

**Opening Day Regatta / Windermere Cup  
Rules and Policies for the Masters Events**

11/14/2019

**Application and Selection Timeline:**

Northwest masters rowing clubs shall apply to participate in the regatta based on the following timeline:

- February 1: Application sent to each club's authorized representative
- February 15: Regatta application must be submitted by 12:00 noon
- March 1: Clubs will be notified of selection and invited to register on Regatta Central
- March 15: Regatta Central registration must be completed by 12:00 noon
- One week prior to regatta: Lineups uploaded to Regatta Central, lanes assigned by random draw
- Regatta is the first Saturday in May

**Events:**

SYC Rowing Committee has established the following events to be raced on a recurring annual basis. A total of eight masters' race starts with four lanes each start:

Women	Men
30+ 8	30+ 8
40+ 8	40+ 8
50+ 8	50+ 8
60+ 8	60+ 8

**Club Entry Selection:**

Entries for each event will be selected based upon the following policies:

- **Entries Are Not Automatic** - Clubs must apply for each event they would like to compete.
- **Selection Priority** - Clubs will be selected to each event in three tiers: Guaranteed Entry, Priority Entry, and Lottery Entry.
  - Guaranteed Entry: The first slot per event is offered to the club that won the same event at Opening Day the prior year.
  - Priority Entries: The second and third slots per event are selected from clubs that applied for same event the prior year but were not selected, and clubs that finished within 3% of fastest time for same event at the most recent Head of the Lake regatta (HOTL)\*.
  - Lottery Entry: The final slot per event is selected from all other entries, including unselected Priority entries.
  - Waitlist Entry: A fifth club will be identified to backfill in the event a selected fails to register.

*\* For Priority Entries, a club receives a ballot in the Priority Pool if it applied for the same event the prior year, but was not selected. A club also receives a ballot for each boat finishing within top 3% of the same event at HOTL. Therefore a club may have multiple ballots in the Priority Pool for selection to a specific event. The 3% factor shall be based on raw time plus penalties but no age handicap. Since regatta age brackets don't fully align, HOTL masters 8s results (US Rowing age brackets) earn priority ballots as follows: AA&A for 30+, B&C for 40+, D&E for 50+, and F+ for 60+.*

- **Club Eligibility** - Clubs must be registered as Organizational Members of US Rowing as of the application date. All clubs must have a physical presence (boathouse facilities and rower residency) within British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
- **Maximum Entries per Club** - For each event, only one boat per club. A club may not have more than six masters' entries total in the regatta for a given year.
- **Clubs Within a Club** - Clubs within a shared boathouse may apply and compete as separate clubs.
- **No Composite Boats** - All rowers must be registered with US Rowing as a member of the club named on the entry, live in the metropolitan area of that club, and row with that club on a regular basis (at least one day per week). If mixed gender events are scheduled, the boat may include two clubs (one club for each gender).
- **No-Show Penalty** – To discourage clubs from applying or registering for more events than they can compete, a no-show penalty applies. If a club applies for and is selected to compete in a specific event, but fails to register for that event prior to the March 15 deadline, the SYC Rowing Committee will offer entry to that event to the waitlist club. If by April 1 the entry remains unfilled, the club originally selected to that event is barred from that specific event the following year. Any club scratching after April 1, whether the entry is backfilled or not, is also barred from that specific event the following year.
- **Master Rowers** - All rowers must be Master category per Rule 4-104.1(d) of the US Rowing Rules of Rowing, as may be amended by the SYC Rowing Committee regatta rules.
- **SYC Discretion** - As the masters' regatta host, SYC Rowing Committee reserves the option to amend or waive these policies in its sole discretion.

FAQ's on the following page

## FAQ's

### ***Why only 8s for the masters' events?***

With a limited number of starts, rower participation is maximized racing 8s rather than smaller boats such as 4x. If additional starts become available in the future, we will strive to add 4x masters events.

### ***Why are the events now fixed, rather than changing every year?***

We wanted to eliminate uncertainty about which events will occur each year, and we wanted to introduce a guaranteed entry for the prior years' event winner. Fixed events also eliminates the confusion introduced by the survey process used in the past and allows crew selection to occur earlier in the year.

### ***Why is there a Priority Entry process?***

The Priority Entry selection process improves the odds of participating each year based on the competitive results of the club, and also provides improved odds to clubs not selected the prior year. We chose the Head of the Lake Regatta results as the best indicator of each club's competitive participation in a large regional regatta.

### ***Why don't you let in crews from outside of the Northwest?***

As a celebration of Northwest masters' rowing, the regatta is committed to the clubs and rowers based in our region. By special invitation from the SYC Rowing Committee, the regatta may periodically include crews based outside of the Northwest.

### ***Who "owns" the club's entries?***

The club named on the entry owns each entry and is responsible for its members' participation. Crew selection within each club is up to the internal processes of each club.

### ***Why are there no mixed gender events?***

The event selection was based upon the highest demand events within the masters' rowing community. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of masters' regatta starts, we are not able to accommodate mixed gender events at this time. If additional starts become available in the future, we will strive to add mixed gender events.

### ***Who runs Opening Day and the Windermere Cup?***

Opening Day and the Windermere Cup is a collaboration of the University of Washington, Seattle Yacht Club, and Windermere Real Estate. Key contacts include:

- Log boom moorage: University of Washington (uwharbor@uw.edu)
- Junior and collegiate regatta selection: University of Washington (kellersw@uw.edu)
- Masters regatta selection: Seattle Yacht Club (rowing@seattleyachtclub.org)
- Opening Day boat parade: Seattle Yacht Club (paradedirector@seattleyachtclub.org)