



GENERAL GUIDANCE ON ENTRIES FOR THE 2026 REGATTA

As the scale of the Regatta grows, it becomes more important that those making entries understand how the process works and how decisions are made. This document contains some insights and advice that will be new even to the seasoned coach or club official. Follow the guidance here to create an easier life for all involved, and to increase your chances of a trouble-free Regatta.

If you have any questions about this guidance or making an entry, seek early advice from the Entries Team by emailing entries@hrr.co.uk.

Select an event

Please be sure to read the Qualification Rules carefully, so you select the right event for your crew. Any entry found to be in breach of the Qualification Rules for an event may be rejected, or moved to a higher category.

Check that each competitor complies with any restrictions on prior international competition; for Club, Student and Junior events, study the specific guidance below. Apart from in the Premier category, most events carry restrictions on multiple entries, composite crews or doubling up. If you are not sure about the right event to enter, or a competitor's eligibility, check with the Entries Team well before entries close on 15 June.

Club Events

The Thames, Wargrave, Wyfold, and Britannia Challenge Cups, and the Club Women's Quads event, are intended for genuine club crews: that is, crews that have trained and competed together for the same club throughout the season. A student who has been training or racing for their university during the current season will not normally be eligible for the Club events.

In particular for UK entries, a competitor who has represented their university at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Regatta in the current year will not be accepted in a Club event entry.

From 2026, a new provision in the Qualification Rules allows a competitor with prior international experience or a Henley win to compete in a Club event, after five calendar years have elapsed. This concession should not be assumed, but must be applied for in good time by emailing the Entries Team. A crew including such a competitor will still be ineligible for the Club events unless such permission has been obtained before the entry is submitted.

Student Events

The Temple, Island, and Prince Albert Challenge Cups, and the Student Women's Quads event, are intended for crews comprising full-time students of the institution they will represent. The Committee recognises that a single boat club may serve several institutions in the same city, and is prepared to consider an entry from such a club – subject to prior agreement with the Entries Team. A crew containing competitors from more than one university will not be eligible for a student event if those other universities have their own boat clubs.

Junior Events

The Princess Elizabeth, Fawley and Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cups and The Prince Philip Challenge Trophy are intended for crews from a single club or school boat club who have trained and competed together for that club throughout the season. Note that from 2026, the age limit for all junior events has been extended to under 19 on the final day of the Regatta.

Qualifying Races

Nearly all events now require Qualifying Races on the Friday before the Regatta, to reduce the number of entries to a manageable level. DO NOT ASSUME that you will be exempt from qualifying, particularly in the Club, Student and Junior events – where up to two-thirds of entries received will have to qualify. Even some Premier and Intermediate events now routinely require Qualifying Races.

The decision to exempt a crew from qualifying is based purely on the racing performance of that crew during the current season: it is not based on the opinions of the crew or their coach about their potential. The Committee will not grant exemption based only on the prior history of individual crew members, however good their pedigree. Nor will it exempt a crew simply because they cannot attend the Qualifying Races.

Exemption from qualifying is a concession, not an entitlement. To avoid qualifying, a crew should race and do well at leading national competitions against realistic opposition, in a similar line-up to their HRR entry.

The Committee recognises that overseas crews planning their flights and accommodation will want to know in advance whether they are likely to have to qualify, and they should contact the Entries Team in good time to receive guidance on their prospects.

Making an entry

Follow the links on the Compete page of the Regatta website to access the online entries system. Before making an entry, you should gather all the information you need to complete it, especially the FULL initials and birthdates of crew members. If you are not sure of this information, ask the competitors rather than making it up. Correcting this detail later in the process wastes a lot of time and effort for all concerned.

Entries close at 14:00 UK time on Monday 15 June 2026. The Regatta does not accept late entries.

Crew Performance History

As part of the entry process you are required to submit information about the crew's recent racing performance. Please provide concise data about the latest or recent best performances: general opinions about the crew's performance or potential will be disregarded. This information is used to assess a crew's general standard and whether or not it will be required to qualify, and later by the broadcast commentary team. The Committee also gathers data directly from leading national competitions through the season, to cross-match against current HRR entries: this allows it to make informed decisions about which crews have to qualify and, later, which crews are selected in the Draw.

Racing Places

A 'Prescribed Number' for each event is no longer published in the General Rules. The Committee will continue to determine the number of racing places available at the Regatta based on the overall quality of the entry in each event each year, and that may lead to a reduction or an increase from previous years. This has been common practice for many years in the Premier events, and is gradually extending to all events.

The number of racing places available for each event at the last five Regattas is published on the Compete page of the Regatta website, so coaches can review recent trends.

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