



WACO ROWING

SUPPORTED BY



REGATTAPROS

WACO “HEAD-TO-HEAD” RACE

REGATTA PACKET

Waco, TX
November 14, 2026

Waco Rowing Center and RegattaPros are excited to welcome crews back to the Brazos River for the 2026 Waco “Head-to-Head” Race on Saturday, November 14.

The Head-to-Head Race offers a unique fall racing experience, combining the endurance and strategy of traditional head racing with the excitement of side-by-side competition. Crews will race over a 3,500-meter course through downtown Waco, starting in paired flights and navigating the Brazos River course together toward the finish at Brazos Park East.

After introducing this format in 2025, we are excited to build on the inaugural event and continue developing the Head-to-Head Race as a distinctive way for teams to close out their fall racing season.

This packet includes important information regarding registration, scheduling, race procedures, course navigation, parking, practice, and race-day operations. Coaches and competitors are responsible for reviewing the information provided and understanding the specific procedures associated with the Head-to-Head format.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to welcoming you to Waco for another great day of racing on the Brazos River.

See you at the river,



Regatta Director
RegattaPros



Steve Cates
Waco Rowing Center



EVENT OVERVIEW

Important Dates

September 21	Registration opens on HereNow
November 4	Standard registration closes at 11:59 PM CDT.
November 9	Late registration, scratches and personal info close at 11:59 PM CDT.
November 12	Initial start list by 6:00 PM; Virtual Pre-Regatta meeting.
November 13	Trailer Parking/Registration 3–7 PM; Practice 3–6:30 PM
November 14	Race Day. On-site Registration opens at 6:30am.

Registration

Registration will occur on the HereNow website:
<https://herenow.com/registration/21407/>

New for 2026

- Additional Race Categories:
 - Youth Novice 2x's
 - Mixed Youth 4x's
- Master's "AA" Category to include 20-year-olds to help bridge the gap after the Youth category.

Racing Format Overview

- 3,500m race
- "Henley-style" side-by-side running starts
- Youth, U17, Novice, Collegiate and Masters events

Course & Venue

- 3,500m race on the Brazos River
- Start near MLK Park
- Finish at Brazos Park East
- Crews start side-by-side for competitive racing experience.

Pre-Regatta Meeting

- Waco Head-to-Head Race Pre-Regatta Meeting
- Thursday, November 12
- Virtual meeting
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Google Meet link:
<https://meet.google.com/pwa-iesg-hit>
- Or dial: (US) +1 503-673-6525 PIN: 401 944 265#

Key Dates & Deadlines

September 21	Registration opens on HereNow
November 4	Standard registration closes at 11:59 PM CDT.
November 9	Late registration, scratches and personal info close at 11:59 PM CDT.
November 12	Initial start list by 6:00 PM; Virtual Pre-Regatta meeting.
November 13	Trailer Parking/Registration 3–7 PM; Practice 3–6:30 PM
November 14	Race Day. On-site Registration opens at 6:30am.

Event Weekend Overview

Thursday, November 12

- 6:00 PM: Initial start list posted
- 7:00 PM: Virtual Coaches/Coxswains Meeting

Friday, November 13

- 3:00 PM: Venue opens for trailer parking, packet/bow number pick-up, and official on-water practice.
- 6:30 PM: Last launch for practice.
- 7:00 PM: Venue parking and registration close.

Saturday, November 14

- 6:00 AM: Venue opens
- 6:30 AM: Registration and bow number pickup open
- 8:00 AM: Expected start of racing

All racing will take place on Saturday, November 14.

Final Race Schedule

The final race order and start times will be developed after registration closes and will be based on the final entry count, event combinations, equipment-doubling considerations, and safe course operations.

An initial start list will be published by 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 12. Any required adjustments will be communicated to registered teams and reviewed during the virtual pre-regatta meeting.

Crews are responsible for monitoring the final published schedule and arriving at the start in the correct order and with sufficient time to travel from the launch area to the starting area.

Practice, Parking & Registration

Friday, November 13 is the official Parking and Practice Day.

Venue and trailer parking access will be available from 3:00–7:00 PM. Teams should plan their arrival so trailers do not arrive outside of these hours.

Official on-water practice will be available from 3:00–6:30 PM. All crews must follow the published practice traffic pattern and instructions from referees, marshals, and safety personnel.

The registration desk will be open from 3:00–7:00 PM for coach check-in and bow number pickup. Registration and bow number pickup will reopen at 6:30 AM on race morning.

Pre-Regatta Meeting

The Pre-Regatta Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 PM Central. Join using the Google Meet link below:

Waco Head-to-Head Race Pre-Regatta Meeting
Thursday, November 12 · 7:00 – 8:00 PM
Time zone: America/Chicago

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pwa-iesg-hit>

Or dial: (US) +1 503-673-6525 PIN: 401 944 265#

All competitors and coaches are responsible for all information given at this meeting.

An AI program will be invited to the meeting to record and take notes. Its recap will be shared via email following the call.

Remember: AI can make mistakes, so the AI summary is not a replacement for information provided in the meeting.

By joining the call, you agree to appearing on the video recording of the meeting. **7**

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 Mens Youth 1x | 22 Womens Youth 1x |
| 02 Womens Youth 2x | 23 Mens Youth 2x |
| 03 Mens U17 4+ | 24 Womens U17 4+ |
| 04 Womens Masters 4+ | 25 Mens Masters 4+ |
| 04 Womens Collegiate 4+ | 25 Mens Collegiate 4+ |
| 05 Mens Youth Novice 8+ | 26 Womens Youth Novice 8+ |
| 06 Womens Masters 4x | 27 Mens Masters 4x |
| 07 Mixed Youth 4x | 28 Womens Masters 1x |
| 08 Mens Masters 1x | 29 Mens U17 2x |
| 08 Womens U17 2x | 30 Womens Youth 4+ |
| 10 Mens Youth 4+ | 31 Mens U17 8+ |
| 11 Womens U17 8+ | 32 Womens Youth Novice 4x |
| 12 Mens Youth Novice 4x | 33 Mens Youth Novice 2x |
| 13 Womens Youth Novice 2x | 34 Mens Masters 2x |
| 14 Womens Masters 2x | 35 Mens Youth Novice 4+ |
| 15 Womens Youth Novice 4+ | 36 Womens Collegiate 8+ |
| 16 Mens Collegiate 8+ | 37 Womens Masters 8+ |
| 16 Mens Masters 8+ | 38 Womens Youth 4x |
| 17 Mens Youth 4x | 39 Womens U17 1x |
| 18 Mens U17 1x | 40 Mens U17 4x |
| 19 Mixed Youth 8+ | 41 Mens Youth 8+ |
| 20 Womens U17 4x | 42 Mixed Masters 2x |
| 21 Womens Youth 8+ | |



ENTRY INFORMATION

USRowing Membership

This is a USRowing sanctioned regatta. All organizations and athletes are required to meet USRowing's requirements for sanctioned regattas.

Per the USRowing "Sanctioned Regatta Guide":

- *MEMBERSHIP: Individual + Organization*
 - Participants must have either a Basic or Championship membership to participate. Entries with club affiliations must have current Organizational membership. Unaffiliated entries must have a Championship membership.
- *MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT*
 - Every individual member must electronically sign the USRowing Agreement & Waiver. Members can log into their account, select "Sign Agreement & Waiver" from the landing page, check the box to agree to terms and conditions, and submit.
- *SAFESPORT SELF-ATTESTATION (18+)*
 - Every individual member who is 18 years old or older must self-attest whether they are a Relevant Adult Participant as defined in the USRowing Safe Sport Policy. To self-attest, log into your USRowing member portal account and complete the 3-question pop-up questionnaire.
- *SAFESPORT TRAINING*
 - All USRowing Relevant Adult Participants are required to take the 90-minute SafeSport Trained course. After that, you must complete a 30-minute Refresher course annually. If you're not a Relevant Adult Participant based on your self-attestation, you are not required to complete SafeSport training. Review our full Safe Sport Policy [HERE](#).

To avoid delays at registration, teams should make sure all competitors have met these membership requirements prior to arriving at the event.

Entry Information

Entries will be accepted through HereNow:

<https://herenow.com/registration/21408>

Standard registration opens September 21, 2026 and closes November 4, 2026 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Entries in each event will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Payments may be delayed until the close of Standard Registration. All entry fees must be paid in full by the close of Standard Registration on November 4.

Online late registration remains available through November 9, 2026 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Crews representing an organization with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to compete until the balance is paid in full.

Entry Fees

Boat Class	Standard Entry	Late Entry
8+	\$275	\$325
4+/-/x	\$195	\$230
2x/2-	\$140	\$180
1x	\$85	\$130

Refund Policies

- *Scratches*
 - Entries scratched prior to the Standard Registration deadline will receive a refund if they were paid in full. Those funds can also be credited towards another entry from the same organization.
 - Entries scratched after the Standard Registration deadline (November 4) are not eligible for a refund.
- *Adverse Weather Refund Policy*
 - As regatta organizers, our number one responsibility is the safety of the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators involved with the event.
 - Weather-related schedule changes or cancellations are typically done in order to avoid exposing competitors, officials, and volunteers to unsafe weather conditions. Decisions are made in consultation with the local organizing committee, USRowing-licensed Chief Referee, and any additional local officials with applicable jurisdiction.
 - Every effort is made to hold as many races as safely possible, which is why the priority process involves scheduling adjustments before resorting to cancellations.
 - However, in the event that events are canceled, or entries must be scratched due to schedule changes caused by weather conditions, we are not able to issue refunds for these situations.
 - Waco Rowing Center is a small, nonprofit organization, and most regatta expenses are incurred whether the regatta is canceled or not. In order for us to continue to provide racing opportunities, we cannot provide refunds for weather-related cancellations.
 - We appreciate your understanding in these situations.

Late Entries

Late entries will be accepted through HereNow through November 9, 2026 at 11:59 PM CDT and are subject to the published Late Entry fee.

After November 9, late entry requests must be submitted at on-site registration.

No late entries will be accepted on race day unless specifically approved by the Regatta Director.

Scratches

Entries may be scratched without penalty through HereNow until November 4, 2026 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Entries scratched after the Standard registration deadline (November 4, 2026) are not eligible for a refund.

Lineups

All entries should include a full lineup of athletes at the time of registration.

The HereNow Personal Info deadline is November 9, 2026 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Any race-day lineup changes must comply with USRowing rules and be reported to Regatta Headquarters.



RACING INFORMATION

Definitions

- **Youth:** A Youth is a Competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 20 and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A Competitor thus ceases to be a Youth after December 31 of the year of their 18th birthday (U19), or upon completion of the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student within the year of their 19th birthday (U20). Athletes older than U20 are never eligible to compete as Youth.
- **U17:** A Competitor may compete in the U17 category until December 31 of the year of their 16th birthday
- **Novice:** All rowers in a crew must be new to competition, having not raced in any regatta prior to September 1, 2025. Coxswains do not have to be Novice coxswains.
- **Unaffiliated:** Competitors racing unaffiliated must meet the individual membership requirements listed in this packet.
- **Collegiate:** Open to crews representing a college or university, including club and varsity programs.
- **Masters:** A Master is a Competitor who has attained, or will attain, the age of 20 during the current calendar year. A Competitor's age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year, rounded down to the nearest whole number. A Competitor thus becomes a Master on January 1 of the year of their 20th birthday. A Masters Crew shall be comprised exclusively of Masters Rowers, but the Coxswain need not be a Master. USRowing Masters eligibility and handicap rules will apply, with the addition of 20-year old competitors as part of the "AA" category.
- **Mixed:** A crew competing in a Mixed event must be 50% male and 50% female, not including the coxswain.

Composite Entries

Composite entries are accepted in all events at this regatta.

Crews, with the exception of single sculls (1x), wishing to compete with one or more “Unaffiliated” rowers would enter as a composite crew.

Crews may row under their club name with a coxswain from a different club (the boat will not be considered composite).

Composite crews will receive an exception from being required to wear matching uniforms.

Rules of Rowing

USRowing's 2026 Rules of Rowing will govern this event. An online version is available at <http://www.usrowing.org/rules-of-rowing/>

USRowing licensed referees will officiate the event to ensure fairness and safety.

The following rules will be waived for this event:

- Rule 3-104 Minimum Weight of Boats
- Rule 3-202 Oars
- Rule 4-103 (i) Eligibility to Compete in Events
- Rule 4-105.1 Coxswain's Weight
- Rule 4-106 Weighing of Competitors

Equipment

All equipment used in official practice sessions or competition must meet the USRowing Rules of Rowing requirements for equipment, with the exception of the waived rules listed above. Each organization is responsible for ensuring that their equipment meets these standards.

Any equipment not meeting these standards, or judged to be unsafe by a USRowing official, will not be allowed on the water.

Bow Numbers

Bow numbers will be distributed to each team in their team registration packets. Crews must collect their bow numbers from the registration desk before trying to launch.

Bow numbers must be returned when crews come off the water from their race.

“Head-to-Head” Race Procedures

Procedures

A marshal will be positioned near the start to direct crews to enter the course. Crews are responsible for staying in numerical order, staying behind crews with lower numbers and in front of crews with higher numbers.

Crews should line up in pairs, with odd number crews closer to the near shore and even number crews on the racing side of the buoy line.

Crews are responsible for maintaining their proper order and distance. Crews failing to maintain their proper position may be delayed, moved to the end of the starting order, penalized, or excluded.

A crew will be allowed to race as long as they are in the starting area and ready to race before the crew with the last bow number of the event has started.

Crews will start in **side-by-side pairs** every 30 seconds.

Referees and volunteer course marshals will be stationed along the course to monitor safety and fairness conditions and to assess any necessary penalties. The referees have the discretion to assess the necessary penalty for a given infraction or circumstance within the Rules of Rowing.

Penalties:

Buoy violation - Oars: Oars crossing the buoy line will result in a 10 second penalty. This can apply to either crews racing or crews traveling to the start.

Buoy violation - Shells: Full shells crossing the buoy line will result in a minimum of a 60 second violation. This can apply to either crews racing or crews traveling to the start.

Failure to Yield: A crew failing to yield to a passing crew once they are within one boat length will result in a 30 second penalty. See “Passing” section below.

Bridges Crossing Course

Be aware that multiple bridges cross the course. Know your course map to be sure of which bridge openings to use for the warm-up lane to the start, and for the racing lane back down the course.

Passing

A crew being overtaken must yield to allow the overtaking crew to pass.

Crews should yield as soon as it is safe to do so. Passing is not allowed, nor are crews required to yield, in cases where it is unsafe to do so or in situations where yielding would require them to go through a closed bridge arch.

Any crew failing to yield may be assessed penalties ranging from a time penalty to exclusion.

A crew is deemed to be overtaking another crew when it has moved to within one length of open water of the crew ahead.

Referees will give instruction in accordance with the USRowing Rules of Rowing.

Broken Equipment

A crew experiencing broken equipment during the race should move out of the racing lane as quickly as possible.

Bow Numbers

Bow numbers will be distributed to each team at the on-site Registration Desk. Crews must collect their bow numbers before trying to launch and must return them when they return to the dock.

Non-Masters Events:

Crews will be seeded randomly within Club Rank. All “A” crews will be randomly seeded first, followed by all “B” crews, then “C” crews, and so on.

Masters Events:

Masters crews will be seeded by average age, from youngest to oldest.

The published start order may be adjusted as needed by the Regatta Director and Chief Referee for safety, fairness, or operational considerations.

Awards

Medals

Medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers for all events.

Awards will be available for pickup at Regatta Headquarters after official results are posted.

Fastest Time of Day

The Waco “Head-to-Head” Race will recognize the crew recording the fastest official raw time of the day. No handicaps applied.

Timing & Results

Electronic timing and results will be provided by HereNow and Rowing Mavens West.



VENUE & ON-SITE OPERATIONS

Venue Information

Location

Brazos Park East, 3516 N M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Waco, TX 76702

Link to Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ph5VMfz2HMyGdNWN7>

The finish, Regatta Headquarters, trailer parking, team areas, vendor area, and primary spectator activity are located at Brazos Park East.

Lodging

We encourage all teams to support the Waco hotels that are supporting the regatta and sport in Waco.

Visit the Waco TPID website for partner hotel information:
<https://wacotpid.com/hotels/?type=place&sort=a-z>

Course Information

Racing will be conducted as a 3,500-meter head race on the Brazos River. The course begins near the overlook at MLK Park and finishes at Brazos Park East.

Crews must follow the published course and traffic pattern at all times and comply with instructions from referees and safety personnel.

Launch/Recovery

Launching and recovery will occur from the designated docks and shoreline areas identified in the final course and venue map.

Crews must follow the published traffic pattern during practice and racing. Referees and safety personnel may direct crews to specific launch, recovery, staging, or holding areas based on river traffic and conditions.

Teams should allow sufficient time to launch, travel to the start, and arrive in start order.



MAPS

**Regatta
Venue**

h Park

cob's Ladder

Cameron Park Zoo

Brazos River

**Start
(3,500m)**





Doris D Miller Park

Indian
Spring Park

START
(3,500M)

EVEN

ODD

East Riverwalk



Waco Riverwalk

YELLOW = TO START

DOCK

**GREEN = FROM
FINISH**



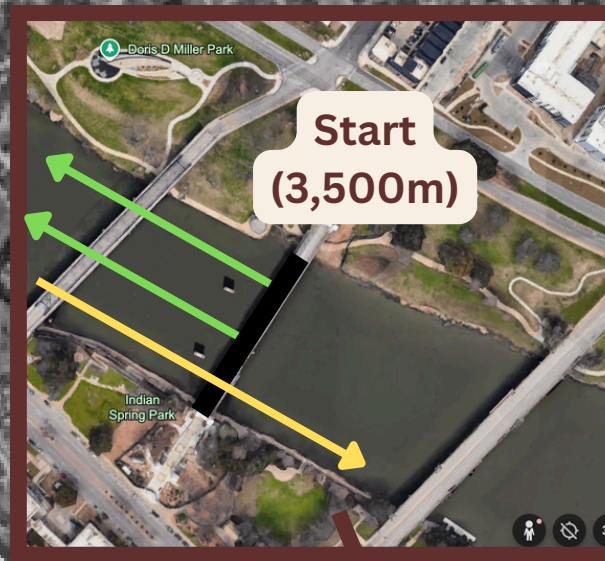
Finish Line

ark

b's Ladder

Cameron Park Zoo

Brazos River



TRAILER PARKING

TRAILER PARKING

TRAILER PARKING

TOW VEHICLE PARKING

REF/STAFF PARKING

**REGATTA
HQ**

DOCKS



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r Blvd

N M.L.K. Jr Blvd

N M.L.K. Jr Blvd

N M.L.K. Jr Blvd

N M.L.K. Jr Blvd

FINISH



City of
Waco Brazos
Park East

P

P

TEAM TENTS

Brazos East Disc
Golf Course



River Trail

Brazos River

River Trail



Brazos Park East
Boat Ramp - South

Google Maps



Brazos Park East
Boat Ramp - North

DOCKS

REGATTA
HQ



TRAILER PARKING

TRAILER PARKING

ENTRANCE

SPECTATOR PARKING ALONG PARK ROAD

P

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FINISH



City of
Waco Brazos
Park East

TEAM TENTS

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Brazos Park East
Boat Ramp - South





WACO ROWING

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REGATTAPROS

REGATTA PACKET

Waco, TX
November 14, 2026