



To: All Stewards

17 November, 2025

From: The Chair of the Committee

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE QUALIFICATION RULES

The introduction of three new women's events

In the post-Forum survey, the majority of Stewards voted in favour of introducing three new Women's events for quadruple sculls in the Intermediate, Club and Student categories respectively at the 2026 Regatta.

The proposed rules for each new event are presented overleaf.

The two Intermediate events for Women, catering for the best club and student crews below the Premier level:-

New Women's Intermediate 4x event

FOR QUADRUPLE SCULLS

1. Any crew of eligible members of any club established at least one year before the Closing Date for entries may contend for this prize, subject to the following:-

No heavyweight World Rowing Senior national crew may contend for this prize.

2. No one shall compete in this event and in any other sculling event at the same Regatta.

These Rules mirror those of The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup.

The two Club events for Women, catering for crews below the Intermediate level:-

New Women's Club 4x event

FOR QUADRUPLE SCULLS

1. Any crew of eligible members of any one club established at least one year before the Closing Date for entries may contend for this prize, subject to the following:-

(a) No crew of a boat club of any university, college or secondary school shall be qualified to contend for this prize.

(b) No current national squad member, heavyweight or lightweight, shall compete in this event.

(c) No World Rowing Under 23 national crew may contend for this prize.

(d) No one shall compete in this event who has rowed or sculled in an Olympic Games, a Final Olympic Qualification Regatta or a World Rowing Senior World Championships or Senior European Championships.

(e) No one shall compete in this event who has won a medal at a World Rowing Under 23 Championships.

(f) No one shall compete in this event who has previously won an event at the Regatta, other than The Island, The Student Women's or The Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cups, or the Prince Philip Challenge Trophy, save that any crew, other than one representing the current holders of The Wargrave or the new Women's Club 4x Event, may contain up to one member who has previously won The Wargrave or the new Women's Club 4x Event.

(g) No crew of an alumni boat club of a university or college shall be qualified to contend for this prize if the crew contains any current-year students from the associated university or college.

2. No one shall compete in this event and in any other event at the same Regatta.

These Rules mirror those of The Wyfold and The Wargrave Challenge Cups.

The **two** Student events for Women, catering for student crews below the Intermediate level:-

New Women's Student 4x event

FOR QUADRUPLER SCULLS

1. Any crew of eligible members of a boat club of any university or college, such club being established at least one year before the Closing Date for entries, may contend for this prize, subject to the following:-
 - (a) Every member of a crew of a university or college boat club shall be, or shall within two months of the Closing Date for entries have been, a full-time internal student of the university or college.
 - (b) No one shall compete in this event who has in any previous year won an event at the Regatta, other than The Prince Philip Challenge Trophy or The Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup.
 - (c) No current national squad member, heavyweight or lightweight, shall compete in this event.
 - (d) No one shall compete in this event who has rowed or sculled in an Olympic Games, a Final Olympic Qualification Regatta or a World Rowing Senior World Championships or Senior European Championships.
 - (e) No one shall compete in this event who has won a medal at a World Rowing Under 23 Championships.
2. Combined entries may only be made by no more than two college boat clubs of any one university.
3. No one shall compete in this event and in any other event at the same Regatta.

These Rules mirror those of The Island, except that they do not permit the participation of clubs from secondary schools, where quadruple sculling is currently more developed than in universities and colleges. This restriction will be kept under review as women's sculling becomes established at university and college level.

Proposed amendments to the rules of The Thames and The Wargrave Challenge Cups

New Rule 1(h), with the current Rule 1(h) to be renumbered as 1(i):-

- (h) The Committee may, on application and at its absolute discretion, grant exemptions for individual competitors from the eligibility restrictions in 1(d) to 1(g) above after five calendar years have elapsed following the event in question. The Committee will not normally grant more than two such exemptions for any one crew.
- (i) No crew of an alumni boat club of a university or college shall be qualified to contend for this prize if the crew contains any current-year students from the associated university or college.

The current Rules restrict those who have had International careers or have previously been successful at the Regatta or in other events from ever again competing in Club events. These proposed changes would open up an avenue for individual athletes to continue in the sport at an appropriate level once a certain amount of time had passed since they last competed at a high level, but always subject to the explicit approval of the Committee. The elapse of five years mirrors similar exemptions at Henley Women's Regatta.

Proposed amendments to the rules of The Wyfold and the new Women's Club 4x event

New Rule 1(g) in The Wyfold and the new Women's Club 4x event, with the current 1(g) renumbered as 1(h):-

- (g) The Committee may, on application and at its absolute discretion, grant exemptions for individual competitors from the eligibility restrictions in 1(d) to 1(f) above after five calendar years have elapsed following the event in question. The Committee will not normally grant more than one such exemption for any one crew.
- (h) No crew of an alumni boat club of a university or college shall be qualified to contend for this prize if the crew contains any current-year students from the associated university or college.

Proposed amendments to the rules of The Britannia Challenge Cup

Amendment to The Britannia Challenge Cup Rule 1(d) from the current version:-

- (d) No one shall compete in this event if he has rowed, sculled or coxed in an Olympic Games, a Final Olympic Qualification Regatta or a World Rowing Senior World Championships or Senior European Championships or Under 23 Championships.

to

- (d) No one shall compete in this event who has rowed, sculled or coxed in an Olympic Games, a Final Olympic Qualification Regatta or a World Rowing Senior World Championships or Senior European Championships or Under 23 World Championships.

This change addresses an ambiguity in the Rule, which was identified by the Entries team ahead of this year's Regatta, with regard to whether Under 23 Championships included Under 23 European Championships.

New Rule 1(h) in The Britannia Challenge Cup, with the current 1(h) renumbered as 1(i):-

- (h) The Committee may, on application and at its absolute discretion, grant exemptions for individual competitors from the eligibility restrictions in 1(d) to 1(g) above after five calendar years have elapsed following the event in question. The Committee will not normally grant more than one such exemption for any one crew.
- (i) No crew of an alumni boat club of a university or college shall be qualified to contend for this prize if the crew contains any current-year students from the associated university or college.

Proposed amendments to the descriptors in the Rules for sculling events

It is proposed to change the descriptors from 'For Single Scullers', 'For Double Scullers' and 'For Quadruple Scullers' to 'For Single Sculls', 'For Double Sculls' and 'For Quadruple Sculls' respectively throughout the Rules.

This proposal aims to bring the descriptors for sculling events into line with those for the sweep-oared events which refer to boats not competitors, e.g. 'For Eight Oars with Coxswain', 'For Four Oars', 'For Pair Oars'.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL RULES

Rule 18 PRESCRIBED NUMBER OF ENTRIES to be removed, with all subsequent Rules to be renumbered accordingly, and Rule 20 (new Rule 19) to be amended as follows to remove reference to this Rule:-

QUALIFYING RACES

19. If more entries are received for any event than can be accommodated in the Regatta, the Committee shall arrange Qualifying Races in accordance with the following rules:-

- (a) The Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, select which of the entrants shall compete in these races.
- (b) The races shall take place before the Regatta and shall be held in whatever form the Committee may determine.

It is proposed that annual guidance on the likely numbers for each event should instead be published on the HRR website. The removal of prescribed numbers from the Rule book reflects the desire on behalf of the Committee to offer them only as informal guidance to coaches and competitors, so as to allow for greater flexibility each year in the construction of the racing programme, which will be running at close to capacity with the introduction of three new events in 2026.

Proposed changes to the gendered language in the Rules (which in practice means all gendered pronouns to be removed).

This proposal arose out of an observation made at the 2025 Regatta and mentioned at a subsequent Committee meeting that Rule 41, which covers the Conduct of Races, in several places still refers to the Umpire as he/him/his, and a subsequent observation that the Rules in the Open events have also continued to refer to he/him/his even though these are no longer Men's events. The proposed changes involve a number of slight adjustments to the wording of the Rules to remove all gendered pronouns.