

USROWING®

ROWFEST'26

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS • YPSILANTI – ANN ARBOR, MI

FINAL ENTRY PACKET



Welcome to the 2026 RowFest National Championships!

RowFest brings together the entire United States rowing community for nine days of racing and celebration.

Here's what you can expect:

- Crowning of open, U23, youth, U17 and masters national champions across 2,000-meter and 1,000-meter events.
- Opportunities to dive into engaging coastal rowing demonstrations.
- A bustling vendor village and social events for competitors and spectators, featuring great food and live music.
- Everything Ypsilanti – Ann Arbor, MI has to offer, plus easy access to the best culture and entertainment around the city.

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 at the USRowing RowFest are responsible for the information contained in this packet.

Be well and row fast,
USRowing



TABLE OF CONTENTS

To easily navigate the entry packet, click a section header or subsection to jump directly to that content.

ROWFEST WEEK AT A GLANCE

WHAT TO WATCH FOR?

IMPORTANT DATES & SCHEDULE INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES
ATHLETES & COACHES PRE-REGATTA MEETING
ORDER OF EVENTS & SCHEDULE
INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION
HEAT SAFETY GUIDELINES
COMMUNICATION PLAN
SCHEDULE CHANGE PRIORITY SYSTEM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

USROWING MEMBERSHIP
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS
VOLUNTEER POLICY
SAFESPORT
CREDENTIALS
ENTRY INFORMATION
ENTRY FEES
LATE ENTRIES
SCRATCHES
LINEUPS & LINEUP CHANGES
ON-SITE LINEUP CHANGES
ENTRY FEE REIMBURSEMENTS

COMPETITION INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY
DEFINITIONS
MASTERS AGE CATEGORIES
PARA & ADAPTIVE DEFINITIONS
CLASSIFICATION FOR PARA ATHLETES
PARA & INCLUSION EVENTS

RULES

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT
BOW NUMBERS
BROKEN EQUIPMENT
SEEDING
EQUIPMENT
DATA-READING DEVICES
OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE & COMMUNICATIVE DEVICES
MEDALS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

To easily navigate the entry packet, click a section header or subsection to jump directly to that content.

ROWFEST RACE SUMMARY

U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17 RACE RULES

2,000-METER PROGRESSION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH)
1,000-METER PROGRESSION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)
ENTRY LIMITS (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)
WEIGH-INS (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)
LIGHTWEIGHT ROWERS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES
COXSWAINS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES
AFFILIATION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)
COMPOSITE ENTRIES
TEAM POINT TROPHIES (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

MASTERS RACE RULES

COURSE INFORMATION
SCHEDULE INFORMATION
PROGRESSION
ENTRY LIMITS (MASTERS)
WEIGH-INS (MASTERS)
LIGHTWEIGHT ROWERS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES
COXSWAINS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES
AFFILIATION (MASTERS)
CLUB EVENTS (MASTERS)
MEDALS
EVENT & TEAM POINT TROPHIES

NON-NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

500-METER SPRINTS

VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE
REGISTRATION
PARKING INFORMATION
TRAFFIC PATTERN MAP
TRAILERS & BOAT STORAGE
TEAM TENT INFORMATION
EVENT LIVESTREAM

PRACTICE & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRACTICE
EVENT DRONE POLICY

ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION, & ACCOMMODATION



5

ROWFEST WEEK AT A GLANCE

Below is a breakdown of the racing opportunities that will occur at the **2026 USRowing RowFest National** Championships. Please note that opportunities and events can be found on the [RowFest website](#).

anything with an asterisk () is a non-National Championship event.

2026 USROWING ROWFEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RACING OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY, JULY 11	Morning & Afternoon U23/Open/Youth - 2,000-Meter Heats/Finals
SUNDAY, JULY 12	Morning & Afternoon U23/Open/Youth - 2,000-Meter Heats/Finals
MONDAY, JULY 13	Morning & Afternoon U23/Open/Youth/U17 - 1,000-Meter Heats/Finals
TUESDAY, JULY 14	Morning & Afternoon U23/Open/Youth/U17 - 1,000-Meter Heats/Finals Evening *U23/Open/Youth/U17 500-meter Sprints
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	Practice Day
THURSDAY, JULY 16	Morning & Afternoon Masters Racing Evening *Masters 500-meter Sprints
FRIDAY, JULY 17	Morning & Afternoon Masters Racing
SATURDAY, JULY 18	Morning & Afternoon Masters Racing
SUNDAY, JULY 19	Morning & Afternoon Masters Racing

WHAT TO WATCH FOR?

RowFest has something for everyone! All attendees, whether racing or spectating, will have endless opportunities to join in on many activities throughout the regatta.

Please [click here](#) for a daily schedule of what to expect.





8

IMPORTANT DATES & SCHEDULE INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

JULY

1

APRIL 1, 2026

Registration opens on RegattaCentral.

2

JULY 1, 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

JULY 6, 2026

Event schedule published.

JULY 6, 2026

Coaches & coxswains meeting (virtual)

JULY 8-9, 2026

Late entry period.

JULY 9, 2026

Deadline for lineup changes to be entered into RegattaCentral.

JULY 11, 2026

Racing begins.



ATHLETES & COACHES PRE-REGATTA MEETING

IMPORTANT! The RowFest Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting will be divided into two separate meetings; one to address the Open/U23/Youth/U17 events that will happen from July 11-14, and one to address the Masters events that will happen from July 16-19.

Open/U23/Youth/U17 Events: Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting will be scheduled for **July 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. ET.** This meeting will take place virtually, via zoom. **Register [HERE](#).**

Masters Events: Athletes and Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting will be scheduled for **July 6, 2026, at 8:30 p.m. ET.** This meeting will take place virtually, via zoom. **Register [HERE](#).**

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.

ORDER OF EVENTS & SCHEDULE

Click [here](#) for the order of event list and a tentative schedule. This schedule is tentative and will change after the standard entry deadline.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

USRowing, Chief Referee, and the 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 weather plans below 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.



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 closer to race day.

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 will be awarded based on the results of the last completed round of the event.
5. Run only events that have not had a previous racing round completed, if time allows.
6. Cancel regatta.

Please note that we will not extend racing for an age category to a future day that would then affect another age category. For example, we will not extend racing for the Youth/U17 athletes into a day where Masters athletes are racing, therefore cause Masters athletes to lose race opportunities.

Under no circumstances will races be rescheduled for a date later than July 19, 2026.





12

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

USROWING MEMBERSHIP

All U.S. based organizations must hold active organizational membership to be in good standing. For more information on organizational requirements, visit our website [HERE](#). Organizations can review their team accounts by logging in [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:

- Hold an active USRowing Championship Membership
- Electronically signed USRowing Membership Agreement and Waiver
- Completed SafeSport self-attestation (if 18 years old or older)
- Current with SafeSport training (if 18 years old or older)

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

To avoid delays at registration, teams should make sure all competitors meet all membership requirements prior to arriving at the event. A current list of your athletes, their member numbers and compliance statuses 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. Note: Coaches listed as a boat coach are not automatically pulled into this area as a registered event coach.

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.

SUPPORT STAFF

- 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.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS

International competitors must join USRowing as Basic - International members at no cost. International crews will be allowed to progress through an event based on their finish.

If a crew entered by an international club or rowing federation, or an international unaffiliated single sculler, places first, second, or third in an event, it shall receive special gold, silver, or bronze medals memorializing the accomplishment, but the national championship medals and the designations and entitlements of national champion, shall be given only to domestic crews according to order of placement.

International crews are ineligible to receive team point trophies.

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 Relevant Adult Participants are required to take the SafeSport training on an annual basis. If a Relevant Adult Participant's SafeSport training is not completed 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://uscenterforsafesport.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 Relevant Adult Participants (defined here) must complete SafeSport training and be in good standing by the lineup entry deadline. If this is not the case, the Relevant Adult Participant will not be eligible to participate and will not be allowed to be on site.

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 April 1, 2026 and ending July 1, 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

These entry fees are for entries in National Championship events. Entry fees for additional events such as the 500-meter sprints are posted in their section of the entry packet.

Boat Class	Standard Entry Fee	Late Entry Fee	Boat Class
1x	\$119.00	\$169.00	1x
2x/2-	\$169.00	\$209.00	2x/2-
4x/4-/4+	\$299.00	\$359.00	4x/4-/4+
8+	\$359.00	\$399.00	8+

Entry fees are due and payable in full by no later than entry closing. No refunds will be given under any circumstances. Any unpaid amounts as of entry closing remain due and payable and will not be waived or forgiven under any circumstances, even if the regatta is postponed, delayed, rescheduled, or canceled for any reason. 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.

LATE ENTRIES

Late entries will be accepted from July 8 – July 9 at 12:00 p.m. ET 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 July 1, 2026.

Beginning July 2, 2026, no refunds will be given for entries that are scratched.

Scratches should be made on RegattaCentral until July 1, 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 July 1, 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 July 9, 2026 at 12:00pm ET.

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 July 9, 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.





18

COMPETITION INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

Athletes who meet the eligibility for the stated events are welcome to attend the 2026 USRowing RowFest.

From December 1–31, 2025, USRowing conducted the annual Domestic Regatta Entry Packet Comment Period. As part of this process, a proposal was released outlining potential changes to the Youth Series Age Categories & Definitions. Following the formal review process, the 2026 & 2027 USRowing Youth Series will continue to adopt the Youth Definition and subsequent age categories that were in place in 2025. To learn more about the proposal and final decision, click [HERE](#). Thank you to everyone who shared feedback during this process.

DEFINITIONS

MASTER: A master is a competitor who has attained or will attain the age of 21 during the current calendar year. A competitor's age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year ("rowing age").

- A Masters crew may compete in a lower (younger) age category but not in a higher category.

OPEN: Any competitor may enter an open event.

U23: A Competitor may compete in the U23 category until December 31 of the year of their 22nd birthday.

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.

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.

LIGHTWEIGHT: Women will weigh in at no more than 130lbs with no averaging. Men will weigh in at no more than 160lbs with no averaging.

FREEDOM ROWS: Events that include this definition are open to any and all Active and Veteran Status Military personnel.

MASTERS AGE CATEGORIES

Category	Ages	Category	Ages	Category	Ages
AA	21-26	F	60-64	L	90-94
A	27-35	G	65-69	M	95-99
B	36-42	H	70-74	N	100+
C	43-49	I	75-79		
D	50-54	J	80-84		
E	55-59	K	85-89		

The age category of a Masters Crew shall be determined by the average age of the rowers in the crew, rounded down to the nearest whole number. The age of a coxswain shall not be counted. The ages of individual rowers need not fall within the age category, so long as each rower is a master and so long as the average age of the crew falls within the applicable category.

- Individuals whose age places them in the AA category (age 21-26) may compete in any age category where the average age of the boat falls within that specific age category.
- A masters crew may compete in a lower (younger) age category but not in a higher category.

No handicapping will take place at the 2026 USRowing RowFest National Championships

PARA & INCLUSION DEFINITIONS

Para 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 and non-Para 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. Adaptive rowers who have not yet been classified must have the required FISA Medical documentation submitted at least 45 days prior to the event in which they intend to compete as a Para rower.

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. A crew entered in the "Inclusion" event must be comprised of an equal number of Para and non-Para Rowers.

In Inclusive events, the sport class requirement pertains only to the Para 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 meet the appropriate classification guidelines, all Para and Inclusive events will now require an application.

Application Process & Deadlines

Applications and event registrations will follow the deadlines posted on the RegattaCentral. 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.



23

RULES

USRowing's [2026 Rules of Rowing](#) will govern this event.

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

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

The 2026 USRowing RowFest 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.

BOW NUMBERS

All sprint racing bow numbers will be distributed to crews at the launch docks.

BROKEN EQUIPMENT

A crew experiencing broken equipment during the race should move to the outside lane.

SEEDING

The seeding for heats will be done at random for the 2026 USRowing RowFest National Championships.

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 RowFest 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 USRowing RowFest 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.

MEDALS

Medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishers in each Grand Final of all 2,000- meter and 1,000- meter events at the RowFest National Championships.

Additional awards, that are not the National Championships medals, will be presented to winners of the 500-meter sprint.





26

ROWFEST RACE SUMMARY

USRowing is excited to host what was historically the “Summer National Championships” and the “Masters National Championships” at the same venue over a nine-day period. Each race will be a chance for the respective age categories to become a National Champion.

IMPORTANT: The rules above this paragraph apply to all races at the 2026 USRowing RowFest National Championships. The Rules listed in the “U23/Open/Youth/U17 Race Rules” section are to be specifically applied to those races only. The Rules listed in the “Masters Race Rules” section are to be specifically applied to those races only.





28

U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17 RACE RULES

Rules under this section are to be specifically applied to U23/Open/Youth/U17 races only. These races will take place from July 11 - July 14, 2026. Athletes in these age categories are encouraged to compete in any other events, that they meet the definitions and rules of, throughout the entire nine-day RowFest. Updates for 2026:

- Building on the success of our 2025 plan, we are continuing the same exciting race framework with even more opportunities for athletes. We've listened to your feedback and are refining the format to make racing more dynamic and inclusive for U23, Open, Youth and U17.
- Athlete can race in multiple boat disciplines, maximizing opportunities on the water.
- We're introducing different race distances to challenge and showcase diverse rowing skills.
- Say goodbye to time trials—racing will be sprint-focused, delivering more head-to-head competition.

The first Saturday/Sunday of RowFest will provide 2,000-meter racing for Open/U23/Youth athletes in select events. The Monday/Tuesday of RowFest will provide 1,000-meter racing for Open/U23/Youth/U17 athletes in select events. Heats and finals for the daily events will finish that day.

Presently, we are planning on racing in eight fully buoyed lanes.

We saw great success with this format in 2025 - these changes continue to deliver more racing, more excitement and a better overall experience for athletes and spectators alike.

2,000-METER PROGRESSION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH)

PROGRESSION			
Cap: 16 Boats per Event			
Entries	Heats	Advance	Final
2-8	1	2-8	Grand Final
9-16	2	4	Grand Final

Each event will be capped at 16 entries. After 16 entries, there will be a waitlist of additional entries. If there is time in the schedule once entries close, USRowing will determine if events with 17+ entries can be done, but this is not guaranteed.

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.

1,000-METER PROGRESSION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

PROGRESSION Cap: 16 Boats per Event			
Entries	Heats	Advance	Final
2-8	1	2-8	Grand Final
9-16	2	4	Grand Final

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.

ENTRY LIMITS (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

Each event will be capped at 16 entries. After 16 entries, there will be a waitlist of additional entries. If there is time in the schedule once entries close, USRowing will determine if events with 17+ entries can be done, but this is not guaranteed.

There are no per athlete entry limits for U23/Open/Youth/U17 races.

WEIGH-INS (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

There **will not** be athlete weigh-ins for Youth or U17 events. There will be athlete weigh-ins for both coxswain and lightweight rowers in open and U23 events at the 2026 USRowing RowFest National Championships.

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWERS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

- Weigh-ins for lightweights will be conducted each morning of the regatta. The official weigh in window will be posted once entries close.
- Lightweights need only weigh in once for the duration of the July 11-14 racing at RowFest.
 - If you are racing during the masters portion of the regatta (July 16-19), competitors must weigh in again.
- Lightweights must weigh in at least one full hour before their first race.
- Prior to weighing in, lightweights must know what race(s) they are registered for in order to match credentialing. Lightweights must bring a full written list of events they are registered in.
- Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footwear.

- Each Rower shall have only one (1) initial opportunity to weigh in. A Rower within one (1.0) pound or less of the weight standard is allowed one (1) re-weigh within the same window as their initial opportunity. A Rower whose initial weight is greater than one (1.0) pound above the weight standard will be ineligible to compete in ALL events that the athlete is planned to compete in that day. If an athlete does not make weight on one day, they may still attempt weigh-ins for any subsequent days in which they are scheduled to compete.
- Competitors who fail to weigh in during the Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be deemed ineligible to race that day.
- Normally occurring regatta delays do not create an "Adjusted Weigh-in Window." Only official schedule changes, which are posted by regatta officials.
- Lightweight Men: Max 160 lbs. (no average)
- Lightweight Women: Max 130 lbs. (no average)

COXSWAINS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

- Weigh-ins for coxswains will be conducted each morning of the regatta. The official weigh in window will be posted once entries close.
- Coxswains need only weigh in once for the duration of the July 11-14 racing at RowFest.
 - If you are racing during the masters portion of the regatta (July 16-19), competitors must weigh in again.
- Coxswains must weigh in at least one full hour before their first race.
- Prior to weighing in, coxswains must know what race(s) they are registered for in order to match credentialing. Coxswains must bring a full written list of events that are registered in.
- Coxswains should bring their own weight. Sand will NOT be available. Weighted vests cannot be worn as deadweight.
- Coxswains shall be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. Credentials must be presented prior to the weigh-in procedure.
- If a coxswain is subsequently added to an event, they are responsible for notifying the weigh-in officials, so their records can be updated.
- The weigh-in must be observed and conducted by a referee in order for it to be official, and the referee will issue the appropriate wristband indicating that a competitor has completed an official weigh-in.
- Coxswains failing to meet the minimum weight standards listed below shall carry deadweight in order to achieve the minimum weight in accordance with the 2026 USRowing Rules of Rowing.
- Coxswain for Men's and Mixed Events: Minimum 120 lbs.
- Coxswain for Women's Events: Minimum 110 lbs.

AFFILIATION (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

A competitor shall represent only one organization at the regatta.

COMPOSITE ENTRIES

Crews made up of representatives from different clubs must be entered as composite crews.

The affiliation of each member of the crew must be submitted when the crew is registered.

Competitors are allowed to represent one organization at this regatta.

Composite crews are not required to wear matching uniforms or have matching oar blade designs.

Composite crews are not eligible to earn points toward team point trophies.

TEAM POINT TROPHIES (U23/OPEN/YOUTH/U17)

Team point trophies will be awarded to the teams that earn the most points in men's and women's events, respectively. 500-meter races will not be included in the team points, but both 2,000-meter and 1,000-meter races will be included in the team points.

Point Titles:

- **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.



Points shall be as follows: **(U23/Open/Youth/U17)**

Boat Class	Points for 1st Place in Final
1x	10
2x, 2-	15
4+, 4-, 4x	20
8+	30

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

Composite crews and international crews are not eligible to earn points toward team point trophies.

Crews affiliated with USRowing Development Camps, Pre-Elite Camps, or similar entities are ineligible to receive team point trophies.

In order to be eligible for the Overall Team Points Trophy for the U23/Open/Youth/U17 events, the total points earned by an organization in the events of one gender shall not comprise less than 33% of the total points awarded. The Colgan Cup will be awarded to the overall team winner in the U23/Open/Youth/U17 events.





34

MASTERS RACE RULES

Rules under this section are to be specifically applied to Masters races only. These races will take place from July 16- July 19, 2026. Athletes in these age categories are encouraged to compete in any other events, that they meet the definitions and rules of, throughout the entire nine-day RowFest in MI.

COURSE INFORMATION

The official race distance for Masters Rowfest National Championships events will be conducted over 1,000- meters.

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Masters racing will follow a heats and finals progression. Presently, we are planning on racing in eight fully buoyed lanes.

Each event will go through its entire progression on the same day. Heats will take place in the morning leading into finals the same afternoon.

Races that have only one or two entries may be combined with other events.

Events that list multiple age categories (like Men's Open AA-A 4x or Men's Open B-C 4-) may be split into multiple events if the number of entries would require multiple age categories to compete against each other in heats to advance to a final. Splitting events will depend on time available in the schedule.

Example: The Men's Open B-C 4- has 10 boats entered: four boats in the "B" age class and six boats in the "C" age class. The schedule may be altered to hold separate Men's Open B 4- and Men's Open C 4- races.

In this situation, or any Masters races, a race would not apply handicap times.

PROGRESSION

Entries	Heats	Advance	Final
3-8	-	-	Final Only
9-16	2	4	Grand Final
17-24	3	2	Grand Final
25-32	4	2	Grand Final

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.

ENTRY LIMITS (MASTERS)

There is an eight-entry race limit per masters athlete. When entries close and if there are available open lanes in the tentative schedule, athletes may be allowed to enter those events even if it takes them above the eight-race limit. We will not add heats to accommodate the additional entries.

WEIGH-INS (MASTERS)

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWERS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

- Weigh-ins for lightweights will be conducted each morning of the regatta. The official weigh in window will be posted once entries close.
- Lightweights need only weigh in once for the duration of the July 16-19 racing at RowFest. If you are racing during the U23/Youth/Open/U17 portion of the regatta (July 11-14), competitors must weigh in again for masters racing.
- Lightweights must weigh in at least one full hour before their first race.
- Prior to weighing in, lightweights must know what race(s) they are registered for in order to match credentialing. Lightweights must bring a full written list of events they are registered in.
- Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footgear.
- Each Rower shall have only one (1) initial opportunity to weigh in. A Rower within one (1.0) pound or less of the weight standard is allowed one (1) re-weigh within the same window as their initial opportunity. A Rower whose initial weight is greater than one (1.0) pound above the weight standard will be ineligible to compete in ALL events that the athlete is planned to compete in that day. If an athlete does not make weight on one day, they may still attempt weigh-ins for any subsequent days in which they are scheduled to compete.
- Competitors who fail to weigh in during the Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be deemed ineligible to race that day.
- Normally occurring regatta delays do not create an "Adjusted Weigh-in Window." Only official schedule changes, which are posted by regatta officials.
- Lightweight Men: Max 160 lbs. (no average)
- Lightweight Women: Max 130 lbs. (no average)

COXSWAINS WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

- Weigh-ins for coxswains will be conducted each morning of the regatta. The official weigh in window will be posted once entries close.
- Coxswains need only weigh in once for the duration of the July 16-19 racing at RowFest.
 - If you are racing during the U23/Youth/Open/U17 portion of the regatta (July 11-14), competitors must weigh in again.
- Coxswains must weigh in at least one full hour before their first race.
- Prior to weighing in, coxswains must know what race(s) they are registered for in order to match credentialing. Coxswains must bring a full written list of events that are registered in.

- Coxswains should bring their own weight. Sand will NOT be available. Weighted vests cannot be worn as deadweight.
- Coxswains shall be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. Credentials must be presented prior to the weigh-in procedure.
- If a coxswain is subsequently added to an event, they are responsible for notifying the weigh-in officials, so their records can be updated.
- The weigh-in must be observed and conducted by a referee in order for it to be official, and the referee will issue the appropriate wristband indicating that a competitor has completed an official weigh-in.
- Coxswains failing to meet the minimum weight standards listed below shall carry deadweight in order to achieve the minimum weight in accordance with the 2026 USRowing Rules of Rowing.
- Coxswain for Men’s and Mixed Events: Minimum 120 lbs.
- Coxswain for Women’s Events: Minimum 110 lbs.

AFFILIATION (MASTERS)

A competitor shall represent only one organization at a regatta.

If you are competing for entries with multiple organizations, you must represent only one organization in all entries. Entries with other crews must be entered as composite crews, and your affiliation must be registered with your original organization.

Coxswains must represent one organization but having a coxswain from another organization in a crew does not make it a composite entry. However, crews entered in “Club” events must have a coxswain that meets the criteria for a “Club” event.

CLUB EVENTS (MASTERS)

To compete in Club Event races, all members of the crew (including coxswains) must be from the same club and live within 50 miles of that club.

MEDALS

Gold, silver, and bronze medals shall be awarded regardless of the number of entries in the event. When a race consists of only one entrant per age category, a gold medal will automatically be awarded upon completion of the race.

In a race where it is labeled a single age category, for example, “Masters D 1x”, medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place out of all competitors. Additional medals will not be given on top of the first, second and third place competitors to competitors who may be competing from a different age category.

In a race where it is labeled for multiple age categories, for example 'Women's Open G-K 4+,' medals will be given to the first, second, and third place for each individual age category (G, H, I, J, and K, in this example).

EVENT & TEAM POINT TROPHIES

Competitors who are in possession of trophies from previous USRowing RowFest Masters National Championships are responsible for returning those trophies no later than the first day of competition to the USRowing tent.

Competitors returning trophies must bring the trophy to the registration desk. If not returned, the team associated with the trophy will be charged for the missing trophy.

If you are unable to bring your trophy to the regatta, you must ship the trophy to the venue by July 1, 2026.

The following trophies will be awarded to organizations based upon the points earned by that organizations crews in Masters events each year.

The **OVERALL POINT TROPHY** is awarded to organizations that earn points in men's, women's, and mixed events. The total points shall be the sum of points awarded in all men's women's, and mixed events for all age categories. Points must be earned in no less than two of the three gender categories (men's, women's, mixed). Therefore, organizations that receive no points in the events of two gender categories receive no points for the Overall Points Trophy.

The **MEN'S ALL-EVENT TROPHY** is awarded based on aggregate points received in all men's events for all age categories.

The **WOMEN'S ALL-EVENT TROPHY** is awarded based on aggregate points received in all women's events for all age categories.

The **EFFICIENCY TROPHY** is awarded based on aggregate points received towards the Overall Point Trophy with the fewest number of registered competitors, with a 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.

The **CLUB EVENT TROPHY** is awarded based on the aggregate points received in all "Club" events for all categories.



Points shall be awarded as follows:

Boat Class	Points for 1st Place in Final
1x	10
2x, 2-	15
4+, 4-, 4x	20
8+	30

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





40

NON-NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

500-METER SPRINTS

Join us for an exhilarating 500-meter sprints racing event. This event will feature a single & quad race, one of each for both men and women, where athletes will compete to be the champion of the 500m sprints. Boats will compete in a thrilling race culminating in one victorious boat claiming the top prize in each category. Compete to win a new, unique, and bright RowFest night sprints award!

- **YOUTH, U17, U23, AND OPEN** join us for 500-meter sprints racing event Tuesday, July 14. **Race times will be posted closer to the event.** Come decked out in your best neon, glow in the dark, outfit for the opportunity to win a best-dressed prize!
- **MASTERS** join us for a night of 500-meter sprints racing event Thursday, July 16. **Race times will be posted closer to the event.** Come decked out in your best neon outfit for the opportunity to win a best-dressed prize!

Please note that there are not any stadium lights at Ford Lake Park, so we will host 500-meter sprints while we have day light.

Registration will open for the 500-meter sprints on July 6 and will stay open until all events are full.

RACE PROGRESSION #1 (1x)

Boat Class: Womens 1x - Race 1 / Round 1				
Womens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 1	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Womens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 2	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Womens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 3	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final

Boat Class: Womens 1x - Final Round		
Womens 1x	TBD p.m.	Final

Boat Class: Mens 1x - Race 2 / Round 1				
Mens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 1	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Mens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 2	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Mens 1x	TBD p.m.	Heat 3	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final

Boat Class: Mens 1x - Final Round		
Mens 1x	TBD p.m.	Final

RACE PROGRESSION #2 (4X)

Boat Class: Womens 4x - Race 1 / Round 1				
Womens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 1	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Womens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 2	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Womens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 3	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final

Boat Class: Womens 4x - Final Round		
Womens 4x	TBD p.m.	Final

Boat Class: Mens 4x - Race 2 / Round 1				
Mens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 1	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Mens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 2	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final
Mens 4x	TBD p.m.	Heat 3	6 boats	2 to Bracket Final

Boat Class: Mens 4x - Final Round		
Mens 4x	TBD p.m.	Final





43

VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE

**9075 S HURON RIVER DR
YPSILANTI, MI 48198**



REGISTRATION

The USRowing Registration Tent will be open at the following hours for teams to pick up their race packets:

Friday, July 10 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 11 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Sunday, July 12 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Monday, July 13 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Tuesday, July 14 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Wednesday, July 15 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Friday, July 17 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Saturday, July 18 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

Sunday, July 19 – 6:00 a.m. - end of racing

PARKING INFORMATION

Each team will receive one complimentary coach parking pass that gets them continued access to Ford Lake Park. All other vehicles will pay at the entrance of the park and then staff and volunteers will assist with showing them where to park. Each vehicle will pay \$10.00 in cash per day / per vehicle.

[TRAFFIC PATTERN MAPS](#)

Please see traffic pattern maps [HERE](#).

[TRAILERS & BOAT STORAGE](#)

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

Trailers may arrive at the venue during the following time frames. If your trailer arrives outside of the below parking windows, you must park your trailer offsite and then come back when trailer parking is open. When arriving, a staff member will direct you to your trailer parking spot and your boat lay down area.

Friday, July 10 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

July 11-14 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

July 16-19 - 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

[TEAM TENT INFORMATION](#)

More information coming soon!

[EVENT LIVESTREAM](#)

Find the event livestream on www.Overnght.com.





46

PRACTICE & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRACTICE

Practice will be available at the following times during RowFest.

Friday, July 10 – TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Saturday, July 11 – No practice available.

Sunday, July 12 – Evening practice may be available once entries close.

Monday, July 13 – No practice available.

Tuesday, July 14 – No practice available.

Wednesday, July 15 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16 – No practice available.

Friday, July 17 – No practice available.

Saturday, July 18 – No practice available.

Sunday, July 19 – No practice available.

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.





48

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®

ROWFEST'26

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS • YPSILANTI – ANN ARBOR, MI

