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INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

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Newsletter No. 2

October 14, 2017

Race Day 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)**

Our sponsors:



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Race Entries Closing Dates and Draw.....	3
2. Safety Management at Swan St Bridgeworks	9
3. Club ROWING MANAGER Entry Administrators	12
4. International Race Entries.....	13
5. Head of the Yarra Souvenir Programs.....	13
6. Head of the Yarra Volunteers Sought	14
7. Seeking / Offering Boats, Coxswains & Rowers.....	14
8. Race Category Changes Not Possible After The Final Draw Is Posted	14
9. No Coxswain Weigh-in Required	14
10. Traffic Management and Security Arrangements	14
11. Race Eve Briefing	15
12. Collection of Race Numbers and Race Packs between 3pm – 6pm Friday 24 November.....	15
13. Scratchings and Crew Changes	16
14. Announcement of Results	16
15. Finish Line Safety Requirements.....	16
16. Crews Returning to the City.....	17
17. Head of the Yarra Housekeeping Matters	17
18. Requests for “Row Overs” and “Special Events”	18
19. Accommodation.....	18
20. HOY Party Advertising.....	19
21. Liquor Licencing and Private Alcohol Consumption	19

For enquiries or further information, please go to www.headoftheyarra.com
or contact:

Lachlan Nichols: 0402 837 911

hoy-eng@hawthornrowingclub.com

1. Race Entries Closing Dates and Draw

Race entries must be lodged with the ROWING MANAGER entry system by **7pm on Sunday, November 5**. Except **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 entry fee is **\$55 per oar or \$440 per crew**. Do not send payment – your club / school will be invoiced directly by Rowing Victoria.

The entry fee includes Rowing Victoria levies and charges and provides all rowers and coxswains with a Head of the Yarra t-shirt and each crew with a Souvenir Race Program.

Go to www.headoftheyarra.com for more information including the updated overtaking rule.

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

Please also refer to our Newsletter No.1, Updated September 25, 2017 and originally published July 20, 2017 for more details in relation to;

- the timetable for the provisional and final draws
- race categories and start order for race categories
- race start is 10.00 am
- a summary of race day events throughout the day

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

**The following is a summary of Race Categories & Eligibility,
Race Categories and Start Order**

Start Order	Notes	Code	Race Category	Type	Gender	Eligibility
1	*	MSCH8+O1	Male School Eight Open Division 1	School	Male	MSCH8+O1
2	*	MSCH8+O2	Male School Eight Open Division 2	School	Male	MSCH8+O2
3	*#	MSCH8+O3	Male School Eight Open Division 3	School	Male	MSCH8+O3
4	+@	MMH8+	Male Masters H Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 70 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
5	+@	MMIK8+	Male Masters I-K Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 75 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
6	*	FSCH8+O1	Female School Eight Open Division 1	School	Female	FSCH8+O1
7	*	FSCH8+O2	Female School Eight Open Division 2	School	Female	FSCH8+O2
8	*#	FSCH8+O3	Female School Eight Open Division 3	School	Female	FSCH8+O3
9	@	X8+	Male, Female Composite	Club	Male, Female	(New Event) No Age Restriction. Crews will be handicapped according to handicaps for Male and Female for the A age group. Refer to Start Order Principle 3.1
10	+@	XMAC8+	Mixed Eight (Incorporating Masters A-C)	Club	Mixed	Average age of crew is less than 50 years of age, 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	+@	FMAC8+	Female Masters A - C Eight	Masters	Female	Average age of crew is less than 50 years of age with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
12	+@	FMD8+	Female Masters D Eight	Masters	Female	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
13	+@	XMD8+	Mixed Masters D Eight	Masters	Mixed	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
14	+@	FME8+	Female Masters E Eight	Masters	Female	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
15	+@	XME8+	Mixed Masters E Eight	Masters	Mixed	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
16	+@	FMF8+	Female Masters F-K Eight	Masters	Female	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
17	+@	XMF8+	Mixed Masters F Eight	Masters	Mixed	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
18	@	XLTA8+	Mixed LTA Eight	Club	Mixed	RA Criteria apply
19	+@	MMAC8+	Male Masters A - C Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is less than 50 years of age with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
20	+@	MMD8+	Male Masters D Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
21	+@	MME8+	Male Masters E Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
22	+@	MMF8+	Male Masters F Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
23	+@	MMG8+	Male Masters G Eight	Masters	Male	Average age of crew is 65 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
24		FDB+	Female D Grade Eight	Club	Female	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
25		MD8+	Male D Grade Eight	Club	Male	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
26		FCB+	Female C Grade Eight	Club	Female	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
27		MCB+	Male C Grade Eight	Club	Male	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
28		FBB+	Female B Grade Eight	Club	Female	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
29		MBB+	Male B Grade Eight	Club	Male	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
30	@	FO8+	Female Open Eight	Club	Female	Open to crews with a Rowing Score less than 2.50.
31	@	MO8+	Male Open Eight	Club	Male	Open to crews with a Rowing Score less than 2.50.
Notes						
+ Denotes Master's handicaps apply.						
@ Multiple Clubs composite permitted. Refer to Start Order Principle 3.1						
* Schools must enter their top ranked crews in Division 1 before entering crews in Division 2 and then in Division 3. Where a school has year 10 rowers they may be entered in Division 3.						
# Schools and smaller clubs may consider entering Composite crews as per Start Order Principles 3.2 and 3.3.						

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.

New categories/reordering categories

- MMH8+
- MMIJK8+
- MixF8+
- MFComp8+ (No age restriction, Male, Female)

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 and Female. For 2017, the crews will be handicapped according to handicaps for Male and Female 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.

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.

2. Safety Management at Swan St Bridgeworks

Ongoing bridgeworks at the Swan St bridge pose additional risks to rowers when using the river for familiarisation and warm up rows before the regatta and also during the 2017 Head of the Yarra regatta itself. Hawthorn Rowing Club has considered these risks and revised its safety procedures accordingly. All competitors will be advised of the revised safety procedures by the following means:

- In the regatta's newsletter;
- On the regatta's website; and
- In the pre-race briefing on the evening before the regatta

Swan Street Bridgeworks

Swan St bridge is located 300 m upstream of the start line and is the first bridge to be passed by competitors in the Head of the Yarra regatta. Widening of the bridge is in progress and major engineering works are underway. Only two spans of the bridge will be open on the day of the regatta. The width of each span has been reduced to 12 m but both arches are navigable by rowing eights. There is also a works jetty about 100 m downstream of the start line judges box that reduces the width of the river about 40% in that location.

There are navigation buoys in the river both upstream and downstream of both Swan St bridge and the works jetty.

The photo below looking upstream shows the northern arch of the bridge (left) the centre arch (right). Note the steel piles around the bridge piers reducing the width of the arches. At this stage, it is not known which arches will be open on the day of the regatta, but there will be two arches open and both will be navigable by rowing eights.



The photo below shows the works jetty area some 400 m downstream of the bridge and some 100 m before the start line.



Safety of rowing crews at Swan St bridge PRIOR to the 2017 Head of the Yarra regatta

Interstate and overseas crews or crews that do not usually row on the Yarra River and are intending to compete in the 2017 Head of the Yarra must keep in mind that the river is not closed until the regatta is in progress.

Crews using the river for familiarisation and/or training in the days before the regatta must take special care when approaching and passing through the Swan St bridge and also in the works jetty area (400 m downstream of the bridge). Coxes will also need to exercise due care to avoid the navigation buoys on both the upstream and downstream site of the bridge and works jetty area.

When passing through Swan St bridge, crews must pass through the correct arch as follows:

- Crews rowing upstream (away from the city) must use only the southernmost arch (furtherest from the Melbourne Park Tennis Centre); and
- Crews rowing downstream (towards from the city) must use only the northernmost arch (closest to the Melbourne Park Tennis Centre).

Note, the 'no go' arches have white signs displaying a red cross (see photo above).

Safety of rowing crews DURING the 2017 Head of the Yarra regatta

On the day of the regatta, the river will remain open until 9 am and will be closed to all river traffic for the duration of the regatta. The river will reopen again at approximately 4 pm. This means that crews rowing through Swan St bridge before or after the regatta must use the correct arch as described in the above section.

Due to the reduced width of the river in the works jetty area, increased congestion is expected on the river near the start line as crews are aligned for the start by officials. It is important that all crews launch

their boats earlier than normal to allow for any delays due to the expected congestion near the start line. All crews should be on the water 30 minutes before their designated start time.

After launching their boats, crews will immediately proceed upstream towards the start line and will be marshalled by the officials to form lines with successive numbered crews aligned four abreast across the river. Each line will be called in turn to move upstream towards the start. Care needs to be exercised to avoid the navigation buoys located both downstream and upstream of the works jetty area. Depending on the conditions on the day, it may not be possible to maintain a line of four boats when passing the works jetty. If so, the officials will instruct the crews to break from their line as they pass the works jetty and then reform in lines of four immediately upstream of the works jetty. Crews must listen carefully and comply with all instructions from the start-aligning officials.

After the start (because the river is closed), either arch at Swan St bridge can be used by any crew. It is possible for two boats to pass each other when passing through the arches of the bridge provided the two boats use different arches. However, if two crews are approaching the same arch, then overtaking by the following crew must be delayed until the Swan St bridge is passed.

This scenario is the anticipated by the final sentence in the regatta's overtaking rule is as follows:

Overtaking Rule. *A boat is deemed to be overtaking when it has its bow ball within half a length of the stern of the boat in front. When this occurs the slower boat must not block or obstruct the faster crew. The faster boat must be prudent and delay the act of passing if a pass cannot be accomplished without incident.*

To ensure the safety of all crews, an umpire will be stationed on the landing immediately downstream of the bridge on the north bank. A faster boat attempting to overtake a slower boat leading to the same arch of the Swan St bridge must yield to the boat in front until Swan St bridge is passed. The penalty for disobeying an umpire's instructions in this area will be a minimum of 20 seconds.

As an additional safety initiative, a safety boat will be stationed at the Swan St bridge until the last crew safely passes the bridge.

3. Club ROWING MANAGER Entry Administrators

Club and School ROWING MANAGER Entry Administrators play a critical role with Head of the Yarra entries, as for all race entries. Please note the following in order to minimise problems with your entries.

- All Australian entries must be via ROWING MANAGER and your Club / School ROWING MANAGER Administrator. If you wish to enter the Head of the Yarra and you don't know who your Club / School ROWING MANAGER Administrator is, you need to find out soon!
- All entrants must be a registered and financial member of an affiliated state rowing association or school. Near disasters frequently occur when ROWING MANAGER Administrators attempt

to enter new rowers, or rowers entering for the first time for the season. If ROWING MANAGER cannot recognise a rower as an affiliated and financial member, their entry (*and that of the crew*) is rejected.

- Club ROWING MANAGER Administrators must have all crew members up-to-date and registered with the State Rowing Association and on ROWING MANAGER before the crew can be entered. Administrators should check member registration with the State Rowing Authority in the first instance if there are entry problems.
- Clubs must order their own crews in the same class. This is a **change** for this year. See **Grid Positions** in Section 1 above.
- Composite crews may be represented in Masters, Mixed and the Open categories. Composite is not permitted in school categories, or the B, C and D race categories.
- If you plan to row composite with another club, make sure **your** club's ROWING MANAGER Administrator is aware of this. This is necessary because should a rower be entered in a composite crew by the ROWING MANAGER Administrator of another club, Rowing Victoria requires the authorisation of the rower's club before the crew entry can be accepted into ROWING MANAGER i.e. Your club's ROWING MANAGER Administrator has to certify your club will accept the entry invoice in relation to your entry.
- Please therefore plan your entries early so you have time to deal with any rower entry problems.
- Do not send payment with ROWING MANAGER entries. Your club / school will be invoiced directly by Rowing Victoria.
- All entrants must wear their club attire. Composite crews therefore will be displaying multiple uniforms.

4. International Race Entries

International entries must be made to Rowing Victoria via post or email - entry form available from the Head of the Yarra website.

Please note that international competitors are required to pay a small insurance levy to Rowing Victoria. Information about this insurance levy is detailed on the entry form for international competitors.

5. Head of the Yarra Souvenir Programs

The race program this year will again be a great souvenir for competitors, family and spectators alike. Popular features include;

- photos of winning crews at the presentations
- winning crews and times by race category for the last 5 years
- list of crews and grid positions for all this year's crews

Souvenir Program will be available for \$5 at the Race Eve Briefing at Hawthorn Rowing Club. On race day, it will be available,

- at the merchandise stalls at the finish line,
- from the HotY Race Registrar, near the front of Mercantile Rowing Club (City boatshed area) on race morning
- at the HotY Start Line Control Point at the start line

Rowing program sellers will be at the Big Bend area at various times during race day.

6. Head of the Yarra Volunteers Sought

Being the largest annual regatta in Australia brings unique challenges. Our greatest challenge is not technology, race timing or handling 250 eights racing up the river. It is securing the 160 + plus volunteers we need each year to make the event work on race day.

We are now at the point of having exhausted the capacity and goodwill of HRC members, family & friends. The same applies to Race Officials volunteering through Rowing Victoria.

This year we are therefore again putting out a call for Expressions of Interest from volunteers to assist us on race day.

Please send a note to hoy-eng@hawthornrowingclub.com, outlining any special skills or experience you might have, as well as your rowing experience.

7. Seeking / Offering Boats, Coxswains & Rowers

We ask clubs and rowers to use the Head of the Yarra Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HeadoftheYarraPage> to make requests or offers concerning boats, crew members, coxswains, etc. Requests and offers will also be placed on the HOTY website at <http://headoftheyarra.com/special-messages/> (email webmaster@hawthornrowingclub.com).

Just Remember always respect your fellow rower when making a post.

8. Race Category Changes Not Possible After The Final Draw Is Posted

The uniqueness of the HOTY as a time trial event presents unique timing logistics for us. We cannot therefore process crew changes as for "normal regattas."

Crew changes that change the category of your crew cannot therefore be accepted **after the final draw is posted**.

We need to insist upon this because moving a crew between race categories after the final draw compromises the integrity of our grid positions and puts our timing processes at risk.

9. No Coxswain Weigh-in Required

Please note that there are no minimum coxswain weights for the Head of the Yarra. Accordingly, there is no weighing-in requirement for coxswains.

10. Traffic Management and Security Arrangements

Refer to document **2017 Traffic Management and Security Arrangements** which is available on the HOTY Webpage.

11. Race Eve Briefing

We urge all crews and coxswains to attend the race eve briefing at Hawthorn Rowing Club from **6pm Friday 24 November**. The briefing will address:

- advice for coxswains negotiating the race course
- race rules and safety
- emergency arrangements and obtaining medical assistance if required
- "need to know" issues for competing on race day

We will also have HOY merchandise and programs available for purchase at this time.

12. Collection of Race Numbers and Race Packs between 3pm – 6pm Friday 24 November

Race packs must be collected because we are distributing t-shirts to all rowers and coxswains – as well as safety information and a program for each crew.

Please note that collection of race numbers **and** race packs on Friday Nov 24, at Hawthorn Rowing Club between 3pm and 6pm is strongly encouraged. This is in line with arrangements that all other major mass participation sport events now adopt (ie triathlons and fun runs). This will ease the burden on all concerned on the morning of the race when we are all busy with getting ready to race.

Race Numbers

To collect your race numbers, we do not require a refundable deposit. You will receive a bow number for your boat, a number for your bow rower and a number for your coxswain.

Additionally, we will continue to have the Race Registrar in front of Mercantile Rowing Club from 8am to 12pm on the morning of the race. Crews are encouraged to collect their numbers well before race start time.

All bow numbers are to be returned to Recovery Officials upon leaving the water.

Race Packs

Race packs (and T-shirts) not collected on the Friday night will be available for collection from Hawthorn Rowing Club (at the finish line) between 8am - on race morning to 2pm. Beyond that, we cannot guarantee having club volunteers available to meet you at a later time.

13. Scratchings and Crew Changes

Please remember that crew changes that change the category of a crew will not be accepted after the Final Draw is posted.

Scratchings or crew changes are to be provided to Rowing Victoria up until cob the Thursday before race day. After that, scratching and crew changes (*that do not change the race category of the crew*) are to be handed to the Race Registrar at the start line area on race day.

14. Announcement of Results

Early Race Categories

We understand that race day is a very long day for those competing early. It can indeed be a long wait for results. Because of this, we will aim to announce the results of these early race categories as the results are determined.

The results for these categories will be posted on a notice board at the front of Hawthorn Rowing Club as they are determined (*subject to any race protests or umpire reports to be dealt with*).

Medallions for these race categories will be presented earlier in the day.

Full Results

We aim to publish the full race results on the Head of the Yarra website by 6pm on race day. People leaving the regatta before the presentations can therefore check the results that evening on the internet.

15. Finish Line Safety Requirements

The highest risk factor we have is a cluttered finish line with finishing crews smashing into each other or having to stop before the finish line. In this scenario, we will have to stop the race and call all results a "no event." This would be a terrible outcome for all concerned.

A cluttered finish line will occur if crews;

- attempt to take the closest boat rack and therefore hold up crews behind them,
- do not immediately remove their oars from the finish line staging and therefore render the staging unusable by following crews,
- are slow to remove boats from the finish line staging and stop to have a "breather" drink or chat about the race, or
- stop at the finish line and do not keep rowing to the turnaround buoys upstream from the finish line.

It is therefore very important for all crews to be mindful of,

a. Crossing The Finish Line

It is important that crews do not stop at the finish line.

All crews must continue rowing lightly having crossed the finish line. We need you to keep rowing beyond the finish line bridge up to the turnaround buoy. Officials will direct crews at the finish, and time penalties will be enforced for not adhering to finish line instructions.

b. Getting Your Boat Off The Finish Line Staging

We all understand how wonderful it is to finally get out of the boat after racing 8.6kms in the Head of the Yarra. But it is important for all crews to quickly clear the staging for following crews so they can get off the water. Following crews need to get off the water so that the on-water finish line does not become cluttered.

c. Removing Oars From The Finish Staging

Please remove your crew's oars from the staging asap. This is a high priority because the staging can only hold so many sets of oars – certainly not 200 sets of eight oars! The staging area will quickly become unusable if crews do not cooperate in this regard.

d. Boat Racking

Please follow instructions from boat rack officials who will direct you to the next available boat rack. Crews by necessity cannot take the closest boat rack. **Boat racks must be filled from the rear of the reserve** – else we will have a traffic jam that will prevent crews getting off the staging and potentially stop the race in a worst case scenario. Please cooperate with us in following the direction of the boat rack officials.

All of the above is based on the highest risk factor we face with the event – a cluttered finish line and logjam. *In this regard, please be mindful at all times of the crews and any logjam following behind you.*

16. Crews Returning to the City

The Yarra River will be OPEN after the regatta. Those crews returning to Princess Bridge rowing sheds must observe Yarra River navigation rules.

In particular, **all crews must travel downstream of the City sheds and then Princess Bridge before turning to approach the boat landing.**

Do not turn upstream of the Princess Bridge as you may endanger yourselves and others.

This area is shared with the powered tour boat operators.

17. Head of the Yarra Housekeeping Matters

We have to ask that you be mindful of some important matters so that the race runs smoothly for all concerned.

Race Uniforms

All crews must race in official club uniforms. For composite crews, each rower must wear the uniform of his / her club. Importantly, attire promoting corporate branding such as a retailer is not permitted. We will however allow composite crews to wear novel strips provided these have been approved in writing by the Organising Committee.

Private parties, marquees and banners

With thousands of people gathering in Yarra Bank Reserve, we have an obligation to ensure open and free access and movement for all concerned. We understand private BBQs and marquees are common at other regattas. However, the HOY is unique in that we have thousands of people gathering in the reserve. Should we experience many clubs setting up private marquees and banners, free and open access and movement in the reserve will be denied to others.

Please therefore respect the benefit to all of free and open access and movement for all concerned, and refrain from staking claims to parts of the lawn area to the exclusion of others.

Those marquees that have been authorised must not use stakes in the ground anywhere due to damage to irrigation and other services.

18. Requests for “Row Overs” and “Special Events”

Each year we receive requests for crews to row over the course / compete as a “special category.” Please note we cannot accommodate these requests.

The Head of the Yarra is essentially a normal regatta comprising the “standard” Rowing Victoria race categories. As much as we enjoy the Head of the Yarra, it is not a mass participation “fun” event such as a “fun run”.

Importantly, we have to employ sophisticated recording processes with the start timing, finish timing and calculation timing to ensure integrity of every crew’s start and finish time. Complications with boats on the course that are not competing in the race categories present enormous risks and logistical nightmares for us.

Please understand this when we decline your special requests.

19. Accommodation

Looking for accommodation for the Head of the Yarra?

Go no further than the Amora... situated right on the finish line with great access to the river and City trams & go into the draw to win a free night’s accommodation in a Deluxe Courtyard Queen Room including breakfast. Book early for accommodation & Dinner or space for post-race drinks & canapés

03 9246 1200

res_@melbourne.amorahotels.com.au

Amora Hotel Riverwalk -supporting Hawthorn Rowing Club and the Head of the Yarra

20. HOY Party Advertising

Hawthorn Rowing Club is appreciative of the support provided to the Head of the Yarra by many clubs, schools and rowers. We are therefore happy to assist kindred clubs in publicising club events in the race program free of charge. Club hosted regattas and HOTY after parties spring to mind. Therefore, if you send us a ¼ A4 page black and white advertisement by October 24, we will commit to best endeavours to publish your advert in the race program (*subject to layout issues and printer requirements*). Our race commentators will also give your event a plug during day over the PA.

You are also of course welcome to make a post on the Head of the Yarra Forum.

21. Liquor Licencing and Private Alcohol Consumption

Competitors and spectators are reminded that liquor licencing laws prohibit individuals from bringing alcohol into the reserve for private consumption.

Please be aware that Hawthorn Rowing Club has to obtain permits and licences to use the Yarra Bank Reserve on race day. These permits and licences come with strict conditions and obligations on the HRC.

In this regard, we are responsible for controlling the responsible consumption of alcohol – especially with thousands of rowers and spectators gathering in the reserve. The HRC and our security firm have an obligation to control this alcohol consumption. We are not permitted therefore to allow individuals to bring alcohol into the reserve for private consumption. This responsibility is monitored on the day by frequent police patrols. We ask that you please respect this requirement and not bring alcohol into the reserve.

The Head of the Yarra Organising Committee and Hawthorn Rowing Club wish all our competitors and visitors a successful and enjoyable race day.