

Head of the Riverfront, Hartford Connecticut, Sponsored by Riverfront Recapture

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Riverfront Recapture is a 28-year-old non-profit in Hartford, CT that was created to restore access to the city's riverfront through park construction and planning, and to attract people to the riverfront by offering sporting, entertainment, and cultural events. Each year in early October, beginning in 1998, we host a head style regatta offering competition on the Connecticut River for high school, collegiate, and masters rowers.

Regatta Registration

We accept all entries on a first-come, first-served basis to a cap of 500 entries, after which entries will be accepted based on the space constraints of our race venue. You must enter online via www.roninracing.com. Entries made online with Ronin Racing will be treated as conditional until Ronin Racing confirms that you have paid all applicable entry fees in US dollars on-line by credit card or by check. Remember, Ronin must receive your complete entry and your payment before our entry deadline.

Following the registration deadline or at the point the entry cap has been met, additional waitlisted entries will be evaluated based on our ability to accommodate them, and upon acceptance also be subject to the late entry fee. Registrants are encouraged to not wait until the last days before the deadline to enter.

Each competitor must execute an official Rowing Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement (the "Waiver") to row in our regatta. Among other things, the Waiver releases the Head of the Riverfront Regatta from all liability claims, damages and losses. Team waivers can be completed at www.rowingwaiver.com.

At the time of packet pickup, Coaches or Team Representatives who register high school or college age participants in the Head of the Riverfront, are also responsible for confirming in writing (form supplied by Head of the Riverfront) that all your competitors signed the waiver forms for this event at www.rowingwaivers.com.

NOTE that all competitors who are minors (under 18) must have their Waiver executed by their parent and/or legal guardian.

Race packets are available for pick up beginning at 7:00AM the day of the race at the registration tent at Charter Oak Landing for all crews and competitors launching from that park, and beginning at 8:00AM the day of the race at Great River Park in East Hartford for scullers using the car-top launch area. Be sure to select your appropriate launch site from the drop-down menu during registration so your race packets can be waiting for you.

Refund Policy

In the event we must completely cancel the regatta, we will offer a refund of 50 percent of the payments. This only applies to a complete cancellation, not for the need to delay, shorten, or modify the number of events.

General Rules

All competitors may participate in multiple events. All competitors must be eligible for the event-division in which they are competing.

Safety

Coaches and participants are reminded that participation in the Regatta involves a moderate risk of injury and/or property damage. While Head of the Riverfront and Riverfront Recapture will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of participants, officials and volunteers, participation in the Regatta is at one's own risk and responsibility for claims deriving from personal injury, damage, or loss.

Each boat shall have a firmly affixed bow ball. Each set of foot gear shall have heel tie-downs that do not permit the heel to rise more than three inches to enable a quick exit in the case of a boat capsizing. In fours with lie-down coxswain enclosures, the width of the enclosure shall be sufficient to allow easy exit by the coxswain.

Contestants should be aware that the Connecticut is a tidal river and that the current is extremely variable. Following heavy rains, the current can be very fast and may contain debris. The race will be against the current.

Seeding/Race Order

Marshals will be positioned in launches in the starting area for the purpose of organizing participating crews above the start into the proper starting order and time interval. Boats must be in the starting area in sequential start order at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time – late starts will not be permitted.

At the start, crews will be called to the start chute on approximately ten second intervals. Starting order shall be determined by random draw after the top ten finishers from the previous year's regatta have been seeded.

Crews shall be responsible for maintaining their proper starting position, for maintaining the proper interval between themselves and other crews and for aligning themselves in the starting chute.

For safety purposes and efficiency of starting boats, the committee asks coaches to please refrain from sending unsafe coxswains out on the water. If, in the judgment of the Dockmaster or Start Marshal, a coxswain is considered unsafe the boat will not be allowed to race. All coxswains are strongly encouraged to attend the coach & coxswain meeting the morning of the event.

Hot-seating (of equipment and personnel) will be performed at the crew's risk of missing an event. Competitors are responsible for allowing sufficient time to race in one event, land, re-queue, and launch in time for an additional event. Under no circumstances will the start of an event be held up waiting for a late boat. The Head of the Riverfront Regatta accepts no responsibility for missed start times.

Unless otherwise officially informed by the chief referee or regatta control, all boats should assume that the regatta is running on time and in accordance with the pre-published schedule of start times. Accordingly, all boats, must launch in time to report to the marshals above the start line, and to be marshaled by them, no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time for their event. We recommend launching from Charter Oak Landing no later than 40 minutes from start time (or adjust your launch time from other launch sites).

Course Description and Traffic Patterns

The start line is located approximately two miles downstream from the boat launching area. The approximately 3-mile racecourse runs North UP RIVER in the center. The gray building and the dock at Goodwin College on the east side of the River marks the approximate 1-mile point; the area of the Charter Oak Park launching area jetty is roughly 2 miles. The finish line is just south of the Founders Bridge. (The course map is available at www.riverfront.org)

Boats launching from Charter Oak Landing are required to keep to the west side of the river while proceeding to the start. Note that the East side of the river also has a travel lane for the convenience and safety of scullers launching from Great River and for crews launching from the Trinity College boathouse.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: A crew is deemed to be overtaking another crew when it has moved to within one length of open water of the crew ahead. On the portions of the course that are straight, a crew being overtaken shall move to starboard and allow the overtaking crew to pass on the port side. Within a turn, a crew being overtaken shall move to the outside of the

turn and allow the overtaking crew to pass along the shorter path.

FINISH: Participants must pass the finish line buoys at the Riverfront Plaza and proceed under the Founders Bridge toward the Bulkely Bridge past the buoy before turning around. Return traffic to Charter Oak Landing will stay to the west side of the River, with the exception of scullers returning to Great River Park and crews approved for launch and return from the Trinity College Boathouse on the east side of the River, or those continuing north to Riverfront's Boathouse at Riverside Park.

Classifications

High school: A high school rower, sculler or coxswain is one who will not be more than 19 years old by December 31 the year of the event and who is enrolled full time at a high school or equivalent entity (such as a private secondary school.)

Note: HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR COACHES AND ROWERS— Due to NCAA legislation prohibiting collegiate and junior rowers from competing in the same event, junior rowers may not row up and may only race in events designated as Junior. The Regatta values the participation of both college and high school athletes, while not jeopardizing their ability to compete in future intercollegiate contests.

Novice: First calendar year of competitive rowing by type, i.e., sweeping or sculling, having begun rowing no earlier than June of the same year as the regatta. Experience in sculling events does not count as experience in sweep events and vice versa.

Collegiate: Must be currently enrolled full-time at a college, university, or community college.

College Novice: A college novice rower is one who is enrolled full time in undergraduate study at a college or university and who, started rowing at the collegiate level the same fall of this event.

Masters and Veterans: Must be over the age of 21 as of December 31st, year of the event. Age as of December 31, year of the event, rounded down to the highest contained integer, governs, as applicable, both the age-group category and the time adjustment of a given boat in our Masters/Veterans events. A Masters or Veterans single sculler or crew may compete in a lower (younger) age category. No Masters single sculler or crew may compete in a higher (older) age category.

Master/Veteran: For singles, these events will be run in 10-year increments except for the first category: 27-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70-79. There is no handicapping within 10-year increments. Medals will be awarded in each 10-year category. For larger boats, a handicap will be calculated for each crew based on handicap tables, as adjusted for the distance.

Men's divisions are for male participants only. Women's divisions are for female participants only. Coxswains may be of either sex. Masters' coxswains may be any age. Mixed 8+ event crews must contain a minimum of 50% female rowers.

COXSWAINS: There is no weigh-in requirement for coxswains.

Penalties

- 1) Where buoys mark the boundaries of the course, and in particular mark turns on the course, a crew shall be penalized 20 seconds for each buoy that the crew passes incorrectly. A crew passes a buoy incorrectly when any part of its hull passes on the wrong side of the buoy.
- 2) A crew that misses its correct order at the start shall be penalized 10 seconds.

- 3) A crew that fails to yield to a crew being summoned to the starting area, or that otherwise interferes with the staging of the start, may be penalized 10 seconds by the Marshal or Starter.
- 4) A crew that fails to yield to a crew having proper right of way shall be penalized 30 seconds.
- 5) A crew that crosses the starting line without its required bow number may be penalized 30 seconds

Any crew or competitor who capsizes, swamps, or must be pulled from the water prior to or during their event MUST do as directed by regatta staff, whether that is to return to a safe dock area or be cleared to proceed to racing.

PROTESTS: Any protest must be submitted to the registration desk as soon as the crew is back on land.

Awards

Awards will be distributed throughout the day, after the posting of the official results for an event, at the registration tent at Charter Oak Landing (no medals will be distributed at Great River Park or other launch sites). Any awards not collected at the regatta will be sent afterwards to each boat's coach or team representative.

Our Venues

BOAT TRAILERS: Trailers may be parked at the park overnight. Trailers may arrive beginning at Noon on Saturday, and are parked on a space-available basis filling the parking lot from the cul-de-sac at the launch and return dock area along the driveway to the park entrance. Although not required, it is encouraged that the towing vehicle be unhitched and removed from the trailer parking area to maximize the space for trailers and crews for rigging of equipment. Charter Oak Landing closes its gates at sunset on Saturday, so trailers arriving on Saturday must do so prior to 6:00PM. The gates will reopen at 5:00AM on Sunday morning of the event. Due to limited parking it is suggested that teams make every effort to share trailers with other clubs or teams participating at the regatta.

SCULLERS: Due to limited parking at Charter Oak Landing in Hartford, only trailers are allowed to park at this site; singles and doubles arriving on boat trailers will launch from Charter Oak. Car-and truck-topped singles and doubles will wet-dock at Great River Park in East Hartford. This site is conducive to wet-docking, within eye-shot of finish line, and is about a 20 minute walk (via foot-path and bridge) to Charter Oak Landing in Hartford. Race packets/registration materials will be available for scullers at either the Hartford or East Hartford launch sites; please be sure to select your appropriate launch site from the drop-down menu during registration so your race packets can be waiting for you. Please consult course map and be diligent about not straying onto course while rowing to the start.

UTILITY TRAILERS, "Hospitality" trailers, and vans with crew tents etc:

All utility trailers are encouraged to park and unload at Charter Oak Landing Saturday afternoon from noon-6pm. All utility trailers must expect to unload their contents and remove the trailer and the vehicle towing it, and then will be directed to the special parking area designated for them within the park. Crews should not assume they would have easy access to these vehicles nor plan to bring them back into the park until the completion of the regatta on Sunday afternoon. Tents (see below for City of Hartford restrictions on grilling) may be set up along the river at Charter Oak Landing, locations available on a first-come, space available basis, both adjacent to the trailer parking area near the Charter Oak Bridge overpass and north toward the gazebo. There is overnight security in the park.

All remaining utility trailers must be in the park before 7:30AM on Sunday. The park will open at 5:00AM. After 7:30AM trailers may be turned away.

Passenger vehicles, team vans or buses, or any vehicle other than boat trailers and tow vehicle WILL NOT be permitted into Charter Oak Landing at any time after 5:00AM on Sunday of the event. All vehicles will be directed to designated parking areas.

Notice: Hartford has unique rules regarding camp fires and tents as follows: All tents must be staked to the ground; No charcoal grills are allowed; If using a gas grill under a tent, the tent must have a fire retardant certificate. (All "E-Z Ups" and most tents do have these.) If your tent is not fire retardant you should operate your gas grill away from the tent.

Overnight Security: While the Regatta provides security for the Charter Oak Landing launch site for the night of Saturday prior to the Sunday regatta, this in no way guarantees the safety of the competitor's equipment. No overnight security is provided at Great River Park in East Hartford.

Directions to all Riverfront Recapture parks can be found at www.riverfront.org.

Regatta Contact information

Deputy Regatta Director: Gretchen Gregg

Contact the Regatta Directors at 860.841.7952 or riverfrontregatta@sbcglobal.net

If you need help with registration questions you may contact Mary Hobart at 860.729.1031 or riverfrontregatta@sbcglobal.net. If you have trailering questions or need information about the venues, you may contact Gretchen Gregg 860.841.7952 or riverfrontregatta@sbcglobal.net.

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