

Cardinals Regatta 2013 – Rules

1. All crews must read these rules before racing. Your attention is drawn particularly to rules 20 and 27 regarding footplates and the consumption of alcohol.
2. The Regatta will be raced from the first post of the Long Reach to the Pink House. The course may be altered at the umpire's discretion should a houseboat or other such obstacle present itself at the finish line.
3. There will be three divisions: Mixed 2+(++ encouraged), mixed 4+ and mixed 8+. Prizes will be awarded to winning crews. All crews should be approximately equally mixed with no empty seats. Penalties will be awarded to any boat with too many more men than women at the discretion of the senior umpire.
4. There will be marshals at the Start (the first post in the Long Reach), the Finish (the Pink House), the Plough reach, either side of Chesterton footbridge, Grassy Corner and between the Railway Bridge and the bus shelter. In the interests of safety, failure to obey promptly the marshalling directions may result in disqualification.
5. The Senior Umpire's decision is final in all matters relating to conduct in the Regatta and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. Boats coming down to the start must report to the Marshal before the Railway Bridge at least 30 minutes before they are due to race.
7. Boats must be at the start and report to the Start Marshal at least 10 minutes before their race time. Late arrivals and boats going above Grassy corner may be disqualified.
8. Boats intending to scratch from their races should make every effort to inform the Head Cardinals Secretary(Rachael Moore rlm59) of their intentions at least 1 hour prior to their scheduled race time.
9. The first crew in each listed pair will race on the non-towpath side, the second crew on the towpath side of the river.
10. The start is a standing non-stakeboat start, which will be ordered when both coxes indicate that they are ready (by lowering their arms): "Both crews come forward.... Attention, Go." Coxes should raise an arm if they do not consider themselves straight and level.
11. Any crew in full fancy dress will be awarded a half-length head start. If both crews are in fancy dress, this is nullified or the head start is awarded to the best fancy dress at the discretion of the start marshal. The crew with the best bribe may also be awarded a half-length head start.
12. A crew may be disqualified in event of a false start at the discretion of the start marshal.
13. Boats will race side-by-side and must keep to their stations throughout the race, irrespective of the position of the opposition. If a boat moves to take the opposition's water it will be warned to move back on station by the whistle, crew name, or station sounded by the Race Marshal. If the offence is disregarded, the offending crew will be disqualified.
14. In the event of equipment failure at any point during the race the race will continue. It is the responsibility of the crews entering to ensure that their equipment is in working order.

15. Subject to disqualification, the first boat to pass the finish line with its bow will be declared the winner. A dead heat will be awarded if the distance between the bows of the competing boats at the finish line is less than two feet. This will result in a re-row, which will take place at the end of that division over the full Regatta course. There will be no limit on the numbers of re-rows that can be awarded at the discretion of the finish marshal.

16. After the race has finished, both crews should continue rowing. The losing crew should return home and the winning crew should go to the Penny Ferry where they will be instructed about their next race.

17. In the interests of safety, bank parties are restricted to four persons on bicycles and the use of loudhailers, whistles, air horns, etc. is prohibited. Repeated disregard of this regulation will result in disqualification of the crew involved.

18. The final and semifinal will be raced on a different course from the previous divisions. The semifinal rounds will be a novel race style to be announced on the day. The fastest 2 advance to the final. The Senior Umpire will calculate the middle of the previous course. The finalists will then start from that point, one crew will race to the first post, and the other will race to the Pink House. The crews will then spin and return to the start line, now the finish line! The crew to win is the one whose bow ball crosses the finish line first. As in the previous divisions, a re-row will be awarded if the bow-ball of the losing boat is within 2 feet of the winning boat as the bow-ball of the winning boat crosses the finish line. During this race crews will stay on the side of river they would normally row on i.e. the bank will be on their right hand side at all times.

19. In the event of red or yellow flags being hoisted, continuation of racing will be decided in discussion with CUCBC officers, and will be communicated via e-mail/web/at St Catharine's BH/verbally to crews at boathouses or on the river.

20. Lifejackets must be worn by coxes in accordance with the relevant CUCBC regulations. Bow-balls are similarly required, and the presence of heel restraints will be assumed, though not necessarily checked for on every boat. **Concept 2 Footplates are not allowed unless modified to meet BR specifications. Any crew intending to use a boat with these type of foot plates must inform the race organiser at the time they submit their entry to ensure that compliance can be checked on the day.** Absence of any of the above will result in immediate disqualification.

21. All crews must row with the correct colour blades i.e. those of the college for which they are entered. Crews from departments or societies should inform us of the colour of their blades.

22. The emergency stop signal will be a long blast from an air horn. This will be demonstrated to all crews before racing. Upon hearing this all crews must stop.

23. Emergency medical aid will be provided by St John's ambulance stationed at the Finish.

24. Failure to obey the instructions of a Regatta Marshall (who will be identified by a bright yellow bib or jacket) at any time may result in disqualification.

25. Prizes will be presented at a prize giving in Catz Bar on the evening of the races. A prize or prizes will be awarded for the best fancy dress.

26. This is a fun event and anyone treating it too seriously will be penalised. Bribery of the marshals and umpires is not unheard of (but please see rule 27 below regarding alcohol consumption). Except on matters of safety.

27. Consumption of alcohol by competitors and on-duty marshals is not allowed either before or during the races, because it invalidates the event insurance.

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