

Deadline for lineup changes to be entered into RegattaCentral.

APRIL 30, 2026

Time Trial Order/Lane Draws Posted.

3

MAY 1-3, 2026

Racing days.

MAY 6, 2026

Bid Acceptance Deadline

***ATHLETES & COACHES PRE-REGATTA MEETING**

The Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting will be scheduled for April 28, 2026 at 7:00pm PST. This meeting will take place virtually, via zoom.

All competitors and coaches are responsible for all information given at this meeting. A recording will be posted to the website two days after the completion of the Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta meeting.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta meeting.

***SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

Click [HERE](#) for the tentative regatta schedule for the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships. This is for illustrative purposes only and will likely change once registration has closed.

***EVENTS OFFERED**

Bold events are designated as Youth National Championship qualifying events.

NOTE: This event list does not represent the regatta schedule, please refer the schedule linked above.

YOUTH NATIONAL QUALIFICATION EVENTS			
1	Men's Youth 1x	22	Men's U16 8+
2	Women's Youth 1x	23	Women's U16 8+
3	Men's Youth 2-	24	Men's U17 1x
4	Women's Youth 2-	25	Women's U17 1x
5	Men's Youth 2x	26	Men's U17 2x
6	Women's Youth 2x	27	Women's U17 2x
7	Men's Youth 4+	28	Men's U17 4+
8	Women's Youth 4+	29	Women's U17 4+
9	Men's Youth 2V 4x	30	Men's U17 4x
10	Women's Youth 2V 4x	31	Women's U17 4x
11	Men's Youth 4x	32	Men's U17 8+
12	Women's Youth 4x	33	Women's U17 8+
13	Men's Youth 4-	34	Men's/Women's PR1 1x
14	Women's Youth 4-	35	Men's/Women's PR2 1x
15	Men's Youth 2V 8+	36	Mixed PR2 2x
16	Women's Youth 2V 8+	37	Mixed PR3 2x
17	Men's Youth 8+	38	Mixed PR3 4+
18	Women's Youth 8+	39	Men's /Women's/Mixed Inclusive 2x
19	Open Gender Youth 2x		
20	Men's U16 4x+		
21	Women's U16 4x+		

NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS			
40	Men's U15 4x+	50	Men's U16 1x
41	Women's U15 4x+	51	Women's U16 1x
42	Men's U16 4+	52	Men's U17 8+ B
43	Women's U16 4+	53	Women's U17 8+ B
44	Men's Youth 4+ B	54	Men's Club 4+
45	Women's Youth 4+ B	55	Women's Club 4+
46	Men's 3V8+	56	Youth Men's 2x B
47	Women's 3V8+	57	Youth Women's 2x B
48	Men's U16 2x		
49	Women's U16 2x		

***INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION**

USRowing, Chief Referee, Southwest Steward Representatives and Local Organizing Committee will work together to monitor the weather continuously during the regatta.

Should it be determined that schedule changes are necessary due to weather concerns, the below weather plans will be utilized.

HEAT SAFETY GUIDELINES

USRowing is pleased to announce that we have developed [**Heat Safety Guidelines**](#) to help identify and mitigate heat illness risk in our sport. The guidelines were developed from the World Rowing Heat Safety Guidelines, the recommendations of the Stringer Institute, and with the USRowing Medical and Safety Committees. All USRowing Owned regattas will follow these guidelines.

Click [**HERE**](#) for the USRowing Heat Safety Guidelines that will govern this event.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Weather-related schedule changes will be announced utilizing the following mediums:

- Announcement will be made on the public address system at the venue.
- Online via [**RegattaCentral**](#).
- Via text message. More information on this will be provided in April 2026.

Crews are responsible for staying updated on all announced schedule changes.

SCHEDULE CHANGE PRIORITY SYSTEM

1. Delay racing either later the same day or to the next day, if time is available.
2. Begin racing earlier than previously announced. Announcement will be made no later than three (3) hours before racing or 9:00 p.m. the evening before in the case of morning racing.
3. Utilize a time-trial system for a round of the event.
4. Omit a round of the event. The composition of the next round will be determined on the basis of the results of those rounds that have been completed. If Grand Finals must be omitted, medals and Youth National Championship bids will be awarded based on the results of the last completed round of the event.
5. Cancel some or all non-Youth National Championship qualification events. Cancellation priority will be:
 - a. Non-Youth National Championship qualification events that have completed at least one round of racing.
 - b. Non-Youth National Championship qualification events that have not completed at least one round of racing.
 - c. Cancel Youth National Championship qualification events that have completed at least one round of racing
 - d. Cancel regatta.

Under no circumstances will races be rescheduled for a date later than May 3, 2026.





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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

USROWING MEMBERSHIP

All U.S. based organizations must hold active organizational membership in good standing. For more information on Organizational requirements, visit our website [HERE](#). Organizations can review their team accounts [HERE](#) using their RegattaCentral username and password.

For individuals to be compliant and eligible to compete in USRowing owned events, all the following criteria must be met:

- An active USRowing Championship Membership
- Current signed USRowing Membership Agreement and Waiver
- Completed SafeSport Self-Attestation (if 18 or older)
- Current with SafeSport training if required to complete training

Competitors can renew an expired membership or check their current membership status by logging in to their member profile [HERE](#). For more information on the compliance requirements, visit our website [HERE](#).

To avoid delays at registration, teams should make sure all competitors have met these membership requirements prior to arriving at the event.

Checking Your Roster: A current listing of your athletes, their member numbers, expiration dates, and SafeSport Training status can be found on the online team roster through the USRowing Membership Portal [HERE](#).

United We Row Support: If you have athletes who are in need of financial assistance for the membership requirement, please apply for a Bridge Membership or United We Row scholarship [HERE](#).

COACHES AND SUPPORT STAFF:

All coaches and support staff attending the regatta must be registered for the regatta and meet their role-based compliance requirements below to ensure the safety of all participants. To register attending coaches and support staff, log into RegattaCentral [HERE](#), select the USRowing Championship Regatta, and click Coaches & Support Staff from the sidebar menu. When prompted, select your team and search for the respective coaches and support staff to register from your roster.

COACH COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- An active USRowing Membership (Basic or higher tier)
- Current signed USRowing membership agreement and waiver.
- Completed SafeSport self-attestation.
- Current with SafeSport Training.
- Cleared and current USOPC approved background check through NCSI.
- Level 1 coaching certification at the minimum.
- Completed boater safety self-attestation and documentation if required.
- Current CPR and first aid training.

SUPPORT STAFF COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- An active USRowing Membership (Supporter or higher tier)
- Current signed USRowing membership agreement and waiver.
- Completed SafeSport self-attestation.
- Current with SafeSport Training.

In compliance with USRowing regulations, organizations participating in USRowing owned and/or sanctioned events may undergo random selection for audit. This audit will focus on ensuring that all adult participants with the organization have completed necessary SafeSport training and have current USOPC approved background checks if required by USRowing policies.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

USRowing implements a volunteer policy at all USRowing-owned events. For every USRowing-owned championship regatta, every registered team will be required to provide at least one (1) volunteer to work one (1) 4–6-hour shift during the regatta.

NEW for 2026: Teams that have not registered for their required volunteer shift by the final day of the entry deadline may be prevented from competing at a USRowing-owned regatta until a volunteer shift is signed up for.

Please click [**HERE**](#) for the full USRowing Volunteer Policy.

SAFESPORT

The physical and psychological well-being of all Participants is a priority for USRowing, and education is critical to prevent the harm that misconduct causes our members. In partnership with the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USRowing provides training on how to identify and prevent the various forms of misconduct, all Adult Participants within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement who have **(i)** Regular Contact with amateur athletes who are a minor, **(ii)** authority over amateur athletes who are a minor, or **(iii)** are employees or board members of USRowing or Member Organizations as well as **(iv)** adult athletes who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are a minor are required to take the SafeSport Trained Core course or its relevant refresher training on an annual basis. If an Adult Participant has not completed the SafeSport training that they are required to prior to attending a regatta, the Participant will not be allowed to participate.

As a member organization of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USRowing and USRowing Member Organization's members, employees, contractors, volunteers, officials, board members, committee members and other designees (collectively "Participants") are required to comply with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

As a registered Participant in a USRowing event, you are required to adhere to [USRowing's Abuse Prevention and Response Policy](#). Additionally, reporting misconduct is vital to protecting athletes and preventing further incidents. Sexual Misconduct must be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at U.S. Center for SafeSport at <https://www.safesport.org/report-a-concern>. To report other forms of misconduct, including violations of the Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, refer to the reporting protocols, including how to report a violation.

IMPORTANT: All Adult Participants who are required to take SafeSport Training must complete the applicable training and be in good standing by the start of the regatta.

Click [HERE](#) for the Athlete Safety Procedures for USRowing Event Organizers.

Click [HERE](#) for information regarding USRowing's Abuse Prevention and Response Programs.

[CREDENTIALS](#)

A coach or team representative may pick up the credentials for their team onsite at registration. Regatta registration fees must be paid in full prior to credential distribution. Credentials will be withheld for any noncompliant athletes, coaches, or support staff and can be picked up at registration once compliance is met.

Athletes, Coaches, and Support Staff will be required to show credentials in order to pass through Control Commission and launch for racing sessions. Crews may not be able to launch without showing proper credentials. Credentials can be worn on either wrists or ankles.

[*ENTRY INFORMATION](#)

Entries in each event will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

No paper entries will be accepted for this event. All entries must be made online on [RegattaCentral](#). Standard registration will be available beginning March 9, 2026 and ending April 21, 2026. No refunds will be given once the initial registration period has ended.

All crews/teams, both unaffiliated and those representing an organization, with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to compete at a USRowing owned or sanctioned regatta until the balance is paid in full.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for the 2026 USRowing Youth Series will be per-athlete rather than per-boat entry. Athletes will be charged once for the entire regatta, not by the number of events they are entered in.

Any athlete receiving waived or discounted USRowing Championship membership fees through our Bridge membership programs will not pay entry fees to participate in the 2026 USRowing Youth Series.

All late entries will be charged an additional \$50 per boat during the late entry period.

***Please note:** Entry fees are subject to change pending the USRowing budget review process. All entry fees will be finalized and included in the final entry packets on February 1, 2026.

2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships - Entry Fee	\$85 per athlete/coxswain
2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships - Late Fee	\$85 per athlete/coxswain + \$50 fee for a late boat submitted.

An optional donation of an additional \$2.50 per athlete can be made, with all proceeds going directly to the Junior National Team.

*ENTRY LIMITS

There is not a limit on the number of entries an organization can submit in the Youth National Championships qualifying events.

An organization's top crew should be designated as its "A" entry. Organizations submitting multiple entries should designate their second crew as its "B" entry.

Athletes are eligible to compete in a maximum of three (3) events. Coxswains are NOT limited in the number of events they may enter; however, they must meet all appropriate eligibility including age eligibility and classification requirements for each event being entered.

New for 2026: Competitors entered in the M/W Youth 4x are not eligible to enter and compete in the M/W Youth 2x B.

*LATE ENTRIES

Late entries will be accepted from April 28-29, 2026 on [**RegattaCentral**](#). A late entry fee will be assessed to all late entries. Entries will be accepted in events where additional entries do not change the progression or exceed any listed entry maximums.

Crew members for late entries must meet all membership and eligibility requirements, and payment must be made in full before a late entry may be placed into an event.

***SCRATCHES**

Entries may be scratched without penalty until the end of the initial registration period on April 21, 2026.

Beginning April 22, 2026, no refunds will be given for entries that are scratched.

Scratches should be made on **RegattaCentral** until April 21, 2026. After this time, scratches must be made in person at the regatta site in order to avoid the additional "No Show Fee".

A \$50 scratch fee will apply to all scratches made after **RegattaCentral closes for scratches on April 21, 2026.**

Any crew failing to submit a completed "Scratch Form" to the USRowing desk after USRowing one hour prior to the event race time, will also be subject to a \$100 "No Show Fee" along with any other applicable fees.

All fees are due at the time of the scratch. Crews from an organization with outstanding "Scratch" or "No Show" fees may be prevented from competing until outstanding fees are paid in full.

***LINEUPS & LINEUP CHANGES**

All entries must include a full lineup of athletes to compete as part of that entry, at the time of registration on **RegattaCentral**.

The deadline for submitting the final identity of members of the crew for ALL entry lineups must be finalized by April 29, 2026.

Any entry without lineups after the regular entry deadline will be treated as a late entry. Lineups with placeholder names such as "A. Rower" will be considered incomplete and will also be considered late entries. This means they are subject to "Late Entry" fees, and the entry restrictions associated with late entries. Along with the late entry fees, these crews may face an additional charge for printing corrected credentials on-site.

Any lineup changes needed after April 29, 2026 must be completed at the USRowing registration desk one hour before the first race in the event. Email lineup changes will not be accepted.

***ON-SITE LINEUP CHANGES**

Any lineup change required at the USRowing registration desk will be subject to a \$5 administrative fee for processing the request. Payment is due before a lineup change can be officially made.

ENTRY FEE REIMBURSEMENTS

After the standard entry period closes, no refunds will be given in any circumstances.

***ACADEMIC SUBSTITUTION POLICY**

To support student-athletes facing academic conflicts, USRowing and the Southwest Stewards allow athletes to request substitution through the Academic Substitution Form for the USRowing Southwest Youth Championships.

An academic conflict is defined as a mandatory, school-scheduled examination or standardized test (e.g., AP exams, IB testing, state or national exams) that cannot be rescheduled by the student-athlete.

The Academic Substitution Form must be submitted no later than April 29, 2026, by the organization's coach or a designated club administrator. To access the form, please click [**HERE**](#).

NOTE: Each submission must include a letter of verification from a school official confirming the date and time of the academic commitment. All Academic Substitution Forms will be reviewed by the Southwest Stewards. If additional information or clarification is needed, the coach or administrator will be contacted directly by a Southwest Steward representative.

Late submissions will not be accepted. Once event progression has begun, any substitution request submitted without an accompanying academic substitution form must meet all requirements outlined in USRowing Rules of Rowing, **Rule 5-206: Substitutions**.



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COMPETITION INFORMATION

***ELIGIBILITY**

The USRowing Southwest Youth Championships are open to youth competitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii that meet the membership requirements stated above. Crews from outside of the United States are not eligible to compete at this event.

DEFINITIONS

USRowing has collaborated with key stakeholder groups to gather feedback on Youth Age Categories; please review the proposed 2026–2027 Youth Series Age Categories & Definitions plan [HERE](#), noting that this is a proposal and all feedback submitted through the Entry Packet Comment Period link will be fully reviewed.

YOUTH: A Youth is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 20 and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A Competitor thus ceases to be a Youth after December 31 of the year of their 18th birthday (U19), or upon completion of the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student within the year of their 19th birthday (U20). Athletes older than U20 are never eligible to compete as Youth.

U17: A competitor may compete in the U17 category until December 31 of the year of his or her 16th birthday.

U16: A Competitor may compete in the U16 category until December 31 of the year of their 15th birthday.

U15: A Competitor may compete in the U15 category until December 31 of the year of their 14th birthday.

SECOND VARSITY: (2V) The Second Varsity event is open to crews entered in addition to a program's Varsity entry or entries in the same category. A 2V entry represents the next eligible crew(s) after the Varsity boat(s), as permitted by the regatta's entry limits.

THIRD VARSITY: (3V) The Third Varsity event is open to crews entered in addition to a program's Varsity and Second Varsity entries in the same category. A 3V entry or entries represents the next eligible crew(s) after the Second Varsity boat(s), as permitted by the regatta's entry limits.

UNAFFILIATED: Crews entered as "Unaffiliated" are not considered to be representing a club or organization for this regatta. Competitors may compete as "unaffiliated" in single sculls only, as composite entries are not accepted for this event. "Unaffiliated" competitors must meet the individual membership requirements listed in this packet.

WOMEN'S EVENTS: This category is limited to athletes who were assigned a sex at birth of female.

MEN'S EVENTS: This category is for rowers of any sex and gender.

MIXED: Boat entries in this category must consist of 50% athletes of any gender and 50% athletes assigned as female at birth.

OPEN GENDER EVENTS: This category is for rowers of any sex and gender. Rowers who participate in this category may compete in either the Women's or Men's competition category if they qualify for such category.

NOTE: The intention behind this category is to create space for non-binary and gender diverse athletes to compete if they wish to do so outside of the binary events, but all are welcome to compete here.

2V/3V BOATS

Athletes entered in Second Varsity (2V) or Third Varsity (3V) events may compete in other Youth National Championships events, provided they do not race in the Varsity event of the same category. Varsity boat(s) should represent a program's fastest crew(s) at the time of entry submission, with the Second Varsity (2V) representing the next fastest crew(s) and the Third Varsity (3V) representing the next in order.

PARA & ADAPTIVE DEFINITIONS

Para and Adaptive events are those events designated for athletes with physical or visual impairments that meet the threshold for eligibility in the Paralympic sport classes of PR1, PR2, or PR3.

INCLUSION: A crew entered in the "Inclusion" event must be comprised of an equal mixture of Para/Adaptive and non-Para/Adaptive Rowers.

PR1: A Competitor who has a US or International PR1 sport classification.
([USRowing Para Classification Information](#))

PR2: A Competitor who has a US or International PR2 sport classification.
([USRowing Para Classification Information](#))

PR3 VI OR PR3 PI (VISUAL IMPAIRMENT OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT): A Competitor who has a US or International PR3 sport classification. ([USRowing Para Classification Information](#))

CLASSIFICATION FOR PARA ATHLETES

All rowers racing in USRowing-owned Para events shall be classified. New Para rowers who have not yet been classified must have the required FISA Medical documentation submitted at least 45 days prior to the event.

Click [HERE](#) for an overview of the USRowing Para Classification Process, and fill out the Classification Request Form [HERE](#). Additional questions can be answered by contacting: Classification@usrowing.org

There will be no protests over any classified rower's sport class designation during a U.S. regatta.

Rowers may compete in a more functional sport class than their assigned sport class but not in a less functional sport class. For example, a Rower classified as PR2 may compete in PR3 Events, but may not compete in PR1 Events.

PARA & INCLUSION EVENTS

The Inclusion category is open to crews composed of 50% Para Rowers and 50% Non-Para Rowers.

In Inclusive events, the sport class requirement pertains only to the Para/Adaptive Rower.

At all times when on the water during practice, warm up, cool down, and competition from the opening day of the course until completion of the final Race of their competition, all Rowers who row in Para events must row with the prescribed equipment, which must be used according to the boat and sport class. Equipment in this context refers to hull type, strapping and pontoons. Only PR1 and PR2 have such requirements. There are no equipment restrictions or requirements for PR3.

The Inclusive events are listed as a combined event. Crews consisting of men, women, or mixed lineups may enter. Races may be separated by category if the number of entries necessitates separation.

The P1/PR2 Men's/Women's 1x events are listed as a combined event. Men's and women's crews classified as PR1 or PR2 are eligible to enter. Races may be separated by category if the number of entries necessitates separation.

New for 2026. To ensure that all athletes entering Para and Inclusive events at qualifying regattas for the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships meet the appropriate classification guidelines, the events listed below will now require an application.

Events Requiring an Application:

- Men's/Women's PR1 1x
- Men's/Women's PR2 1x
- Mixed PR2 2x
- Mixed PR3 2x
- Mixed PR3 4+
- Men's/Women's/Mixed Inclusive 2x

Application Process & Deadlines

Applications and event registrations will follow the deadlines posted on the RegattaCentral page for the respective qualifying regatta. The application is submitted through the standard registration process and is located under **"Registration Form"** on the event's RegattaCentral page.

All applications will be reviewed by the Regatta Director and the USRowing Para Classification team. The Classification team will then contact the individual who submitted the entry to confirm that the athlete(s) classification aligns with the event(s) entered.

For questions regarding the Para / Inclusive application process or classification requirements, please contact the USRowing Para Classification team at [**classification@usrowing.org**](mailto:classification@usrowing.org).

*Youth National Qualification Rules

The USRowing Southwest Youth Championships offer 4 bids to the USRowing Youth National Championships events.

The bids will be distributed to the top 4 crews in each qualifying event that are eligible to use the USRowing Southwest Youth Championships as their qualifying regatta.

Should a crew placing in the top 4 of a qualification event decide not to attend the USRowing Youth National Championships, the bid will be rolled down to the next place crew in that event. Bids will not be rolled down past the Grand Final of the event.

Bid Acceptance / Denial / Roll Down Process:

All bids earned at official qualifying regattas for the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships will be automated on the RegattaCentral platform. Thanks to strategic partnerships and system enhancements, various timing platforms will automatically upload race results, triggering the Youth Nationals bid notification system. This system will also manage roll-down bid allocations based on specific qualification requirements (ex. a 1V 8+ entry being necessary to qualify a 2V 8+).

Teams will be notified by email when a bid becomes available. To manage the bid, click the link in the email. From there, you can view the awarded bid and either accept or decline.

After receiving a bid to the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships, the bid must be accepted within 3 days of the qualifying regatta (The Wednesday following the qualifying championship by 11:59 p.m. (local time to your qualifying regatta)). **The deadline for the USRowing Southwest Youth Championships is Wednesday, May 6 at 11:59 p.m. PDT.**

Once the initial bid offer period has closed for all winning bids, USRowing and RegattaCentral will notify the next-place team in the Grand Final of that event via email if they are eligible for a roll-down bid. These teams will have 24 hours to accept the bid through RegattaCentral. If the bid is not accepted within that 24-hour window, it will continue to roll down to the next eligible team in the Grand Final.

- 1.All crews from a given organization must qualify at the same qualification regatta.
- 2.Only crews competing in Youth National Championship qualifying events are eligible to receive bids.
- 3.Crews competing in non-Youth National qualifying events are ineligible to receive automatic bids.
- 4.Crews competing in non- Youth National Qualifying events are ineligible to petition to receive bids based on the results of non-qualifying races.

Full rules regarding qualification for the 2026 Youth National Championships will be available in the Youth Nationals event entry packet.

Regatta Declaration

When completing registration on [RegattaCentral](#) for a USRowing Youth National Championship qualifying regatta, your coach or team representative will be given the choice to declare the club's official qualifying regatta. **The declaration deadline for the USRowing Southwest Youth Championships will be April 21.**

All teams must submit a declaration form to be eligible for the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships. The following regattas are 2026 Youth National Championships qualifying regattas:

USRowing Owned Youth National Qualifying Regattas:

- USRowing Southwest Youth Championships
- USRowing Central Youth Championships
- USRowing Mid-Atlantic Youth Championships
- USRowing Southeast Youth Championships
- USRowing Northwest Youth Championships
- USRowing Northeast Youth Championships

USRowing Partner Youth National Qualifying Regattas:

- Stotesbury Cup Regatta
- Midwest Junior Rowing Championships
- Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships
- New York State High School Championships
- New England Interscholastic Rowing Championships

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

MEN'S/WOMEN'S 2V 8+ / 2V 4X

MEN'S/WOMEN'S YOUTH 2ND 8+ EVENT DEFINITION: A team entered in the Youth 2nd 8+ event must also enter and race a Youth Varsity 8+

MEN'S/WOMEN'S YOUTH 2ND 4X EVENT DEFINITION: A team entered in the Youth 2nd 4x event must also enter and race a Youth Varsity 4x

YOUTH NATIONAL QUALIFICATION RULES

MEN'S/WOMEN'S 2V 8+ / 2V 4X

MEN'S/WOMEN'S YOUTH 2ND VARSITY 8+ EVENT DEFINITION: A team entered in the Youth 2nd Varsity 8+ event must also qualify, enter, and race a Youth Varsity 8+ at the Youth National Championships. Please refer to substitution rules 5-206 in the USRowing Rules of Rowing for a full breakdown of substitution rules.

MEN'S/WOMEN'S YOUTH 2ND VARSITY 4X EVENT DEFINITION: A team entered in the Youth 2nd Varsity 4x event must also qualify, enter, and race a Youth Varsity 4x at the Youth National Championships. Please refer to substitution rules 5-206 in the USRowing Rules of Rowing for a full breakdown of substitution rules.

AFFILIATION

Athletes competing in any USRowing Youth National qualifier and/or the USRowing Youth National Championships must have affiliation with only one classic rowing program, between January 1 and the end of the Youth National Championships of the current calendar year. The athletes affiliation is with the program in which they are registered as of the first competition during the spring season. This includes USRowing registered and non-registered regattas, but does not include indoor events. Athletes cannot compete with/for two separate programs at any point between January 1 and the end of the Youth National Championships of the current calendar year.

EXCEPTION: Athletes who are members of a junior rowing club existing as a composite of athletes with no stand-alone high school rowing program may row as a single (1x) in a regatta under the name of their school where they are not permitted to enter as "unaffiliated." When permitted, a single (1x) competing as "unaffiliated" is not considered to be representing an organization, and therefore would remain in compliance with the affiliation requirement listed above. Unaffiliated athletes must still meet all USRowing compliance and membership requirements. For the purposes of qualifying for the USRowing Youth National Championships in an individual event, the athlete must still represent the club (entered under the club's name) with which the athlete began the season.

If athletes wish to compete in a team event under the name of their school with an established high school rowing program rather than as a club, USRowing organizational membership is required for that school for that purpose and the athletes must compete as this organization the entire spring season.

Masters Program Exception: A Youth athlete is allowed to compete with a Masters Rowing Program between January 1 and the end of the Youth National Championships of the current calendar year, and it will not interfere with the Affiliation rule. **This proposed policy change will be open for comment during the domestic regatta comment period, December 1–31, 2025. The final policy will be published in the entry packet on February 1, 2026.**

COMPOSITE ENTRIES

Composite entries are not accepted at the USRowing Southwest Youth Championships.

Crews, with the exception of single sculls (1x), wishing to compete with one or more “Unaffiliated” rowers would have to enter as a composite crew, and are therefore not eligible to compete.





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RULES

USRowing's 2026 Rules of Rowing will govern this event. An online version is available [HERE](#).

USRowing licensed referees will officiate the event to ensure fairness and safety. The following rules will be waived for this event:

- Rule 3-104 Minimum Weight of Boats
- Rule 3-202 Oars, uniform throughout the crew
- Rule 4-105.1 Coxswain's Weight
- Rule 4-106 Weighing of Competitors

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

The 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships does not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct and follows the USRowing Rules of Rowing guidance for the act.

If you or one of your athletes witnesses unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind, please refer to the USRowing Code of Conduct on how to escalate the matter.

***TIME TRIAL PROCEDURES**

Time trials will be conducted over a 1,900-meter course.

Bow assignments for the top ten entries in the time trials in Youth National Championships qualification events will be seeded by the Southwest Stewards. Remaining entries will be randomly assigned. The goal is to have the faster crews assigned to earlier bow numbers in each event.

A marshal will be positioned near the start to direct crews to enter the course. Crews are responsible for staying in numerical order, staying behind crews with lower numbers and in front of crews with higher numbers.

Even number crews will race in lane 4, and odd number crews will race in lane 3. Due to fairness of the course, USRowing reserves the right to change the time trial lanes if needed.

BOW NUMBERS

Bow numbers for time trial heats will be distributed to each crew with their athlete credentials during the on-site registration hours. Crews must collect their bow numbers from the USRowing registration desk before trying to launch for time trials.



*PASSING

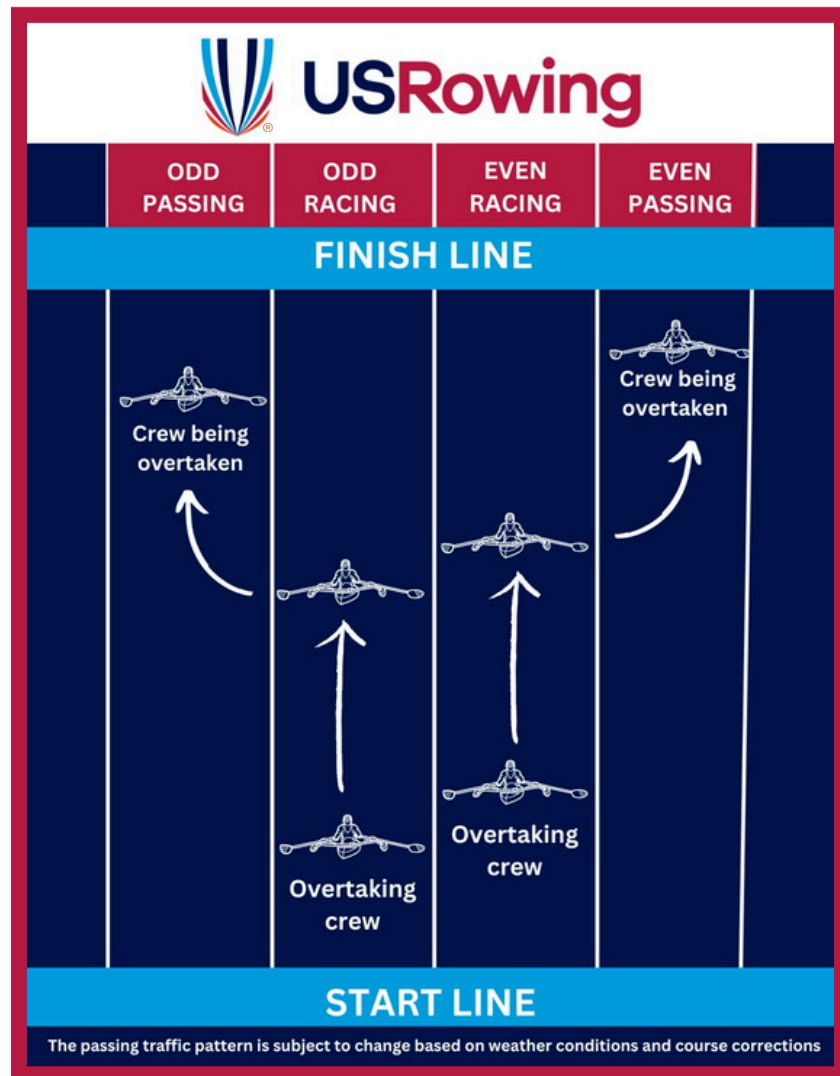
A crew being overtaken must yield to the outside lane to allow the overtaking crew to pass. Crews racing in lane 4 would move to lane 5, and crews racing in lane 3 would move to lane 2.

A crew is deemed to be overtaking another crew when it has moved to within one length of open water of the crew ahead.

In the case of interference on the water, please reference rule 2-406 Resolving Interference.

Referees will give instruction in accordance with the USRowing Rules of Rowing.

Please see the passing procedures below.



BROKEN EQUIPMENT

A crew experiencing broken equipment during the race should move to the outside lane, or the lane that the referee directs the crew to.

SEEDING

Bow assignments for the top ten entries in the time trials in Youth National Championships qualification events will be seeded by the Southwest Stewards. Remaining entries will be randomly assigned. The goal is to have the faster crews assigned to earlier bow numbers in each event. The goal is to have the faster crews assigned to earlier bow numbers in each event.

Non-Qualifying events will be seeded randomly, with the "A" crews seeded randomly first, followed by a random draw of the "B" crews from each organization.

WEIGH-INS

There will be no athlete or boat weigh-ins at the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships.

*PROGRESSION

For Youth National Championships Qualification Events Only

Entries	Time Trial	Advancing	Semifinals	Advancing in each Semifinal	Finals
1-7	1	7	0	N/A	Grand Final
8-14	1	14	2	3	Grand Final
15+	1	14	2	3	Grand Final

Each crew is responsible for knowing the progression of their event.

Only Grand Finals will be run at the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships

The schedule and progression will not change after 9:00pm of the evening before racing.

IMPORTANT: Once a boat has started the progression, it must race through as many stages of that progression for which it qualifies. Failure to race in a semifinal or final for which a boat qualifies may result in that team forfeiting the right to race in that event at the subsequent year's regatta.

EQUIPMENT

All equipment used in competition must meet the USRowing Rules of Rowing requirements for equipment, with the exception of the waived rule listed above. Each organization is responsible for ensuring that their equipment meets these standards.

USRowing will provide bow numbers, which will be given to crews as they pass through the Control Commission or at the USRowing registration desk.

Any equipment not meeting these standards, or judged to be unsafe by a USRowing official, will not be allowed onto the water.

DATA-READING DEVICES

Data-Reading oarlocks are not permitted at the 2026 USRowing Southwest Championships, unless the batteries are removed from the oarlock and stay removed from the time a boat launches to when they recover.

OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE & COMMUNICATIVE DEVICES

The 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships follows rule "2-409 Outside Assistance" from the Rules of Rowing. Crews are prohibited from communicating with a coach using an aided voice, once they leave the launch docks.

MEDALS & TROPHIES

Medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishers in each Grand Final, including non-qualifying events.

The Southwest Stewards ask that all teams who won an event and received/ or should have received a trophy do one of two things:

1. For events that already had an existing trophy with a logical analog in the new age group system (for example, the old system Varsity 8 vs. the new system Youth 8), repurpose the trophy and get a new faceplate made up for it.
2. For events that lacked a trophy, we asked the programs that won those events to commission new trophies.

TEAM POINT TROPHIES

USRowing is using a standardized team point tracking system across all Youth Regional Championship events. This new system will ensure consistency in how team points are calculated and awarded throughout all regionals. **Please note that team points will only be calculated for Youth National qualifying events.** All boats in a final contribute to the team's points, even if multiple boats from the same club are in the final.

- **OVERALL TEAM POINTS TROPHY:** Awarded to the team with the highest combined point total across both Men's and Women's events.
- **MEN'S TEAM POINTS TROPHY:** Presented to the team with the highest point total for Men's events.
- **WOMEN'S TEAM POINTS TROPHY:** Presented to the team with the highest point total for Women's events.
- **EFFICIENCY TEAM POINTS TROPHY:** Awarded based on aggregate points received towards the Overall Point Trophy with the fewest number of registered competitors, with a required minimum of three competitors. The efficiency rating will be calculated by dividing the total points for each club from the Overall Point Trophy by the number of registered competitors from the corresponding club.
- **SCULLING POINTS TROPHY:** Presented to the team with the highest point total in Sculling events.

TEAM POINTS REFERENCE TABLE

YOUTH EVENTS

Boat Class	Points for 1st Place In Grand Final
1x	10
2x, 2-	20
4+, 4-, 4x	40
8+	80

U17 EVENTS

Boat Class	Points for 1 st Place in Grand Final
1x	8
2x	16
4+, 4x	32
8+	64

U16 EVENTS

Boat Class	Points for 1 st Place in Grand Final
4x+	30
8+	60

# Boats in Final	Percentage of 1 st				
	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
2	20%				
3	40%	20%			
4	60%	40%	30%		
5	80%	60%	40%	30%	
6+	80%	60%	40%	30%	20%



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VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE

LAKE NATOMA, GOLD RIVER, CA NIMBUS FLAT STATE PARK

COURSE: The course is a 2,000 meter, 7-lane, buoyed course with stakeboats. Crews must be able to back into a stakeboat and maintain a safe point.

Each team must fill out the **Southwest Youth Team Information**. (Form and deadline to be published Feb 1.)

ADMISSION

Admission is \$10 per person, per day. Cash preferred. The general public, parents, boosters, alumni and family must pay admission to be admitted to the park.

***Please note:** Admission Fees are subject to change and will be announced as final February 1, 2026.

Athlete wristbands will only be accepted on uniformed athletes. If an athlete's wristband is found on someone other than a uniformed athlete the wristband will be cut off and the athlete will not be permitted to get another wristband. This same rule applies for coaches, riggers and trainers.

DROPPING OFF

No one will be allowed into the State Park, this includes dropping off athletes or supplies. We do provide the lot outside the State Park (Hazel Cal Trans Park & Ride) for loading and unloading.

There will be customer service carts to help transport items and people into the event from this location. Please note that carts are not for athletes, customer service carts are for the general public.

If dropping supplies for team hospitality, you may unload in the Park & Ride and the carts will help you to your tent. Vehicles may not be left unattended in the Park & Ride. Carts are not permitted to transport guests to the event parking areas.

EVENT PARKING (Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

There will be no parking in the State Park, all parking will be off site.

Event parking is \$15.00 per vehicle and is located at the **Gold Point Office Park**. **Cash preferred**. A free shuttle will pick up at the Gold Point Office Park and will drop off in the State Park at the finish line tent. The shuttle buses will run all day until 30 minutes after the last race. The shuttle does not pick up at the fish hatchery.

***Please note:** Parking Fees are subject to change and will be announced as final February 1, 2026.

TEAM BUS INFORMATION

In order for busses to enter the State Park you must purchase a bus pass. Bus passes are \$100.00 per bus, per day. These bus passes are only permitted to enter the park to drop off and pick up.

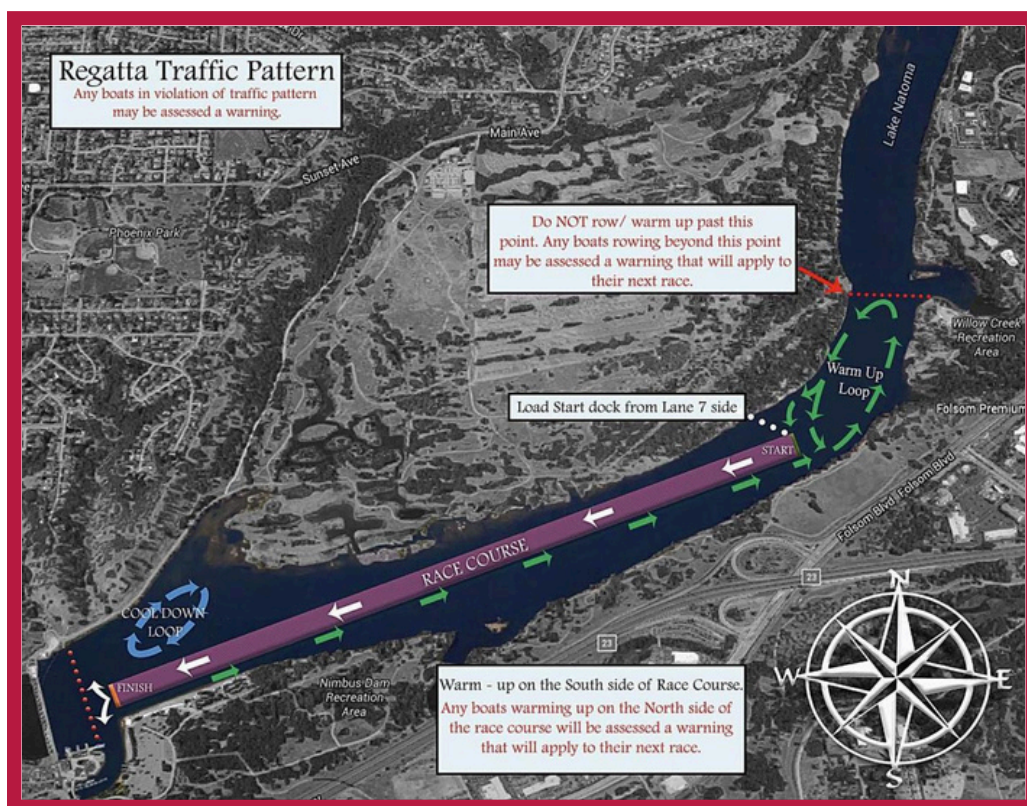
Busses will **NOT** be permitted to stay parked in the Nimbus Flat State Park. Busses will park in event parking. The \$100.00 fee is imposed by the California State Parks.

***Please note:** Parking Fees are subject to change and will be announced as final February 1, 2026.

Athlete busses will be permitted to enter the State Park on Thursday, April 30, at 1:00 PM. Please fill out the **Southwest Youth Championships Team Information web form** to submit bus passes. (Form and deadline to be published Feb 1.)

VENUE & TRAFFIC PATTERN MAPS

The venue map will be posted the week of the event.



TRAILERS & BOAT STORAGE

The trailer arrival window is on **Thursday, April 30, between 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Trailers must arrive by 12:00 PM.**

Trailer parking and boat storage space will be preassigned. Please make sure to fill out the **Southwest Youth Team Information Form** to submit your trailer information. (Form and deadline to be published Feb 1.)

Teams may not start unloading boats or rigging boats until 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

TEAM TENT INFORMATION

To reserve a team tent Please fill out the **Southwest Youth Team Information Form**. (Form and deadline to be published Feb 1.)

Each team that purchases a tent will be allowed to designate one person and one vehicle or one food trailer that will be the food coordinator for the team's tent. Passes are for the entire weekend and will cost \$60.00 (this covers parking for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and admissions for Friday, Saturday & Sunday.)

***Please note:** Pass fees are subject to change and will be announced as final February 1, 2026.

This person will receive a parking spot in the back lot of the state park and will have in and out privileges to transport team food, unless you choose to have a food trailer. You must indicate the person and vehicle below. The food coordinator person and vehicle must be listed on the web form in order for you to receive your parking pass. If you are bringing a food trailer, this will take your parking spot, and you will not be assigned a vehicle to transport and have in and out privileges.

There will be no team dinners at the course permitted on Thursday, April 30. Team dinners on Friday & Saturday night must be completed by 7:00 PM.

TENT RULES & CONDITIONS:

Every item that is brought into the team tent area must be removed at the conclusion of the event. Teams that leave behind items may be subject to clean up fees. Team dinners that are held onsite must be completed and area vacated by 7:00pm on Friday & Saturday night. If you are having a company cater on site they must pay the State Park a \$150.00 vendor fee. Any vendor entering to drop off supplies to the team must pay the \$10 state park fee to enter the park.

BBQ's will not be permitted under any tent. There will be a designated area for BBQ's only.

***Please note:** Vendor fees are subject to change and will be announced as final February 1, 2026.



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PRACTICE & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRACTICE

The practice window will run on **Thursday, April 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. PST. Last launch will be at 5:30 p.m. PST. All boats must be off the water by 6:00 p.m. PST.**

EVENT DRONE POLICY

In accordance with USRowing's drone policy, anyone interested in utilizing a flying drone at the regatta venue must receive approval from USRowing and the Local Organizing Committee. If approved by US Rowing the Drone pilot must send their license for approval from State Parks.

To request approval, contact **competition@usrowing.org** for more information.

Unapproved drones are not permitted anywhere on the regatta venue. Use of unapproved drones may result in penalties to the associated crew, such as exclusion, and the operator may be subject to removal from the venue.

HOTEL & LODGING

New for 2026! During the registration process of RegattaCentral for the 2026 USRowing Southwest Youth Championships, USRowing will collect a few brief lodging details. These questions help us provide accurate reporting to our County and Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) partners, which in turn allows us to secure the best possible grant and marketing support for the event. Thank you for your support!

- o Club or Organization Name:
- o Are you staying in paid accommodations?
- o Type of accommodations (Hotel / Motel, Airbnb / VRBO / Vacation Rental, N/A - not a paid accommodation)
- o If vacation rental, please provide full address below. If hotel/motel, please put "N/A"
- o How many nights will you stay?
- o Estimated # of rooms or units per night?
- o Name of Hotel or Motel (if applicable)



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ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION, & ACCOMMODATION

USRowing is committed to accessible and inclusive events for all. All spectator, competition, awards, and parking areas are accessible. **If you or someone in your organization needs an additional accommodation for a disability, please fill out this link [HERE](#) as soon as possible.**





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SOUTHWEST REGATTA BY-LAWS & GUIDELINES (Updated 11/22)

1. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** An Executive Board of Stewards will be empowered to act on the business of the Southwest Youth Rowing Championship Regatta. The Board will be made up of five (5) voting members, no two of which will be from the same club. Executive Board Representatives will serve two-year terms. In order for the Executive Board to transact business, a quorum must be established. A quorum will consist of three voting members and any decision that only three voting members comes to must be unanimous.
2. **MEMBERSHIP VOTING:** Youth programs shall be restricted to one vote per squad (1 men's and 1 women's) that they represent, with a maximum number of two votes per organization. Proxy votes are not allowed. (Rule amended 9/22)
3. **CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA RULES:** USRowing Rules will apply to the Regatta except where modified (see below) by the voting membership. Any change of the By-laws or Regatta Rules must be accomplished at the Fall membership meeting. If the executive board agrees that a rule should be modified to respond to issues that present themselves after the fall meeting, they shall request a straw poll of member organizations. If the modification passes with a simple majority of organizations it may be implemented for the upcoming event.
4. **RACE DAY CLARIFICATIONS:** a. In a 2- boat semifinal event, Lane 7 can be used for a 4th place crew if that time is faster than the winning time of the other semifinal. b. In a 3-boat semifinal event, Lane 7 can be used for a third place crew if that time is faster than the winning times of the other heats.
5. For events with multiple levels (ex. Y8, Y2V8, Y3V8), teams must enter a first tier boat in order to enter a second tier boat and they must enter a second tier boat in order to enter a third tier boat. While it is understood that anomalous, unexpected things may happen on race day, teams should do their best to enter their fastest boat as their A entry and subsequent B, C, etc. entries should be in descending order of speed.
6. Rowers may compete in no more than 3 events at the Southwest Youth Championship Regatta. Coxswains are exempt from this rule.
7. **COMPOSITE BOATS:** There shall be no composite boats. Composite is defined as one boat with members of more than one club. If extenuating circumstances exist, petitions will be heard.

Once a boat has started the progression, it must race through as many stages of that progression for which it qualifies. Failure to race in a semifinal or final for which a boat qualifies may result in that team forfeiting the right to race in that event at the subsequent year's regatta.





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SOUTHWEST STEWARDS

SANDY ARMSTRONG, Marin Rowing

BETH ANDERSON, Norcal Crew

WENDY GILLETT, Casitas Rowing

MONICA HILCU, Redwood Scullers

ZOHAR ABRAMOVITZ, Marina Aquatic Center



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2026
GOLD RIVER, CA

