

2026 CHALLENGE WEST REGATTA PACKAGE

Version: 2026-04-03

REGISTRATION

Racing Dates

July 3-5, 2026

Regatta Site

Victoria City Rowing Club

5100 Patricia Bay Hwy
Victoria, BC V8Y 2T6

Hosted By

This event is proudly hosted by the **Victoria City Rowing Club**.

Concession

The VCRC concession will be open throughout the weekend, offering a variety of delicious and nutritious food options. Proceeds support the VCRC Junior Program's trip to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. **Cash** and **cards** are accepted.

Eligibility

All athletes must be registered members of their Provincial Rowing Association and **Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)**. U.S. entries must be registered with **USRowing**.

Entries

All entries must be submitted through [Regatta Central](#). The deadline for entries **without late fees** is **11:59 PM PDT on June 26, 2026**.

Important Dates

Please refer to [Regatta Central](#) for all key deadlines and updates.

Scratches

Scratches will be accepted without penalty until **11:59 PM PDT on June 26, 2026**. After this deadline, the **scratch fee will equal the original entry fee**.

Entry Fees

Entries are not considered complete until payment is received. Seat fees from **Rowing BC (\$3.75)** and **Rowing Canada Aviron (\$4.65)** will be applied to each athlete per event.

Boat Class	Standard Cost	Late Cost
Single (1X)	\$60.00	\$75.00
Pair/Double (2-/X)	\$80.00	\$100.00
Four/Quad/Coxed Four (4-/X/+)	\$90.00	\$105.00
Eight (8+)	\$100.00	\$125.00

Refund Policy

Entry fees are non-refundable in the event of race cancellations due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, as the majority of regatta expenses are incurred prior to the event.

Categories

Category	Eligibility
Open	Open to all competitors.
U19	Classified as a U19 competitor until the 31 st of December of the year in which they reach the age of 18.
U17	Classified as a U17 competitor until the 31 st of December of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
U15	Classified as a U15 competitor until the 31 st of December of the year in which they reach the age of 14.
Masters	Masters will race in appropriate categories as per the RCA Rules of Racing . Masters events results will be adjusted according to the RCA Rules of Racing age adjusted time system (RCA Rule 2.8)
Mixed Masters	Mixed Masters crews must have at minimum 50% women in the crew. Masters events results will be adjusted according to the RCA Rules of Racing age adjusted time system (RCA Rule 2.8)

Events

Category	Boat Classes
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M/W PR1	1x
M/W PR2	1x
M/W Open	1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 8+
M/W Junior U19	1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4+, 8+
M/W Junior U17	1x, 2x, 4x, 4+, 8+
M/W Junior U15	1x, 2x, 4x
M/W Masters	1x, 2x, 4x
Mixed Masters	2x, 4x, 8+

Event List

Saturday Finals		Sunday Finals	
Event #	Event Name	Event #	Event Name
1	M PR1 1x	29	W Open 2x
2	W PR1 1x	30	M U15 4x
3	M PR2 1x	31	M U19 4x
4	W PR2 1x	32	W U15 1x
5	M Open 2x	33	W U19 2-
6	W U15 4x	34	M U17 2x
7	W U19 4x	35	W U17 4x
8	M U15 1x	36	M Open 4-
9	M U19 2-	37	W Open 4x
10	W U17 2x	38	M Masters 1x
11	M U17 4x	39	W Masters 2x
12	W Open 4-	40	M U19 8+
13	M Open 4x	41	M U17 8+
14	Mix Masters 2x	42	M U15 2x
15	W Masters 4x	43	M Open 2-
16	W U19 8+	44	W U19 2x
17	W U17 8+	45	W Open 8+
18	W U15 2x	46	W U17 4+
19	W Open 2-	47	Mix Masters 4x
20	M U19 2x	48	M Masters 4x

21	M Open 8+	49	M U19 1x
22	M U17 4+	50	M Open 1x
23	M Masters 2x	51	W U17 1x
24	W Masters 1x	52	W U19 4+
25	M U19 4+	53	Mix Masters 8+
26	W U19 1x		
27	W Open 1x		
28	M U17 1x		

RACE SCHEDULE & PROGRESSION

Please visit **Regatta Data** for the most up-to-date race schedule. Note that the schedule is subject to change based on the number and distribution of entries.

Draft Schedule

Friday — Half Race Day

Time	Session	Details
2:00 - 6:00 PM	Heats and Time Trials (if needed) for Saturday Finals	Preliminary races for events concluding on Saturday

Saturday — Full Race Day

Time	Session	Details
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Heats/Semis for Saturday Finals	Preliminary races for events concluding on Saturday
8:00 – 12:00 PM	Saturday Finals	Championship and other finals for Saturday events
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	60-minute break for athletes, volunteers, and officials
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Saturday Finals	Championship and other finals for Saturday events
2:00 – 4:30 PM	Heats for Sunday Finals	Preliminary races for events concluding on Sunday

Sunday — Travel-Friendly Race Day

Time	Session	Details
7:00 – 7:30 AM	Time Trials	For events with ≥ 19 entries
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Heats and Semis for Sunday Finals	Preliminary races for events concluding on Saturday
8:30 – 1:00 PM	Sunday Finals	All remaining finals

Progression System Overview

1. ≤ 3 Entries

- **Format:** Straight Final or Combined Event
- **Details:**
 - Events with 3 or fewer entries may be **combined with another compatible event** (e.g., age, boat class) to promote better racing and/or condense the race day.
 - If not combined, the event will be run as a **straight Final**.
 - Masters events will not be combined, if fewer than 3 entries, events with more than 1 person entered will be run.

2. 4–6 Entries

- **Format:** Straight Final
- **Details:**
 - A single, randomly-seeded final with all crews determines the official rankings.

3. 7–18 Entries

- **Format:** Heats → Finals (A, B, C...)
- **Progression from Heats:**
 - **The winner of each heat** advances directly to **Final A**.
 - The **next fastest overall times** (regardless of heat) fill the remaining lanes in **Final A**, up to a total of **6 lanes**.
 - **Remaining crews** are assigned to **Finals B, C, D...**, sorted by finish time, with a **minimum of 4 crews per final**.
- **Finals:**
 - Each Final ranks its participants (e.g., Final B ranks 7-12th place, Final C ranks 13-18th, etc.).

4. ≥ 19 Entries

- **Format:** Time Trial → Semi-finals → Finals (A, B, C...)

- **Time Trial (TT):**
 - All crews complete a **single 1750m timed run**.
 - TT results seed the top 18 crews into **Semi-finals A, B, and C**, with remaining crews in Semi-finals D, E, F...
 - Ensures fair seeding for large fields, reduces random advantages due to draw, and helps manage scheduling.
- **Semi-finals:**
 - Top finishers and next fastest times from Semi-finals A, B, and C advance to **Final A** (same logic as heats).
 - Remaining crews advance to **Finals B, C, D...** by time, with at least 4 boats per final.

General Principles

- **Final A** always ranks the **top 6 boats** in an event.
- **Minimum of 4 boats per Final:** events with awkward entry numbers (e.g., 22) will use fastest-time logic to group fairly.
- **Tiebreakers** are resolved based on:
 - Time from the previous round
 - Placement from the previous round
 - Coin toss (if needed, and times are identical)
- **Scratch Policy:**
 - If a crew scratches after progression is set, finals will be rebalanced **only if time permits**.

Progression System Table Summary

Entries	Format	Progression Details
≤ 3	Straight Final or Combined Event	May combine with a similar event or run as a straight final
4-6	Straight Final	All crews race in a single Final
7-18	Heats → Finals (A, B, C...)	Heat winners + fastest overall times to Final A (max 6); others into Finals B, C...
≥ 19	Time Trial → Semis → Finals	Time Trials seed Semis; top finishers + fastest times advance to Final A; others into Finals B, C...

RACE DAY

Coach/Coxswain Meetings

A mandatory coach and coxswain safety meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, July 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 PM PST**, the evening before racing begins. Attendance is required for all clubs.

Hot Seating: Report Departure

In events requiring hot seating, umpires will issue a new bow number to the next crew. Crews must return the old bow marker and report their dock departure time to the Control Commission. This helps maintain up-to-date records of who is on the water in the event of an emergency.

Trailer Parking

Please inform us of your estimated arrival time so we can meet you and assist with parking your trailer safely. **Do not park on the lower grassy plain unless directed to** do so. The high water table may cause your trailer to become stuck. Clubs are responsible for any extraction or grass repairs. To coordinate your arrival, email Sierra Inglis at regattachair@vcrc.bc.ca with your arrival day and time.

Registration Packages

This is a **paperless event**. Training and racing maps will be posted beside the boathouse on the way to the launch.

Training Flow Pattern

All Elk Lake regattas use a standard training flow pattern:

- **Lanes 5 & 6:** Warm-up and travel to the start
- **Lanes 4 & 3:** Are neutral and reserved for safety and officials
- **Lanes 1 & 2:** Return toward the finish

Lane 1 is closest to the highway, and Lane 6 is closest to the boathouse. Please consult the posted maps at the boathouse and check the dock signage for confirmation before launching.

View the **Training Flow Pattern** online [here](#).

Racing Flow Pattern

Crews will launch from the dock and proceed around the warm-up pattern, which is marked by two large buoys forming a clockwise loop. Once called by the umpires, crews will proceed to the start line and race down the course.

Note: Avoid submerged stumps marked by orange buoys near the docks.

View the **Racing Flow Pattern** online [here](#).

RULES & LOGISTICS

Equipment Checks

All boats must be equipped with:

- Secure bow balls and bow clips
- Heel tie-downs with single-handed release

- Safe and functioning shoes

The Control Commission will inspect each boat before its launch.

Rules of Racing

Racing will follow **Rowing Canada Aviron's Rules of Racing**. View the **RCA Rules of Racing** online [here](#).

Racing Distance

Open / Junior Events: 1850m

Masters Events: 1000m

Uniforms

Crews must wear matching club uniforms per the [RCA Rules of Racing](#). Should weather conditions pose a risk to participants, these rules may be modified to facilitate safe racing after consultation with the Chief Umpire.

Medical Services

St. John Ambulance will be onsite to provide first aid services throughout the event. For all medical emergencies, staff will call **9-1-1**.

RESULTS & AWARDS

Results

Live and final race results will be available on the **Rowing Data System** (Regatta Data) throughout the weekend. Click [here](#) to navigate to Regatta Data.

Awards

Awards will be presented to the **winning crew in each final** shortly after race completion. Please have one crew representative available at the designated awards area.

Feedback

We value your feedback to help improve future regattas. A Google Form survey will be emailed to all attendees. Please share your honest insights to help us improve the experience for all athletes, coaches, and supporters.

CONTACT

Event Contact Information

Nicole Cusack
Challenge West Regatta Chair
regattachair@vcrc.bc.ca

Griffin Thomas
VCRC Administration
clubadmin@vcrc.bc.ca



VICTORIA CITY ROWING CLUB