



St Catharine's College Boat Club

Cardinals Regatta 2020 - Thursday 12th March Racing Rules (as of 11th February 2020)

1. All crews must read the race rules before competing. We ask that you note in particular rules 23 and 31 regarding footplates and the consumption of alcohol.
2. The Regatta will be raced from the downstream post at the bottom of the Long Reach to the Pink House. The course may be altered at the umpires' discretion should a houseboat or other such object present itself along the course. If a Mixed Tubs (2+/++) division is held, it will be raced along a shortened course.
3. There will be two divisions: Mixed IV+ and Mixed VIII+ (with the potential for a Mixed 2+/++). Prizes will be awarded to the winning crew from each division. All crews should approximately equally mixed with no empty seats. Penalties may be awarded to any boat with more men than women at the senior umpire's discretion.
4. There will be Marshals stationed at the Start (downstream spinning post on the Long Reach), the Finish (the Pink House), along the Plough Reach, at the Green Dragon footbridge, P&E and railway bridge. In the interests of safety, marshals' instructions are to be obeyed at all times and failure to do so may result in disqualification. Umpires will be at the Start, Finish and cycling along the Long Reach during the race.
5. The Senior Umpire's decision is final in all matters relating to conduct during the Regatta and no correspondence will be entered into. All disputes must be voiced to the Umpire based at the Start.
6. Boats rowing down to the start must report to the Marshal before the Railway Bridge at least 30 minutes before they are due to race. Crews will likely be required to pull into the bank upstream of the Railway Bridge to allow racing to finish before they proceed to the Start marshals.
7. Boats must be at the Start and report to the Start Marshal at least 10 minutes before their race time. Marshals will be present around Ditton Corner and the Plough Reach to direct traffic. Late arrivals and competing boats going downstream of Grassy Corner may be disqualified. Any bribery should be directed to the Ditton Corner Marshal and will then be reported to the Start Marshal.

8. Boats intending to scratch their crews should inform a member of the Cardinals Committee as soon as possible by text or email. If you scratch a boat on the day itself then either call or text a committee member. The committee consists of Rory Cockshaw (rc794, 07930639205), Steffen Dreher (sd866) and Max Luedecke (fmchl2, 07756720121).
9. The first crew listed in each pair of the draw will race on the meadow side of the Long Reach; the second crew listed will race on the towpath side.
10. The Start:
 - a. Mixed VIII+: The start will be a *standing* non-stakeboat start, which will be ordered when both coxes indicate that they are ready by lowering their arms. The start will be ordered by the call: 'Both crews come forward... Attention... Go.' Coxes should raise their arm if they do not consider themselves straight and level. After the start signal, Stern Pair must back the boat down once. Crews can then start rowing toward the finish line.
 - b. Mixed IV+: The start will be a *standing* non-stakeboat start, which will be ordered when both coxes indicate that they are ready by lowering their arms. All rowers will start with their feet out and will be asked to prove this before the start call. The start will be ordered by the call: 'Both crews come forward... Attention... Go.' Coxes should raise their arm if they do not consider themselves straight and level.
 - c. Tubs+/++: The start will be a *standing* non-stakeboat start, which will be ordered when both coxes indicate that they are ready by lowering their arms. One crew member must be standing at the start. The start will be ordered by the call: 'Both crews come forward... Attention... Go.' Coxes should raise their arm if they do not consider themselves straight and level.
11. All crews competing in the Mixed VIII and Mixed IV categories must row even rounds with one rowing pair taking the run at all times.
12. Rounds are identified with numbers. The first round is round number 1.
13. At the discretion of the Ditton Corner Marshal and following suitable bribery (see rule 7), crews may be exempted from rule number 11.
14. Any crew in full fancy dress will be awarded half-length head start. If both crews are in full fancy dress, then this award will either be nullified or awarded to the crew deemed to have the best fancy dress by the Start Marshal.

15. A crew may be disqualified in the event of a false start at the discretion of the Start Marshal.
16. Boats will race side-by-side and must keep to their starting stations throughout the race irrespective of the position of the opposition. If a boat moves off-station or take the opposition's water, it will be warned to move back on-station by the whistle, crew name or station as sounded by the Race Marshal. If the Marshal's instructions are disregarded, then the offending crew will be disqualified. One whistle for the towpath side boat, two whistles for the meadow side boat, continuous whistles for both boats.
17. In the event of equipment failure at any point during the race, the race will continue. It is the responsibility of the crews entering to ensure that their equipment is in working order prior to and during the race.
18. Subject to disqualification, the first boat to pass the finish line with its bow will be declared the winner. A dead heat will be awarded if the distance between the bows of the competing boats at the finish line is less than two feet. This will result in a re-row that will take place over the full Regatta course at the end of the division. There will be no limit on the number of re-rows that can be awarded at the discretion of the Finish Marshal.
19. After the race has finished, both crews should continue rowing away from the Finish. The losing crew should return home and the winning crew should row to the marshal at Peter's Posts to receive instructions about their next race.
20. In the interests of safety, bank parties are restricted to two persons on bicycles per crew. The use of loudhailers, whistles, air horns etc. is prohibited and disregarding this regulation will result in the disqualification of the crew involved.
21. The final and semi-final of the Vllls division will be raced on a different course to the previous divisions. The semi-final rounds will be a novel race style that will be announced on the day. The fastest 2 crews from the semi-final will advance to the final. The Senior Umpire will calculate the middle of the previous course. The finalists will then start from the middle point; one crew will race to the Pink House and the other will race to the downstream spinning post. The crews will then spin and return to the starting point, which is now the finish line. The first crew whose bow ball crosses the finish line will be declared the winner. Rule 15 regarding re-rows will still be in effect. During this race crews should adhere to the usual navigation rules (the near bank should be on the right hand side of the boat at all times).
22. In the event of the CUCBC flag being red or yellow, continuation of racing will be decided in discussion with CUCBC officers, and will be communicated via email, web, at St Catharine's Boat House or verbally to crews at boat houses or on the river.

23. Lifejackets must be worn by coxes in accordance with the relevant CUCBC and BR regulations. Bow balls are similarly required, and the presence of heel restraints will be assumed but not necessarily checked for on every boat. **Concept 2 Footplates are not allowed unless modified to meet BR specifications. Any crew intending to use a boat with this type of foot plates must inform the race organiser at the time they submit their entry to ensure that compliance can be checked on the day.** Absence of any of the above will result in immediate disqualification.
24. Fancy dress must not interfere with the operation of lifejackets or cause any other safety concerns. Any fancy dress perceived to breach this will need to be removed or the offending crew will be told to row back to their boathouse.
25. All crews must row with the correct colour blades, i.e. those of the college for which they are entered. Crews from departments, societies etc. should inform us of the colour of their blades in the entry form.
26. The emergency stop signal will be a long blast from an air horn. This will be demonstrated to all crews prior to racing. Upon hearing this all crews must stop immediately.
27. Emergency medical aid will be provided by an ambulance stationed at the Finish.
28. Failure to obey the instructions of a Regatta Marshal (who will be easily identified by a bright fluorescent bib or jacket) at any time may result in disqualification.
29. Prizes will be awarded at an informal ceremony in the St Catharine's College Boat House on the evening of the Regatta at a time that will be communicated to crews. A prize for best fancy dress will also be awarded.
30. This Regatta is designed to be a fun event for all crews and as such, any crews taking it too seriously will be penalised. Bribery of Marshals and Umpires with edibles is not forbidden and may be required to secure victory (see rule 31 below). However, the most important aspect of the day is safety and this will not be compromised under any circumstance. Crews behaving in an unsafe or incompetent manner may be disqualified.
31. **Consumption of alcohol by competitors and on-duty Marshals is not allowed either before or during the races.** Doing so will invalidate the event insurance and result in the abortion of the race.