**Letter to Coaches**

Regatta Committee:

*Dennis Smith, Regatta Director*

*Dan Jones, Chief Referee*

*Harry Carroll*

*Gregg Francis*

*Ahmed Bahgat*

Dear Coach:

The Garden State Scholastic Rowing Association is proud to host the **Garden State Scholastic Championship**, which will be held **Saturday, April 27, 2024** on the Cooper River in Camden, NJ.

**The regatta is open to all scholastic programs in the state of New Jersey.**

Please find enclosed:

1. Regatta information
2. List of events
3. Awards
4. Registration, waivers and entry fee information
5. Rules and regulations
6. Venue information
7. Directions and parking
8. Volunteer information
9. Spectator information

If you need more detailed information, please contact

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Regatta InformationDennis SmithDpsmith773@gmail.com609-233-0132 |  |

***Regatta Information***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date: | Saturday, April 27, 2024 |
| Location: | Cooper River, Camden County, NJ |
| Race Distance: | 1500 m |
| Start time: | 8:00 am **Heats will start at 8 am. Finals will start when heats are completed.** |
| Weigh Ins | Weigh ins for lightweights will be at the boathouse from 8 AM until 10 AM. **No weigh-ins permitted outside these hours.****Girls’ weight is 130 lbs. Boys weight is 150 lbs.** |

***Registration***

**Entry deadline is April 19, 2024**.

This is a USRowing Registered Regatta. As such, all clubs or participants are required to be members of USRowing in order to participate.

Registration is online at[**Regatta Central**](http://www.regattacentral.com/)[www.regattacentral.com](http://www.regattacentral.com/).

If you have scratches, please notify ***Dennis Smith at dpsmith773@gmail.com*** soon as possible. Also, if due to scratches we will condense the number of races per event if possible. A $75 scratch fee will be assessed for all scratches after the deadline.

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| ***Entry Fees (USD)*** |
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|  | **Standard Cost** | **Late Cost** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1x | $55.00 | $75.00 |
| 2x | $85.00 | $105.00 |
| 4+ | $145.00 | $165.00 |
| 4x | $145.00 | $165.00 |
| 8+ | $190.00 | $210.00 |

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***Waivers***

Submit USRowing “2024 Release of Liability” through Regatta Central with your registration.

***Refunds***

**There will be no refunds if the regatta is cancelled due to inclement weather or high wind.**

***Order of Finals***

**Heats start at 8:00 am. There will be heats for all events with more than six entries, prior to the start of final events.**

**An official schedule will be released at the close of registration.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Description** | **Event** | **Description** |
| **1** | **Women’s HS Jr 1x** | **20** | **Men’s HS Sr 8+** |
| **2** | **Men’s HS Jr 1x** | **21** | **Women’s HS 2nd 8+** |
| **3** | **Women’s HS Sr 1x** | **22** | **Men’s HS 2nd 8+** |
| **4** | **Men’s HS Sr 1x** | **23** | **Women’s HS Ltwt 4+** |
| **5** | **Women's HS novice 2x** | **24** | **Men’s HS Ltwt 4+** |
| **6** | **Men's HS novice 2x** | **25** | **Women's HS novice 4+** |
| **7** | **Women’s HS Jr 2x** | **26** | **Men's HS novice 4+** |
| **8** | **Men’s HS Jr 2x** | **27** | **Women’s HS novice 4x** |
| **9** | **Women’s HS Ltwt 2x** | **28** | **Men’s HS novice 4x** |
| **10** | **Men’s HS Ltwt 2x** | **29** | **Women’s HS Freshmen 4x** |
| **11** | **Women’s HS Sr 2x** | **30** | **Men’s HS Freshmen 4x** |
| **12** | **Men’s HS Sr 2x** | **31** | **Women's HS Jr 4x** |
| **13** | **Women’s HS Jr 4+** | **32** | **Men's HS Jr 4x** |
| **14** | **Men’s HS Jr 4+** | **33** | **Women's HS Sr 4x** |
| **15** | **Women’s HS Jr 8+** | **34** | **Men's HS Sr 4x** |
| **16** | **Men’s HS Jr 8+** | **35** | **Women’s HS Novice 8+** |
| **17** | **Women’s HS Sr 4+** | **36** | **Men’s HS Novice 8+** |
| **18** | **Men’s HS Sr 4+** | **37** | **Women’s HS Freshmen 8+** |
| **19** | **Women’s HS Sr 8+** | **38** | **Men’s HS Freshmen 8+** |

**If an event does not have two or more entries**, the event will be dropped and you will be notified. If the event is dropped, you will be notified before the event and can choose to roll the entry into another category.

**If an event does not have more than six entries,** it will be rowed as a straight final.

**If an event has 7 boats there will be 2 semifinals with last place being eliminated in each, yielding a 5-boat final.**

We reserve the right to combine events if putting 2 events together adds up to 6 or less boats.

**Awards**

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals will be awarded for events with 5 or 6 boats. Race with 4 boats 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Race with 3 boats 1st and 2nd only, and 2 boat race 1st.

***Points***

**An Overall Team Points Trophy will be awarded for both Sculling and Sweep (Men’s and Women’s). Please note points will be awarded similar to the guidelines listed above for medals. Points are for SRAA Events Only**

The points system for the trophy will be as follows:

 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

**Sweep Events**

Varsity Eights 10 7 5 3 2 1

2 V Eight 5 3 2

Varsity Fours 6 4 2 1

Lightweight Four 4 2 1

Junior Eights 5 3 2

Junior Fours 4 2 1

Frosh Eights 4 2 1

**Sculling Events**

Varsity Quads 5 3 2

Varsity 2x 4 2 1

Lightweight 2x 3 2 1

Varsity 1x 3 2 1

Junior Quads 3 2 1

Junior 2x 2 1

Freshman Quads 3 2 1

***Seeding***

All events in the regatta will be seeded. Every boat in the event will be seeded. A seeding committee will determine the lane assignments for all seeded events. All selections are based on past performance.

***Weigh-Ins***

All lightweight rowers will have a two-hour window to weigh-in from **8 AM until 10 AM** on Saturday morning. No one will be permitted to weigh in outside of this window. All athletes must be within one pound to have a second chance weigh in, and only have one reweigh. Please download the weigh in sheet and have filled out prior to arriving.

***Qualifying for SRAA***

* Crews will be invited based on their performance at a qualifying championship.
* The qualifying championship regattas are:
1. Florida State Championship
2. Midwest Championship
3. Garden State Scholastic Championship
4. New York State Scholastic Championship
5. Philadelphia City Championship
6. Virginia State Championship
7. Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association
8. West Coast Scholastics
* All teams must qualify at their local qualifying championship or petition for At-Large Bids.
* At-Large Bid petitions will be accepted from crews placing below the automatic selection criteria in their championship regatta, however, priority for At-Large Bid petitions will be given to crews that are not from one of the qualifying championship areas.
* In addition, any Automatic Qualifying Entries not used from the qualifying regattas will go into the At-Large Bid category; they do not pass down to the next place crew in the qualifying regatta.
* SRAA® follows the 50% substitution rule.  The crew’s lineup that qualified the boat for the SRAA® Championship can only substitute up to 50% of the lineup that races at the SRAA® Championship.
* A school may only qualify one boat per event Category.
* The qualifying championship regatta directors must supply the order of finish for their events to the SRAA®.

**The Garden State Scholastic Championship is open to all scholastic programs in the state of New Jersey Only.**

***Venue Information***

**Parking**

Please follow the instructions of those directing the parking of trailers. We hope to have the trailers in line one behind the other so there are aisles for crews to walk to and from the trailers and docks easily. The first trailers in should back up to the walkway and continue to pull in next to each other going around the perimeter of staging area. Once we bring the trailers all the way around, we will back trailers into place in front of those on the perimeter. Please leave about 12 feet side to side and enough room back to front to get your boats out of the center racks. Once your trailer is parked the truck must move out onto the street in the designated parking area. Please be courteous when parking as we need to get quite a few trailers into this area. Allow room for neighbors.

**The street will not be closed this year. All vehicles will park curbside in a legal parking spot along North Park Drive. No tow vehicles are permitted in the boat area. There are no parking passes for team vehicles. Any questions please ask a Camden County Parks employee or Sheriff. All parents will park in the street and parking lots going up the course from the finish line area.**

***The race course***

**Cooper River Park**'s Olympic-distance 2000-meter straightaway has drawn praise from international rowing experts who say its sheltered, narrow course provides ideal rowing conditions. Cooper River Park has hosted numerous major rowing events, including the Olympic trials and the Intercollegiate Rowing Association championships.

* Six lane buoyed course
* Stake boats
* Spacious viewing area
* Plenty of space for teams



#### Hotels

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|  | **DoubleTree**Cherry Hill, NJ800-496-7621 | Walking distance to course. |
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|  | **Holiday Inn**Cherry Hill, NJ 08022856-663-5300 |  |

***Rules and Regulations***

In addition to the rules of **USRowing**, the following rules will apply. Complete rules of **USRowing** are available in PDF form on their website[**www.usrowing.org**](http://www.usrowing.org/)**.**

The Executive Board of the GSSCR reserves the right to request the removal of any person or persons from the regatta site for unsportsmanlike conduct or breaking of the rules. Removal from the site may lead to a ban of that person or persons from future regattas as determined by the Executive Board.

Access to the race course by anyone other than race officials or safety personnel is prohibited. Exception to this rule would be for a credentialed member of the press or VIP approved by at least two members of the Executive Board of the GSSCR. Notification of this exception must be provided to the Chief Referee prior to access to the race course.

All questions of eligibility, qualification or interpretations of any rule shall be referred to the Chief Referee whose decision shall be made in coordination with the GSSCR Executive Committee. This decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

***Athletic Eligibility Limitation***

1. Eligibility is assigned to students in their freshman through senior year (grades 9 through 12).
2. Each athlete has four consecutive years (eight consecutive semesters) of eligibility beginning in September of their freshman year (9th grade).
3. A rower or coxswain cannot have reached his or her 19th birthday prior to September 1st of that academic year.
4. After eight consecutive semesters, a student will have completed his/her athletic eligibility and may no longer participate in the GSSC Regatta.
5. The four consecutive years (eight consecutive semesters) begins with the student’s initial enrollment in the 9th grade.
6. Post Graduates, fifth year students are not permitted.
7. Freshman shall be designated as those athletes in the 9th grade as listed on their team roster.
8. Junior events are restricted to competitors in the 11th grade (junior year) or lower.
9. Juniors, including coxswains, must not have attained the age of 18 years prior to September 1st of that academic year.
10. 12th grade (senior) students shall not compete in junior events.

***Regatta rules***

1. All paperwork and fees must be submitted prior to racing.
2. Freshman boats may not race in varsity events. Rowers in freshman events must have less than one year of rowing experience. May only row in Freshman 4+ or 8+ not both.
3. All races will be 1500 meters.
4. $50.00 cash shall accompany all protest.
5. There will be a 20-second- or 100-meter equipment breakage rule.
6. There must be two crews entered or the event will be canceled.
7. **The dock master must be notified of all hot-seat boats before the boat goes out for its first race.**
8. The event schedule is subject to change depending on the entries received.
9. All athletes and coaches are reminded that sportsmanlike conduct is expected.

***Objections***

* Objections must be registered on the water in accordance with USRowing rules.
* To address objections, an informal pre-hearing will be held by a specially designated ombudsman official as soon as the crews have returned to the dock.
* This ombudsman will act only as a moderator and will attempt to resolve the potential objection(s) in a way mutually agreeable to the protesting crew, any other crews involved and the official most directly involved.
* If no mutually agreeable resolution can be arranged within a reasonable period of time or if it seems necessary to consult additional witnesses, the objecting team will then submit its formal protest to the Chief Referee.  The Chief Referee will convene the jury as soon as possible.
* The formal protest, written by a member of the racing crew, must be submitted to the Chief Referee or his designee by a member of the crew.  The protest statement should follow the USRowing Rules of Racing, citing the reason for the protest, the USRowing or SRAA® rule(s) being cited and the remedy the crew seeks.
* The protest must be accompanied by a $50.00 fee, paid in cash, and will be returned if the protest is upheld.
* Disposition of the protest will follow the USRowing Rules of Racing.

***Specifics:***

1. All boats shall have their own lane #’s and must be equipped with a bow ball and foot release straps. Each team must provide their own bow numbers. All boats will be checked.
2. Launch when called
* Have someone carry oars to the dock for your crew
* Tie in on the water
* Try to keep it to 90 seconds on the dock.
1. Follow buoys away from the dock
2. Row up to the start staying outside lane 1. Proceed directly to the marshalling area.

	* + Under no circumstances should any crew go onto the course until called to your lane at the starting line.
		+ The course will be buoyed and lanes easily identified.
		+ Try to stop, if possible, when a race is coming down but do not make yourself late to the start.
3. Get most of your warm-up done on land before launching.
4. Once in the marshalling area follow the marshal’s instruction. As one event is lining up on the stakeboats the next race shall be sitting next to the course waiting to go to your lane.
5. Boats will enter the course once the previous race clears the breakage zone and go in descending order starting with lane 6 going across first, then lane 5, etc...
6. Get onto the stake boats quickly and get your point. Be sure that your crews know how to spike the boat around to get their point.
7. Be ready to start at any moment. With a tight schedule the starter cannot and will not wait for boats that are not following instructions or are not getting into the stake boats in a timely manner. Quick starts will be used at the starter’s discretion.
8. Stakeboat use will be suspended at the starter’s discretion if wind is making it difficult to get boats locked on in a timely manner.
9. Races will not be held up for hot seating or crews not in the marshalling area prior to your event being called to the line.
10. Should the breakage zone not be clearly marked there will be a 20-second equipment breakage rule. If you break equipment in the zone stop, raise your hand and notify the officials immediately. Jumped slides, crabs, and problems with the cox box do NOT count as breakage.
11. After you cross the finish line stop, follow the buoy line steering your boat toward starboard. Steer well clear of boats launching and proceed to the landing dock.
12. Coaches have someone on the landing dock to get your crews oars off the dock quickly. Again, no more than **90 seconds on the dock**.

***Directions***

**Camden County Boathouse, 7050 N. Park Dr., Pennsauken, NJ 08109.**

**From the West:**

Pennsylvania Turnpike east to the Valley Forge exit. At Valley Forge take I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway) east to Philadelphia. Stay to the left after passing the Girard Avenue Exit. Exit at I-676 (Vine Street Expressway). Follow signs for Ben Franklin Bridge. Go straight ahead after the tollbooth to Admiral Wilson Blvd/Route 30. Do not bear right onto I-676.

Go about one mile and then take the right branch at top of overpass onto Route 130 South. Immediately get in the right lane, and take the jug handle for North Park Drive. Follow North Park Drive about 1.5 miles and trailer only parking is to the right, just before you come to Cuthbert.

**From North or South:**

Exit New Jersey Turnpike at Exit 4. Go right onto NJ Route 73, North. Exit from Route 73 onto NJ Route 38, West. Exit from NJ Route 38 at Cuthbert Blvd. Go south on Cuthbert Blvd. (Collingswood, Oaklyn).

Pass first traffic light on Cuthbert Blvd. Turn right at the next road onto South Park Drive. Follow South Park Drive to Route 130 and turn right onto Route 130. Take the next right onto North Park Drive. Follow North Park Drive about 1.5 miles and trailer only parking is to the right, just before you come to Cuthbert.

-Or-

From Route 38 South, take Route 130 South. Take the jug handle for North Park Drive. Follow North Park Drive about 1.5 miles and trailer only parking is to the right, just before you come to Cuthbert.

**From South:**

Follow signs to NJ Route 130 north. Stay on Route 130 through one circle (Collingswood Circle). After going under an RR bridge watch for Cooper River on the right (it looks like a lake, not like a river). Take first right after passing the river (the first traffic light). This is North Park Drive. Continue for 2,000 meters. Trailer parking is at the end of the course on the right. **Trailer parking is to the right.**

**From North:**

From I-95 south follow signs to Betsy Ross Bridge (just past Bridge Street Exit). When you come off the bridge follow signs to NJ Route 130 south. Stay on Route 130 for a few miles to a major intersection. Pass through the intersection still staying on Route 130. At the next traffic light, you want to turn left but you must exit from the right (it’s a jug handle). This is North Park Drive. Continue for 2,000 meters. **Trailer parking is at the end of the course on the right.**

***Volunteers***

***We need your Help*** to run “The Garden State Scholastic Championship Regatta”, please use the link below to sign up to help!!! There are several areas in which you can help.

[Garden State Scholastic Rowing Association: Garden State Scholastic Championships - Saturday, April 27, 2024 (signupgenius.com)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044BA8A623AAF94-48815591-garden#/)

There are several areas in which you can help.

* Pre-Regatta setup
* Launch drivers: familiarity with outboard and wakeless launches is required
* **Stake boats**
* Finish line assistants
* Finish line tower flag bearers
* Dock masters

**Spectators**

Please take a moment to read the Camden County Park Commission-Cooper River Park Rules which are on the Camden County Boathouse website, [www.camdencountyboathouse.com](http://www.camdencountyboathouse.com).

* All vehicles must load and unload at curbside or within the parking area.
* You may set up your tents after the tent locations and access isles are marked, which is anticipated to be completed by Friday at 1:00 pm.  Any tent that is set up prior to the field mark out by the regatta organizers will be removed.  All tents must be set up in the marked areas in the field 200' west of the grandstand.  No tents should be set up within 100' of the gazebo nor within 50' of the river.  No vehicles are permitted next to your tent. You may cook for your teams, but you can't sell food or drink to the public. Please use care when using a grill. Properly dispose of coals and waste after you are finished.
* Please leave your area as you found it. It is your responsibility to properly dispose of trash. It is your responsibility to bring trash bags and neatly pile your trash near a trash can.