



Portadown Regatta 2024



Hello to you all,

Thank you for your entry and anticipated participation in our annual regatta.

We have had, again, an unprecedented number of entries this year and are in the process of compiling the timetable, which will be available as a PDF document and as a live sheet, available on our regatta page on Rowing Ireland. We aim to have these completed and uploaded by the weekend.

Due to the number of races, we have the following announcements about the running of the regatta on the day.

Clubs are required to have enough boats to accommodate all rowers in whatever configuration the timetable delivers the races, we will do our best to have similar races apart but cannot guarantee this will not happen.

Please have enough boats so that “hot boating” does not occur - this slows down slipping procedures and **may lead to sanctions on late crews.**

All Junior 14 & 15 events, for **both women’s and men’s** events, will be **Straight Finals**, finishing at the normal finish.

All Races will be timed and should the draw have an odd number of entrants, the “loser” from a previous race drawn at random, will race the crew left after the draw. This way all crews get to race as usual, rather than take part in a time trial. PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE TIMETABLE IN THIS CASE!

Race slots are **4 minutes**, and although the timetable has a good number of “no race” slots this still means that timing and punctuality to the start is critical and clubs should let all crews be aware of the following:

1. All Crews should launch **at least 20 mins before the timetabled race time** and proceed to the start quickly.
2. Once at the start, they should **proceed beyond the normal start** to wait for their race to be called by the starting officials.
3. Once in position on the stake boats, the race officials will start the race.
4. Once finished they should **turn 50m beyond the finish area and promptly slip**, as outlined below.

*In view of the **extremely tight schedule**, it will **not** be possible to accommodate requests for race changes **at all**. “No race” slots are not available to move races to and requests to do so cannot be accommodated either, so please do not ask!*

A **one-way system** will again be in place to ease the congestion that can occur at the slip.

Crews must take notice of the maps posted online and make themselves aware of the direction of launching and docking.

Launching will happen from the **far end of the slip (upriver end)**. Crews will enter the slip area from the towpath **through the cordoned area** shown on the map, pointing their bows towards the start.

After launching, crews must proceed on the **right hand side** of the river to the start.

Crews must pay attention to officials and not impede crews racing.

After finishing, crews are to proceed past the finish and carefully turn after the large buoy, then slowly proceed to the "town end" of the slip and lift their boats out and carry them through the **club side gates**, past the area in front of the clubhouse and along the driveway to their trailer position.

Caution must be taken going through the gates.

In view of the extremely tight schedule, the start times of races must be strictly adhered to, **late arrival to the start will result in a disqualification from that event.**

Late arrival at the slip will mean you will not be able to launch and subsequently will not race, **please be on time to launch.**

We recommend that all crews launch at least 20 minutes before their timetabled race time, so they can make it for the start on time.

Boats on the way to the start must make sure they do not impede races in any way.

Crews must watch and listen to ALL race officials and act according to their instructions.

Crews hindering races of any kind will incur a **traffic violation and be awarded a subsequent penalty at the start.**

Medals ceremonies

There will be medals ceremonies at specific times, a timetable for these will also appear online so that people know when to expect their ceremony for their win!

Again, thank you for entering and attending the regatta, and we look forward to seeing you all race and at the buffet lunch etc.

With patience, adherence to schedule and all working together we will stay on time and have a great day!!

Yours in rowing

Louis Hesbrook
Portadown Boat Club Captain & Regatta Secretary.