



DRAFT ENTRY PACKET



Welcome to the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships!

Following the recognition of winning the SportsTravel Award for "Best Amateur Sporting Event" in 2023 and being named "Best Awarded Event of the Year in the state of Florida" in 2024, USRowing and Nathan Benderson Park are proud to once again host the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships in Sarasota, Florida. This event will bring together qualified crews from across the country to showcase the best of youth rowing and to compete for national titles!

Please read this packet completely as it includes information regarding entries, rules, events, qualification, eligibility, venue and other information about the policies governing this regatta. All crews competing in the USRowing Youth National Championships are responsible for the information contained in this packet.

USRowing would like to thank the Nathan Benderson Park Staff and the Youth National Championships Coaches Council for their guidance and assistance 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

May 1-3, 2026: First set of qualification regattas are held.

- USRowing Southwest Youth Championships
- USRowing Central Youth Championships

May 6, 2026: Bid application deadline for the first set of qualification regattas.

May 9-10, 2026: Second set of qualification regattas are held.

- USRowing Mid-Atlantic Youth Championships
- USRowing Southeast Youth Championships
- Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships
- New York State Scholastic Championships

May 13, 2026: Bid application deadline for the second set of qualification regattas.

May 15-17, 2026: Third set of qualification regattas are held.

- USRowing Northwest Youth Championships
- USRowing Northeast Youth Championships
- Midwest Junior Rowing Championships
- Schuylkill Navy's Stotesbury Cup Regatta

May 20, 2026: Bid application deadline for the third set of qualification regattas.

May 23, 2026: Final qualification regatta is held.

- New England Interscholastic Rowing Championships

May 27, 2026: Bid application deadline for the fourth set of qualification regattas.

June 2, 2026: Initial schedule of races posted.

June 9, 2026: Official practice sessions. USRowing Registration opens. Initial bow assignment list is posted on USRowing web site.

June 10, 2026: Official practice sessions. USRowing Registration opens. USRowing Graduation Ceremony held.

June 11, 2026: Racing begins.

June 14, 2026: Final day of racing, including awards ceremonies.

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

Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting will take place virtually over zoom on June 8 at 6:00 p.m. ET. Please click [HERE](#) to register for the virtual pre-regatta meeting.

All competitors and coaches are responsible for all information in this packet and any information given at the Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta meeting. A recording for this meeting will be posted on the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships [RegattaCentral](#) page, 24 hours after the conclusion of the meeting.

***SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

Click [HERE](#) for a tentative schedule. Please note that this schedule will be adjusted based on the number of entries.

THURSDAY: Time Trials.

FRIDAY: A/B Semifinals will run Friday morning. All 'Youth' E Finals will follow on Friday afternoon.

SATURDAY: U16 and U17 B Finals and all C and D Finals will run Saturday.

If time in the schedule allows, practice will be available for crews racing on Sunday, that didn't get to race on Saturday (A & B Finals Crews). If time in the schedule allows, practice will start 30 minutes after racing concludes. A decision on if practice will be available will be made once the final schedule is posted.

SUNDAY: A Finals will be held Sunday morning. B Finals for Youth events will be held after A Final events on Sunday afternoon.



***ORDER OF EVENTS**

Below is the order in which finals are scheduled to be run. The schedule of races will be determined based on the number of entries at the close of registration.

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+		

***INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION**

USRowing, Chief Referee, Youth National Council 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.
 - Announcements will be made no later than 3 hours before racing or 9:00 PM the evening before in the case of morning racing.
- 3.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 trophies will be awarded based on the results of the last completed round of the event.
- 4.If rounds must be omitted, the priority for rescheduling and race cancellations will give priority to ensuring the "A" Finals are held, and those events progressing into the "A" Finals are prioritized over the "E", "D", "C", and "B" finals.
- 5.Cancel regatta.

Under no circumstances will races be rescheduled for a date later than June 14, 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 <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 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 Youth National Championships - Entry Fee	\$85 per athlete/coxswain
2026 USRowing Youth National Championships - Late Fee	\$85 per athlete/coxswain + \$50 fee for a late boat submitted.

Entry fees become non-refundable after May 27, 2026. On May 28, 2026, a team's final invoice will be sent to the team administrator. All entry fees must be paid before a team arrives on site. After this date, unpaid entries may be scratched from the regatta.

Crews representing an organization with an outstanding balance from any USRowing activity may not be allowed to compete until the balance is paid in full.

***ATHLETE SPARES**

Any athlete that is traveling to the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships and is expecting to gain access into the Athlete Area will be required to pay the per athlete/coxswain athlete fee. Any athlete that is listed as a spare on **RegattaCentral** by May 27, 2026, will be charged the per athlete/coxswain athlete fee.

No spares will be accepted after the deadline.

***ENTRY LIMITS**

All 'Youth' events will be limited to a maximum of 40 total entries. All age-based events (U17 & U16) will be limited to a maximum of 32 total entries.

No competitor shall enter more than two events at the Youth National Championships. No race will be delayed or held because of hot seating. Regatta staff will not facilitate getting athletes in place for hot seating.

***SCRATCHES**

A crew that receives a Youth National Championship bid from a recognized qualification event and registers in an event shall be required to compete in all its stages: time trials, semifinals, and/or E, D, C, B, or A finals. Failure to participate in an event for which a crew has registered may result in a one-year suspension for that team for that registered event.

***LINEUPS & LINEUP CHANGES**

All entries must include the line-up of athletes to compete as part of that entry.

A maximum of 50 percent substitutions (not including coxswains) will be allowed in the boat line-up that has qualified at a recognized qualification regatta. Substituted rowers and coxswains must meet all eligibility and affiliation rules, including age eligibility, to compete.

Line-up changes must be submitted no later than 1 hour before the first race of the event for which the crew is entered.

ENTRY FEE REIMBURSEMENTS

After May 27, 2026, no refunds will be given under any circumstances. If you do not remove entered spares not attending Youth Nationals after May 27, there will be no refunds.





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COMPETITION INFORMATION

***ELIGIBILITY**

The USRowing Youth National Championships is an invitational championship regatta. Crews must qualify for a Youth National Championship bid by attending a recognized qualification regatta, placing in one of the Youth National Championship events, and receiving a bid. Crews from outside of the United States are not eligible to compete at this event.

Bids are awarded to crews in specific events. Organizations are not eligible to enter events in which they did not receive a bid.

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.

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.

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

2V 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 an equal mixture of classified Para Rowers and 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 PR1/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).



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YOUTH NATIONAL QUALIFICATION RULES

BID ACCEPTANCE / DENIAL / ROLL DOWN PROCESS:

USRowing recognizes seven youth districts, each with its own qualification regatta(s), to qualify for the USRowing Youth National Championships.

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.

Please review the following stipulations regarding a qualification regatta or qualifying for youth nationals:

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.

If a qualifying crew(s) chooses to decline a bid(s) for the Youth National Championships, the subsequent place finisher(s) would receive the bid(s). In no case, does a roll down bid extend past the grand final of the youth national qualifier.

A crew that receives a Youth National Championship bid from a recognized qualification event and registers in an event shall be required to compete in all its stages: time trials, semifinals, and D, C, B, or A finals. Failure to participate in an event for which a crew has registered may result in a one-year suspension for that team for that registered event.

Crews shall only be allowed to qualify for the Youth Nationals Championships from a qualifying regatta within their individual districts, with the exception of the Schuylkill Navy's Stotesbury Cup Regatta. Note that the qualifying regattas are contingent on their USRowing registered regatta status. If the regatta chooses not to register their regatta, they cannot be considered a qualifying regatta.

QUALIFICATION PROCESS INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICIES

Should a qualification regatta be canceled due to inclement weather, bids will be decided based on the official finishing order of the crews as determined by the regatta's established practices and policies.

Should a qualification regatta not have its own published weather policy, USRowing will award bids based on the results of the last completed round of the event.

In instances where qualification events are canceled without completing any rounds, those crews will be required to submit a petition that includes results from the current season to demonstrate their placement within their district. These petitions will be given an expedited review, and the bids originally allotted for that regatta will be awarded based on the determinations of the committee.

REGATTA DECLARATION PROCESS

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. To submit your entries, you must indicate whether your organization wishes to use the results from that regatta or another qualifier for the bid process to qualify for the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships. Selecting a qualifying regatta is required, even if you do not plan to attend the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships.

Please note, each team is only allowed to declare one USRowing Youth National Qualifying event as their team's official qualifying regatta.

RECOGNIZED QUALIFICATION REGATTAS

Districts	Youth National Championship Qualification Regattas	Date	Bids Per Event
Central District	USRowing Central Youth Championships	May 1-3, 2026	3
Mid-Atlantic District	USRowing Mid-Atlantic Youth Championships	May 9-10, 2026	4
Midwest District	Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships	May 9-10, 2026	1
	Midwest Junior Rowing Championships	May 16-17, 2026	4
Northeast District	New York State Scholastic Championships	May 9-10, 2026	4
	USRowing Northeast Youth Championships	May 16-17, 2026	4
	NEIRA Championships	May 23, 2026	2
Northwest District	USRowing Northwest Youth Championships	May 15-17, 2026	4
Southeast District	USRowing Southeast Youth Championships	May 9-10, 2026	4
Southwest District	USRowing Southwest Youth Championships	May 1-3, 2026	4
No Defined District	Schuylkill Navy's Stotesbury Cup Regatta	May 15-16, 2026	2

PETITIONS

USRowing will accept petitions; acceptance of a petition does not guarantee a bid to attend the Youth National Championships.

Petitions must be submitted no later than three (3) days after the conclusion of the crew's qualification regatta.

No late petitions will be accepted.

Petitions will only be accepted from a coach or team administrator. Parents, athletes, referees, and others who do not act as a coach or official administrator to the crew submitting the petition are not eligible to submit a petition on a crew's behalf.

If an event is fully subscribed, and not all petitions can be accepted, the Youth National Championships Advisory Council will choose the petitions from the most competitive crews based on the information given in the petition.

Petitions will not be accepted from athletes that are part of a boat that was excluded or disqualified while participating in that event at a qualifying regatta, unless the exclusion or disqualification is overturned.

Petitions will not be accepted from crews competing in non-qualifying events held as part of a qualification regatta. Petitions will not be accepted from crews that have not competed in the petitioned event at an on-water competition since January 1 of the current calendar year.

Petitions will be accepted for the following reasons. Petitions that do not meet these requirements will not be sent to the Council for consideration.

- An unfortunate event, especially something beyond the ordinary or the expected, which caused a disadvantage that precluded a crew to compete in a qualifying event. Poor rowing, lineup decisions, and other similar situations are not considered to be "unfortunate events" and are not eligible to be considered as petitions.
- The petitioning crew must provide the petition committee substantiation of sufficient boat speed within the following time standards of the **first-place crew** in the petitioned category at a recognized YNC qualifying regatta.
 - 8+/4+/4-/4x: within three (3) seconds
 - 2x/2-/1x: within five (5) seconds

A link to the results used to substantiate boat speed must be provided with the submitted petition.

Petitions are required to include the contact information of the Chief Referee at the qualification regatta to confirm the details of the circumstances surrounding the petition.

Petitions will be reviewed and voted on by the members of the Youth National Championships Coaches Council.

After reviewing the petitions, the Council and/or USRowing will notify crews of the status of their request on the dates listed above. Crews whose petitions are declined shall also receive an explanation as to why their petition was not accepted. The explanation will include a statement of which of the above two statements were not proven during the petition process. If a crew whose petition was not accepted has compelling new information to be considered, it may request an appeal of the decision.

The burden is on the appealing crew to provide compelling new information for consideration. Simply disagreeing with the Petition Committee's decision is not grounds for an appeal. The new information, and original petition, will then be voted on by the Youth National Championships Advisory Council. The status of the appeal will be determined by the vote of the majority of the Youth National Championships Advisory Council.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PETITION

1. Petitions must be submitted via the online form on the Youth Nationals web page, three (3) days after the crews qualifying regatta.
2. The team administrator or coach who is submitting a petition must put in an application into the event on RegattaCentral in which they are petitioning to be in. This must be completed three (3) days after the crews qualifying regatta. If accepted, USRowing will accept the application on RegattaCentral. The team administrator or coach will be alerted that the petition has been accepted via email.

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.**





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RULES

USRowing's 2026 **Rules of Rowing** will govern this event.

USRowing licensed referees will officiate the event to ensure safety and fairness. 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 Youth National 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.

DATA-READING DEVICES

Data-Reading oarlocks are not permitted at the 2026 Youth National 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 Youth National 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.

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. Bow Numbers for sprint racing will be given out at Control Commission. All bow numbers can be returned to control commission.

WEIGH-INS

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



SEEDING

Bow assignments for the time trials in Youth National Championships will be seeded by the Youth National Championship Coaches Council.

New for 2026: USRowing will implement an open comment period for all seeding at the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships.

The proposed seeding will be emailed to all coaches for review and comment from **Sunday, May 31 through Monday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m. EST.** Coaches may submit feedback by emailing competition@usrowing.org with the subject line: **"Seeding – 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships."**

All comments must be submitted by Monday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m. EST. Submissions will be forwarded to the Youth National Coaches Council for review and consideration. **After June 1, all seeding will be final.**

***Please note:** This proposed seeding policy will be open for public feedback during the December 1–31 entry-packet comment period. The final seeding policy for the 2026 Youth National Championships will be published in the entry packet released on February 1, 2026.

PROGRESSION

2026 USRowing Youth National Championships Progression									
Entries	Time Trial	Advance	Semis	Advance	Final E	Final D	Final C	Final B	Final A
1-2	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	1-2 Boat Final
3-8	1	3-8 to Final A (Seeding)	-	-		-	-	-	3-8 Boat Final
9-16	1	All to Semi-Final A/B		Top 4 to Final A Rest to Final B		-	-	2-8 Boat Final *In case of 9 entries, 7 boat A Final, 2 boat B final	8 Boat Final
17-24	1	Top 16 to Semi-Final A/B		Top 4 to Final A Rest to Final B		-			
		Remaining to Final C					1-8 Boat Final *In case of 17 entries, 7 boat B Final, 2 boat C final	8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final
25-32	1	Top 16 to Semi-Final A/B		Top 4 to Final A Rest to Final B		1-8 Boat Final *In case of 25 entries, 7 boat C Final & 2 boat D Final			
		17-24 to Final C					8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final
		Remaining to Final D							
33- 40	1	Top 16 to Semi-Final A/B		Top 4 to Final A Rest to Final B	1-8 Boat Final, *In case of 33 entries, 7 boat D Final & 2 boat E Final				
		17-24 to Final C				8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final	8 Boat Final
		25-22 to Final D							
		Remaining to Final E							

Each crew is responsible for knowing the progression of their event. Progressions may not be announced at the starting line.

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.



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MEDALS & TROPHIES

MEDALS

Medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishers in each A- Final. Head Coaches are invited to join their crews to receive a medal (one per gold-medal crew) with their competitors.

Medals will be awarded at the Awards Stage. More information on when the awards ceremonies will be posted once entries close.

Athletes that meet the definition of "U16" and who are competing in the U17 1x event at the Youth National Championships, will be awarded U16 1x medals based on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings. All competitors must make the grand final to win a medal.

TROPHIES

Trophies are awarded to the winning crew in each event.

Crews that won trophies at the 2025 USRowing Youth National Championships must return them at the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships.

To ensure all historic trophies are accounted for, organizations must mail their trophy to the Nathan Benderson Park offices by May 23, 2026. Failure to return a trophy will result in a \$300 replacement fee.

USRowing / [EVENT NAME] Trophy
5865 Nathan Benderson Circle
Sarasota, FL 34235

Each National Champion awarded a trophy may keep it until the 2027 USRowing Youth National Championships. To honor the history of our National Champions, organizations are encouraged to add a nameplate with their team's name on the trophy.





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VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE

NATHAN BENDERSON PARK, SARASOTA-BRADENTON, FL
5851 NATHAN BENDERSON CIR.
SARASOTA, FL 34235

SPECTATOR PARKING INFORMATION

Spectator parking will be available for \$15 per day, per vehicle. A shuttle will be available to bring spectators to the venue.

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

TEAM PARKING INFORMATION

All teams will be given one (1) parking pass upon checking in at the registration tent at the 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships. This parking pass allows one team vehicle to park on the island throughout the competition.

Each team will be required to register one (1) vehicle with USRowing and this is the only vehicle that will receive a parking pass. If any other vehicles park on site without a parking pass, they may be towed.

Click [**HERE**](#) to register your team vehicle.

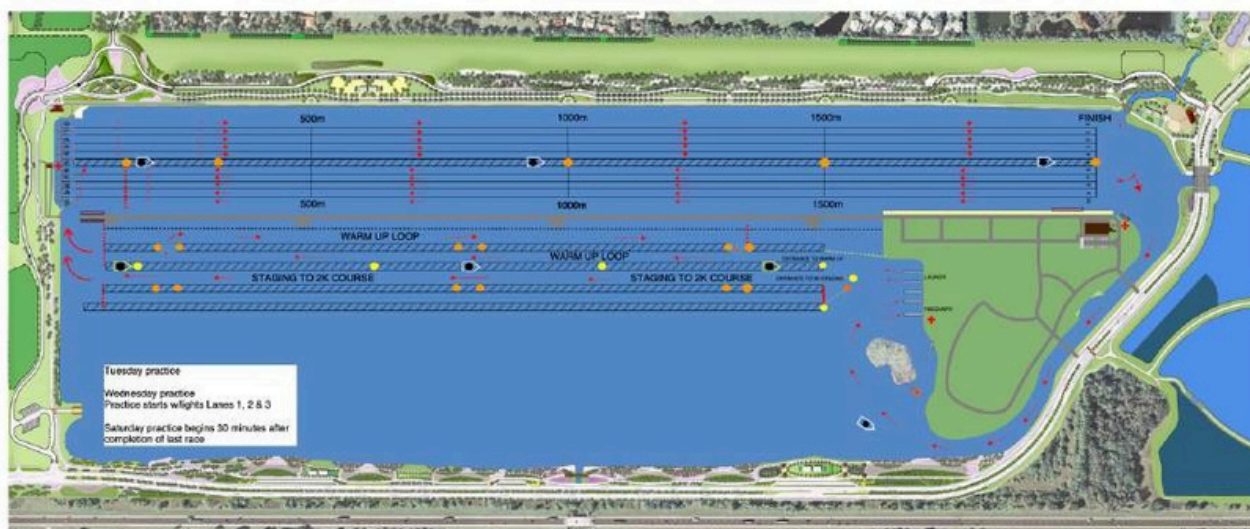
TRAFFIC PATTERN MAPS

Click [HERE](#) for downloadable traffic pattern maps.



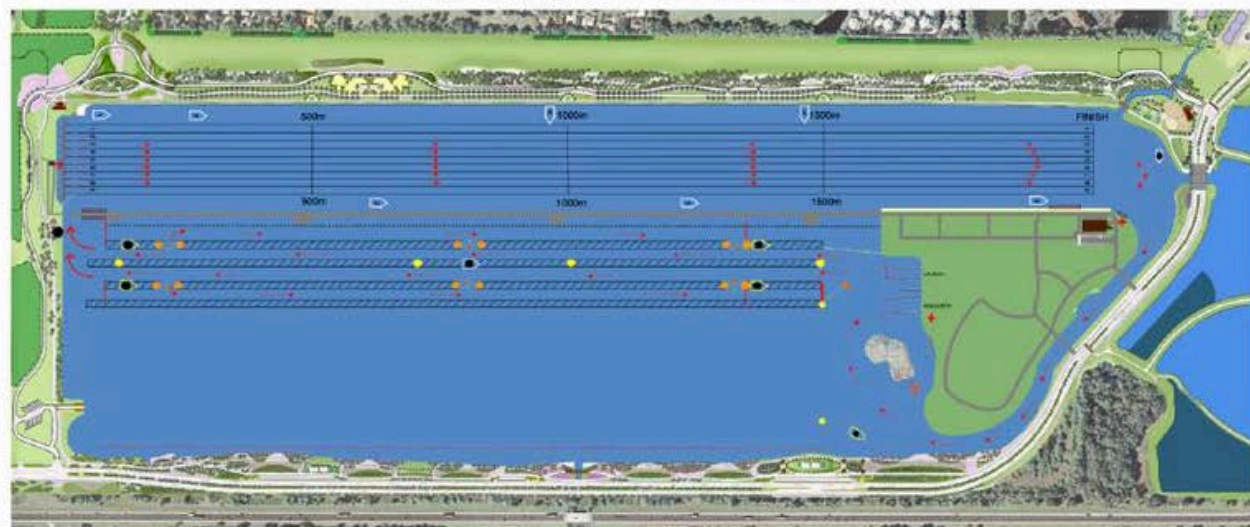
Nathan Benderson Park USROWING YOUTH NATIONALS

PRACTICE & PRACTICE STARTS TRAFFIC PATTERNS



Nathan Benderson Park USROWING YOUTH NATIONALS

TIME TRIAL TRAFFIC PATTERN

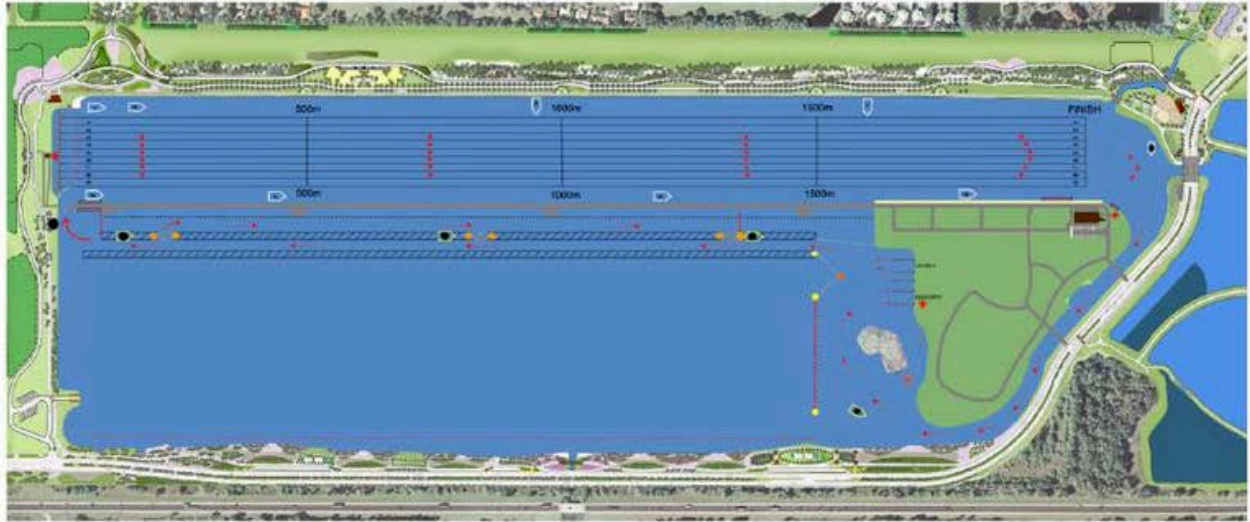




Nathan Benderson Park USROWING YOUTH NATIONALS



RACE DAY TRAFFIC PATTERN



TRAILERS & BOAT STORAGE

All trailers must be registered prior to arriving on site at Nathan Benderson Park. Please fill out this form [**HERE**](#) if you are planning on transporting a trailer. Please only submit one registration per trailer.

Each team will be assigned a specific spot in the trailer field upon arrival. Please note that spots are given on a first come first serve basis. All trailers must check in with a staff member prior to parking.

Trailer Parking will be open at the following times. If you are arriving outside of these hours, please park off site and come back during open trailer hours. If you park on-site outside of the stated hours, your trailer will be moved by an outside party.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 8: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10: 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

*If you are arriving prior to Sunday, June 7, please email [**Competition@usrowing.org**](mailto:Competition@usrowing.org) for special accommodations.

TEAM TENT INFORMATION

More Information Coming Soon!

BIKE RENTAL INFORMATION

Bikes will be available to rent throughout the regatta. Click [**HERE**](#) to rent your bike.

SPECTATOR TICKETS

Spectator tickets will be available in the week leading up to the Youth National Championships. Please visit the [**USRowing Youth National Championships website**](#) for the most up to date information.

LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

The 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships will be live streamed on Overnight. Click [**HERE**](#) to watch racing!



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PRACTICE & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRACTICE

The 2026 USRowing Youth National Championships will feature over 4,000 athletes competing for national titles. To accommodate this, the following practice schedule has been established:

- **MONDAY, JUNE 8:** No practice sessions will be available as course adjustments will be finalized by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).
- **TUESDAY, JUNE 9, AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10:** Practice will follow the Thursday Time Trial event order. Starting at 8:00 a.m., each event will launch in 15-minute intervals. Crews may not line up to launch before their scheduled time and should limit their water time to 90 minutes. [\[Click here for practice launch times.\]](#) Please review the traffic patterns posted above.
- **WEATHER DELAYS:** In the event of weather disruptions, practice launches will be delayed, and updated schedules will be communicated.
- **OPEN PRACTICE:** From 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, on June 9 and June 10, an Open Practice session will be available for crews unable to launch during their scheduled time due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., flight cancellations). Open Practice requests can be submitted [HERE](#).
- **SATURDAY, JUNE 13:** Practice for crews competing in Sunday's A/B Finals will begin 30 minutes after the last race of the day.

PRE-EVENT TRAINING

Click [HERE](#) for information regarding pre-event training at Nathan Benderson Park. Please note that no 2026 USRowing Youth National Championship boats or athletes are permitted on the course on Monday, June 8, 2026.

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.

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

A crew may be subject to an "unsportsmanlike conduct" penalty if a person affiliated with their organization, including spectators and parents, engages in the use of an unapproved drone at the regatta venue.

HOTEL & LODGING

New for 2026! During the registration process of RegattaCentral for the 2026 USRowing Youth National 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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YOUTH NATIONALS COACHES COUNCIL

MONICA HILCU, Redwood Scullers

GREG HULL, Cincinnati Junior Rowing Club

KIRSTEN ANDERSON, Orlando Area Rowing Society

ABBY KNIGHT, Cambridge Boat Club

NICK HALEY, Rose City Rowing Club

ROB WELSH, Row New Jersey





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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.**



USROWING®
YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
2026
SARASOTA, FL

