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HAWTHORN ROWING CLUB

## INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

Newsletter No. 1

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# HEAD OF THE YARRA

## NOVEMBER 26, 2016

**Entries close 7pm, Sunday, November 6,  
(3 weeks in advance)**

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## 1. Race Day

Race day is **Saturday, 26th November 2016.**

## 2. Closing Date for Entries and the Draw

Rowing Victoria manages Head of the Yarra entries through the Rowing Manager entry system, except for international entries. The Rowing Manager entry system will close for entries at **7pm, Sunday 6th November 2016.**

Please note that this closure is approximately 3 weeks in advance of the race.

**THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR CREWS (OTHER THAN MALE & FEMALE OPEN) WILL BE CAPPED AT 240 ON A FIRST IN BEST DRESSED BASIS.**

The provisional race draw will be posted on the Head of the Yarra website on or before **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup>. November.**

Our timelines for accepting entries and conducting the draw are summarised as:

Date	Event	
Sun, 6 Nov	HotY Entries close – 7pm	20 days before race day. Please put this in your diary and note the abnormally <b>early closing date.</b>
Tue, 15 Nov	Provisional race draw available on Head of the Yarra website	We invite all competitors to review the provisional draw and advise us of any errors and corrections required.
Thu, 17 Nov	Race draw submissions close 5pm	
Fri, 18 Nov	Final draw posted on Head of the Yarra website	No crew changes will be accepted from this point that alter the race category of the crew concerned.

### 3. Race Categories and Order for 2016

The Head of the Yarra Organising Committee is proud to announce that this year's event will include an **LTAMix8+** event.

Athletes wanting to compete in this year's **LTAMix8+** event must hold a Rowing Australia Provisional or National Class-action. If you are unsure of your classification status or require classification, please contact Rowing Australia - thuntly@rowingaustralia.com.au. All other enquiries should be directed to Lachlan Nichols - lachlan.m.nichols@hotmail.com

This year we have also added one category, **Female Masters E**. The number of race categories is 26.

#### Race Categories and Start Order for 2016

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
1	* Male Masters H+	Average age of crew is 70 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
2	* Female D	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
3	* Female C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
<b>4</b>	<b>* Female Masters E (New Event)</b>	<b>Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.</b>
5	* Female Masters F+	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
6	School Girl C	FSCH8 + 04 Year 10
7	School Boy C	FSCH8 + Year 10
8	* Female Masters D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
9	* Female Masters A,B,C	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
10	Mixed Eight E+	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers
11	Mixed Eight D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers.
12	Mixed Eight A,B,C	Average age of crew is 49 years of age or less, no minimum age for individual rowers. All crews that have an average age of 27 or under are subject to the Masters A handicap (scratch).
13	School Girl B	FSCH8 + 02 03
14	School Girl A	FSCH8 + 01

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
15	Male Masters F,G	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
16	Male Masters E	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
17	Female B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
18	Male Masters D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
19	Male Masters A,B,C	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
20	School Boy B	MSCH8 + 02, MSCH8 + 03
21	Male D	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
22	Male C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
23	School Boy A	MSCH8 + 01
24	Male B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
25	Female Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.
26	Male Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.

\* Indicates that the category result will be posted at the front of Hawthorn Rowing Club as soon as it becomes available (*NB course umpire reports / penalties may delay category results*).

For your planning, please note that it will not be possible to accommodate requests to move crews to the rear of the grid to facilitate boat / coxswain recycling. This is an outcome of racing the Head of the Yarra in race categories.

#### 4. Grid Positions

HRC wishes to implement a transparent ranking system for the HoTY race order.

It is recognised that a starting position at the front of a class is an advantage for a crew. HRC seeks to use historically based ranking to reward clubs who have supported the event and classes previously. Fastest first also should extend boat separation along the course, rather than to compress boat separation. Compressed boat separation may cause collisions and may also prejudice fair racing and the orderly conduct of the race.

Previously, an attempt was made to consider crew composition for the current entry with the previous year's result. Often the crew would

change and it would be difficult for the HOTY Organising Committee to rank multiple crews from the same club.

The entries are made by the clubs following each club's selection policy.

The requirement for 2016 will be that clubs rank their entries 1, 2, etc. 1 is the highest ranking.

For example, a club would nominate particular crew as MD8+ 1, and then the next ranked crew as MD8+ 2 and so on. This may mean that rowers in reorganised crews move up or down the rankings compared to the previous year.

Composite crews will be nominated by the club providing most rowers in crew, or if equal highest, the club providing the stroke will nominate.

Such composite crews will form part of the ranking sequence of the nominating club.

The general principle is that the ranking advantage is held by the entering club. Individuals or part crews should negotiate with their own club about ranking order if there are multiple entries in the same class. The HOTY OC will not interfere with the club ranking. Clubs should be aware that the rankings submitted at the close of entries will be final, and that it may be prudent for clubs to control entries for the race closely in order to avoid clubs being disadvantaged by conflicting entries. Best efforts will be made in 2016 to resolve such issues if they occur.

The process for 2016 will be that the clubs rank their crews and that this ranking will be linked by the HOTY OC to the finishing order of that club's boats in 2015 irrespective of individual rowers. So, the 2016 entries will be ordered by pairing with the 2015 results where possible. This linkage will create the top crew rankings for 2016. Some clubs will not enter in 2016 and their place will disappear from the 2016 race order.

Clubs with no history in the HOTY, or additional crews to the previous year's entry of a club will be randomly ordered after the club ranked crews are ordered.

The HOTY OC reserves the right to provide preferential ranking for international and representative first time crews based upon their expected performance.

The requirement for 2016 will be that clubs rank their entries 1, 2, etc. 1 is the highest ranking.

## 5. Race day time table -10:30 am race start

To help you plan your race day, we provide you with a tentative race day timetable order of events. Please note that these times are likely to change marginally and are not guaranteed.

TIME	ACTIVITY
9.30am*	<b>River closure – no crews are permitted on the Yarra River BELOW or upstream of Princes Bridge except to compete in the Head of the Yarra. Crews rowing to start line from upstream must arrive behind the start line by 10am.</b>
10.30am*	First of the approx. 200+ crews start at Henley Staging Judges Box
11.40am*	First starting crew crosses the finish line at "Bridge Road" bridge Hawthorn.
2.37pm*	Open crews start at rear of field.
3.20pm*	Last Open crew finishes.
3.40pm*	Crews wishing to row back downstream may depart the finish line staging.
3.40pm*	Regatta Secretary and Referee approve final results.
3.40pm to 4.10pm*	Presentations of winners & trophies and announcement of "Head of the Yarra"
4.15pm*	Scores of eight oared crews depart Hawthorn Rowing Club for return journey back to Princess Bridge rowing sheds
6pm or soon after*	Race results posted on <a href="http://www.headoftheyarra.com.au">www.headoftheyarra.com.au</a>

\* Indicates that the time is only indicative and subject to permit. Please note that crews will not be able to depart the finish line staging back downstream until approximately 4.15pm (subject to permit).

## 6. Entry Fees & Inclusions - \$50

Your entry fee includes

- All competitors receive a Head of the Yarra t-shirt.
- All crews are provided one Head of the Yarra program.
- Winners' medallions.
- We will not be requiring a deposit for bow/crew numbers. We have accepted the position that loss of the numbers, e.g. during a clash, is often beyond the control of a crew, and we have decided to cover the replacement costs when they go missing. We remind crews that the numbers are on loan to them, and must be returned after completion of the race.

## **7. Head of the Yarra Forum / Discussion Boards**

Please note the Head of the Yarra Forum will now be via the Head of the Yarra Facebook page.  
Refer to the Head of the Yarra Facebook page to discuss or offer/seek boats, coxswains and rowers etc.  
Please feel free to use email or Facebook to,

- ask questions
- make comments, and
- advertise club based functions (e.g. after parties).

## **8. Race Day Volunteers**

The Head of the Yarra is one of the largest annual regattas in Australia. It is preceded by 9 months of planning, and requires over 150 workers on race day.

We are seeking to recruit volunteers to help us perform the many necessary tasks on race day. We are therefore very keen to talk to people who might be interested helping us on race day, e.g.

- with general tasks not specific to a rowing event and not requiring rowing skills and experience,
- if you have rowing skills and experience and might be able to assist with race related tasks, or
- if you have specialised skills (e.g. medical or anything else that might be helpful on the day).

You might be family or friend of a competitor. Or you might be part of an interstate contingent and not be competing on the day.

In any case, we would love to hear from you – even if it is merely an enquiry about what would be involved -

[hawthornrcevents@gmail.com](mailto:hawthornrcevents@gmail.com)

## **9. Accommodation Partner – Amora Hotel Riverwalk**

Amora Hotel Riverwalk is the official accommodation partner of the HoTY. The Amora Hotel Riverwalk offers a range of affordable accommodation options, just past the finish line.

## **10. HOTY Program contributions**

If you have any photos or stories, screen shots from social media, info from other clubs we could highlight please let us know. We will try our best to put them in the program.

At least one more Head of the Yarra Information Sheet will issue before the race to up-date you on other important matters for the 2016 Head of the Yarra.