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HAWTHORN ROWING CLUB

INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

Newsletter No. 1

July 20, 2017

HEAD OF THE YARRA

NOVEMBER 25, 2017

Entries close 7pm, Sunday, November 5,
(3 weeks in advance)
EXCEPT for club/school composite crews which
CLOSE Sunday October 29
(4 Weeks in advance)

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For enquiries or further information, please go to:

www.headoftheyarra.com or contact:

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1. Raceday

Raceday is **Saturday, 25th November 2017**.

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 5th November 2017 EXCEPT for club/school composite crews**.

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

Club/school composite crew entries close 7pm, Sunday 29th October.

The earlier close date is due to additional processing.

Please note that this closure is approximately 4 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.

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

Date	Event	
Sun, 29 Oct	Club/school composite HotY Entries close – 7pm	27 days before raceday.
Sun, 5 Nov	HotY Entries (except club/school composite) close – 7pm	20 days before raceday.
Tue, 14 Nov	Provisional race draw available on Rowing Victoria website	We invite all competitors to review the provisional draw and advise us of any errors and corrections required.
Thu, 16 Nov	Race draw submissions close 5pm	
Fri, 17 Nov	Final draw posted on Rowing Victoria website	No crew changes will be accepted from this point that alter the race category of the crew concerned.

NB: No late entries accepted

3. Race Categories and Order for 2017

New categories/reordering categories

- MMH8+
- MMIJK8+
- MixF8+
- MFMixComp8+ (No age restriction, Male, Female, Mixed)

In addition, we are allowing composite school crews (small club, remainder crews)

Principles behind the new categories

3.1 The Head of the Yarra is a showcase for the best Australian and International Rowing, and the Open Classes are the culminating races of the Regatta.

The crews should be of National and International Level Standard.

Issue:

Open Class is the only class that allows adult rowers between 18 and 27 to form composite crews.

This has resulted in very disparate crews racing in a class where there should be little variation in crew speed, with resulting conflicts on the race course.

Action:

For 2017, HRC has created a class to run in the Masters bracket for rowers of any age, specifically for composite crews.

Entries will be allowed from Male, Female and Mixed. For 2017, the crews will be handicapped according to handicaps for Male, Female and Mixed for the A age group, and one set of medals will be awarded for the entire class.

HRC reserves the right to reclassify entry from the Open classes if it sees fit in the interests of high quality racing. The new class will be reviewed for 2018.

3.2 HRC wishes to encourage young rowers from smaller clubs and schools to form composite crews to race competitively in School events.

Issue:

Small clubs and crews cannot form an eight, and competitive rowers are excluded from racing.

It is not the intention to allow crews to be formed when crews could be formed from a single club or school.

This is not an avenue for a "cherry-picked" crew to race.

Action:

HRC will allow composite school and/or club crews to enter School events at the level of their choosing.

HRC reserves the right to refuse entry, reclassify entries or reallocate crews after the finish of the race if it sees fit.

Clubs and schools considering entering a composite junior crew should contact HRC in good time to allow a planned allocation. Entries for club/school composites should be made at least 4 weeks before the regatta. In following years, the entering club/school will hold a ranking position in the same manner as for sole club/school crews.

3.3 HRC wishes to encourage larger schools and clubs to consider entering composite crews after their representative crews have been selected ("remainder crews").

Issue:

Larger schools and clubs may have incomplete crews with less competitive rowers which could be amalgamated to allow rowers to gain experience, and a composite entry would facilitate rowing for those rowers.

Action:

HRC will allow composite school and/or club "remainder" crews to enter School events at the level of their choosing. HRC reserves the right to refuse entry, reclassify entries or reallocate crews after the finish of the race if it sees fit. Clubs and schools considering entering a composite "remainder" junior crew should contact HRC in good time to allow a planned allocation. Entries for club/school composites should be made at least 4 weeks before the regatta. Any "remainder" crews will be ranked at the very back of the class in order of entry.

3.4 HRC wishes to reduce the effect of handicapping on racing for crews in the Masters classes.

Issue:

The age brackets of masters racing are well established and with a narrow age range, allow for even racing. Grouped classes in the older classes, such as F-K can often have a large handicap difference between classes.

Action:

HRC will introduce more classes to allow single age group races where entries support a single group. For 2017, Male Masters will now have A-C, D, E, F, G, H, and IJK. Mixed Masters will be A-C, D, E, and F. There is no change planned for Female Masters in 2017. The classes offering for 2018 will be reviewed after the 2017 race.

The Head of the Yarra will include an **LTAMix8+** event.

Athletes wanting to complete 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

Race Categories and Start Order for 2017

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
1	School Boy A	MSCH8 + 01
2	School Boy B	MSCH8 + 02, MSCH8 + 03
3	School Boy C	FSCH8 + Year 10
4	Male Masters H	Average age of crew is 70 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
5	Male Masters IJK	Average age of crew is 75 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
6	School Girl A	FSCH8 + 01
7	School Girl B	FSCH8 + 02 03
8	School Girl C	FSCH8 + 04 Year 10
9	Male, Female, Mixed Composite (New Event)	No Age Restriction. Average age of crew is assumed to be less than 36 years.
10	Mixed Eight ABC	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).
11	Female Masters ABC	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
12	Mixed Eight D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers.
13	Female Masters D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
14	Female Masters E	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
15	Mixed Eight E	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers
16	Female Masters F+	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
17	Mixed Eight F+	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers
18	LTAMix8+	RA Criteria apply
19	Male Masters ABC	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
20	Male Masters D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
21	Male Masters E	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
22	Male Masters F	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
23	Male Masters G	Average age of crew is 65 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
24	Female D	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
25	Male D	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
26	Female C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
27	Male C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
28	Female B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
29	Male B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
30	Female Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.
31	Male Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.

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.

The entries will close for ranking purposes 3 weeks before the raceday.

Any questions regarding ranking should be directed to regattas@rowingvictoria.asn.au. Any errors in application of the following rules detected after publication of the draw should be referred to regattas@rowingvictoria.asn.au by the entering club.

Ranking will be based on the entering club's previous year's HOTY result for each class. If there was no entry for that club in that category in the previous year, then the entry is randomly assigned after the allocation of places to clubs which had raced the previous year. If there are any composite school crews nominated as remainder crews, then they will start at the very end of the ranking, after any class changes, if any. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM 2016.

The entering club will rank multiple crews in each class 1, 2, etc with 1 being the highest ranking.

Composite crews will form part of the entering club's entries for that class. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM 2016. The decision on which club should submit entries is at the discretion of the clubs.

The ranking choice is made by the entering club, by ordering 1,2,3 etc. at entry. If no ranking is received, the earliest entry, as determined by Rowing Victoria, will be ranked highest. In 2017, no changes to the club's ordering will be allowed after 3 weeks before raceday.

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

Results are not transferable between classes. For example, a winner in an E age group does not become first in an F age group as the crew ages. The club retains the ranking in E, or inherits a club ranking in F, or joins the random assortment after ranking of previously competing clubs in that age group. THIS IS A CLARIFICATION OF THE 2016 POLICY

Any changes to class of crews after the 3 week prior closing date will result in loss of ranking and starting from the back of the new class. The order at the back of the class will be determined by the time of receipt of changed entries.

There will be no planned break in the starting sequence of a class to ensure that there is no unfair advantage caused by increased separation of boats within a class

Summary of the ranking process

Once all returning club entries have been allocated in order of last year's result, then the remainder of on time entries will be randomly allocated to the following starting places. Following this, changed entries will be added in order of date of change.

The ordering decision is made by the entering club. There needs to be control within the club of the process, and independent entries should not be allowed. Clubs should decide whether to enter composite crews if they then compete with rankings of solely club crews. It is very important to enter correctly before the closing date. Starting at the back of a large class could be a significant impediment to winning that class.

5. Raceday Timetable -10:00 am Race Start

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

TIME	ACTIVITY
9.00am*	River closure – no crews are permitted on the Yarra River ABOVE 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 9am.
10.00am*	First of the approx. 200+ crews start at Henley Staging Judges Box
10.40am*	First starting crew crosses the finish line at Hawthorn Bridge at Hawthorn.
2.30pm*	Open crews start at rear of field.
3.00pm*	Last Open crew finishes.
3.30pm*	Crews wishing to row back downstream may depart the finish line staging.
3.30pm*	Regatta Secretary and Referee approve final results.
3.30pm to 4.00pm*	Presentations of winners & trophies and announcement of "Head of the Yarra"

TIME	ACTIVITY
4.15pm*	Scores of eight oared crews depart Hawthorn Rowing Club for return journey back to Princess Bridge rowing sheds
Progressively	Race results posted on www.headoftheyarra.com.au

* 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 Parks Victoria open the river.

6. Seat Entry Fees & Inclusions - \$55

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. Trailer Parking at Finish/Hawthorn

Boat trailer parking is at a premium at the finish area due to being located in a primarily residential area.

It is not possible to provide trailer parking for all within close proximity to the finish area.

The committee are reviewing trailer parking for 2017 and identifying additional parking areas.

We will provide details of these parking areas in future newsletters.

8. 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).

9. Raceday Volunteers

Has your support crew considered being actively involved on the day?

This major event of the Australian Rowing calendar could not run without a volunteer workforce of over 150.

For Hawthorn Rowing Club, this is an "all hands on deck" event!

Each year, we also rely on generous volunteer support from the wider rowing community.

If you, or someone you know, would like to participate on the day we would love to hear from you!

Perhaps joining the start or finish marshalling teams?

Perhaps on the course as an umpire?

Maybe you have a passion for getting involved with the food and drink tents at the finish!!

Do you have all day to offer? or perhaps only a few hours??

Please do not hesitate to contact Penny Vogan from HRC on pennyvogan@gmail.com if you want to become part of this fantastic day!

10. 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.

11. 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 Head of the Yarra.