



2018 Head of the Brazos
October 13th, 2018
Brazos River, Waco, TX

Baylor Crew presents the Head of the Brazos on October 13th in Waco, Texas. The 5,000 meter head race on the Brazos River rows through some of the most beautiful spots in Waco. The course starts just above the Herring Bridge by Cameron Park and travels eastward, passing by the historic ALICO building and McLane Stadium, finishing by the Baylor Boathouse where the boats will launch and dock.

This is the only 5,000 meter race in the state of Texas! Spectator seating will be offered near the boathouse. The course also rows underneath nine bridges, providing more great options for spectator viewing. The Head of the Brazos offers events in the junior, open, and masters classifications. The entire event list and schedule can be found on RegattaCentral.

IMPORTANT RIVER SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Zebra mussels are an invasive species with no natural predators that have recently made their way into Texas bodies of water. Once introduced to a body of water, these mussels are extraordinarily difficult if not impossible to exterminate. The Brazos River has yet to be affected by zebra mussels and to preserve the river from this invasive species we ask that all teams that are traveling from bodies of water with zebra mussels **wash, drain, and dry their boats thoroughly** before coming to the regatta. All teams that have registered and practice in a location with zebra mussels will receive an email from the HOB committee informing them and asking them to take the necessary precautions prior to coming to the event.

***Draining and drying the boat should include boat compartments with hatches and plugs.

For more information regarding zebra mussels:

<http://www.brazos.org/Newsletter/Summer-2017/Zebra-Mussels>

<http://www.brazos.org/About-Us/News/News-Room/Resource-Library/State-Laws-Not-Stopping-The-Spread-Of-Zebra-Mussels>

<http://www.brazos.org/About-Us/News/News-Room/Resource-Library/The-Battle-Rages-On-In-Texas-Zebra-Mussel-Fight>

<http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/Home/Topics/InvasiveSpecies/Details.aspx?PostID=655>

Event Categories

Juniors: A Junior is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A Competitor thus ceases to be a Junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student, whichever is later.

Open: All USRowing registered rowing clubs, individuals, and teams (no handicapping).

Masters: A Master is a Competitor who has attained or will attain the age of 21 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 his or her 21st birthday. A Masters Crew shall be comprised exclusively of Masters Rowers, but the Coxswain need not be a Master.

- (1) The age category of a Masters Crew shall be determined by the average age of the Rowers in the Crew, rounded down to the nearest whole number. The age of a Coxswain shall not be counted. The ages of individual Rowers need not fall within the age category, so long as each Rower is a Master and so long as the average age of the Crew falls within the applicable category.
- (2) A Masters Crew may compete in a lower (younger) age category but not in a higher category.
- (3) Handicaps will be assigned per US Rowing regulations.

<http://archive.usrowing.org/docs/default-source/masters/mhandchart.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Mixed crews: All mixed crews must be 50% women and 50% men, not including the coxswain.

Entry Information

No paper entries will be accepted for this event. All entries must be made online at RegattaCentral. Initial registration will be available beginning August 30, 2018 and ending October 1st, 2018. No refunds will be given once the initial registration period has ended. All entry fees must be paid in full by October 1st, 2018. After this date, unpaid entries will be considered late entries and subject to the additional fees associated with such designation. Crews with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to compete until the balance is paid in full.

Event List

Juniors

Mens/Womens 1x
Mens/Womens Novice 1x
Mens/Womens 2x
Mens/Womens 4+
Mens/Womens Novice 4+
Mens/Womens 4x
Mens/Womens Novice 4x
Mens/Womens 8+
Mens/Womens Novice 8+
Mixed Novice 4x

Open

Mens 1x
Mens/Womens 2-
Mens/Womens 2x
Mens/Womens 4+
Mens/Womens Novice 4+
Mens 4x
Mens/Womens 8+
Mens/Womens Novice 8+
Mixed Novice 8+
Mixed Open 4+

Masters

Mens/Womens 1x
Mens/Womens 2x
Mens/Womens 4x
Womens 8+
Mixed 4x

Entry Fees and Deadlines

- September 2nd, 2018 – registration opens
- September 3rd, 2018 – Preliminary schedule posted
- October 1st, 2018 – last day of standard registration costs
- October 3rd, 2018 – last day to register with late entry fees
- October 12th, 2018 – Ferrell Center Parking lot will be open for trailer access
- October 13th, 2018 – Competition day

Boats	Entry Fee	Late Entry Fee
8+	\$80	\$120
4+/4x	\$55	\$80
2x	\$40	\$60
1x	\$25	\$40

Lineup Changes

Beginning October 3rd, 2018, only 50% of a crew's lineup, not including the coxswain, may be substituted, with the exception of single sculls. Substitutions cannot be made for single scull entries except for cases of illness or injury as described in the USRowing Rules of Rowing.

No lineup changes will be accepted via e-mail.

RegattaCentral will remain open to receive lineup changes until October 3rd, 2018. At this point, the system will close temporarily. Please have lineups as close to final as possible for this deadline.

RegattaCentral will reopen from October 10th-11th, 2018, to accept last minute lineup changes. After this time, all substitutions must be made by submitting a change form to the Registration desk no less than thirty minutes prior to the first race in the event.

Scratches:

Entries may be scratched without penalty until the end of the online registration period on October 1st, 2018.

Beginning October 2nd, 2018, no refunds will be given for entries that are scratched, and crews are still responsible for the entry fees for those entries. Scratches must be made via RegattaCentral until October 3rd, 2018. After this time, any scratches must be submitted via the Registration desk at the regatta site. No email submissions will be accepted.

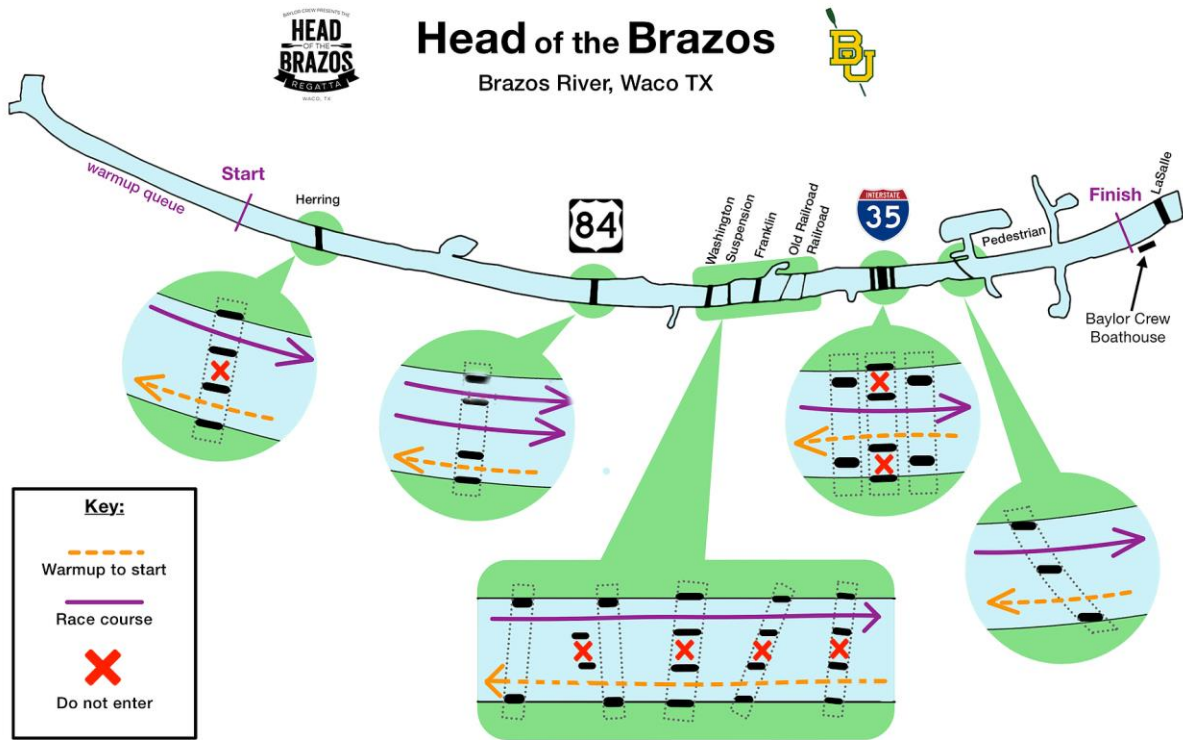
Hotseat accommodations

Crews that will need to hotseat shells *must* let the Launch Dockmaster know as the shell launches for the first event. Crews hotseating must be ready and waiting next to the Recovery Dock five minutes prior to the on-water crew arriving. On-water crews will still dock at the Recovery Dock and will hotseat there.

In situations where only one or two rowers must hotseat from one race to the next, no action will be taken. The rowers will go to the Launch Dock once they arrive at the Recovery Dock and launch under standard procedure.

Teams who do not communicate their hotseating needs to the Launch Dock Master prior to the launching of the shell will not be permitted to hotseat.

Race Course Map



Venue directions

The main competitor venue will be the Ferrell Center athletic facility parking lot just west of the Ferrell Center, which is located at 1900 South University Parks Drive.



Team trailers will park closest to the Brazos River as directed, and competitor vehicles will park further from the river as directed by traffic barriers. The following map is an approximate illustration of such boundaries.

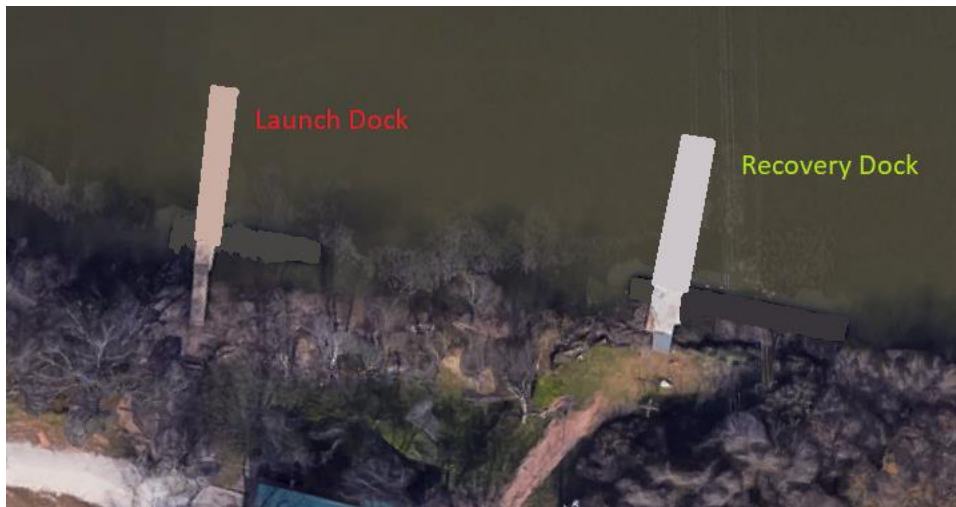


The venue is located between IH-35 and US 77 on South University Parks Drive.

Practice and Venue Access

The venue will be open for trailer arrivals on Friday, October 12th beginning at 10am. Trailer parking directions will be included in the Confirmation Packet distributed after the close of registration, closer to the event.

Launch and Recovery Docks



Inclement Weather Policy

The Chief Referee, USRowing, and the LOC will work together to monitor the weather continuously during the event.

Should it be determined that schedule changes are necessary due to weather concerns, the following weather plan will be utilized: Communication Plan

- a. Weather-related schedule changes will be announced utilizing the following media.
 - i. Posted on the results board at the regatta site.
 - ii. Announced over the on-site sound system.
 - iii. Posted online via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
 - iv. Via email. The contact email on RegattaCentral will be used to notify of inclement weather changes.

Teams are responsible for staying updated on announced schedule changes.

Rules and Guidelines

Safety

Any boat showing a disregard for safety, at any time during the weekend (including practice) will be given a 60-second penalty or may be disqualified. Safety violations may include but are not limited to: not following the published traffic patterns; not following the instructions from the Referees and Dock Masters; etc.

Buoys

Boats must keep to the right (coxswain's view) of the orange buoys at all times during the event. In areas where there are no buoys (early on Friday before the course has been set or above or below the buoyed course) boats should keep to the left side of the river (coxswain's view). Traffic patterns should be observed during practice as well as during races. Please see the Race Course Map for further details.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship must prevail at all times. Instances of unsportsmanlike conduct by scullers, crews, and/or coaches will be reported to the Referees, and penalties may be assigned.

Travel Lane

Once the buoyed course has been set, at all times during the weekend (Friday or race days), crews and scullers proceeding downstream in the Travel Lane must proceed firmly, with no stopping to watch races and shall remain in single file unless there is clear room to pass. The Travel Lane areas are defined as 1) Left side of river (coxswain's view) from the Baylor Boathouse to the starting chute near Cameron Park. Competitors are expected to prioritize safety and movement of the crews around them while in the Travel Lane. Arch violations en route to the Start will incur a 60-second penalty. The primary warm-up area is in the designated warm-up queue just past the starting chute. Refer to the Race Course Map for details. Competitors should anticipate limited space in the warm-up queue.

Right of way

Boats racing have the right of way over all other boats. Boats not racing shall not proceed along any part of the course after the start of the first race of the day until the conclusion of the last race of the day. Practicing on the course between races could result in a 60-second penalty, at the Referees' discretion.

Competitor start time

All competitors should be in the Start Line Chute area within earshot of the Start Line no less than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled race start time.

Late boats

Late arriving boats should not cross the line of buoys to jump into the starting sequence, but should await instructions from the Referees. Any boat that starts out of sequence against the orders of the Starter will be disqualified.

Warm-up traffic pattern

All Competitors warming up for the start must follow the warm-up traffic pattern *except when otherwise directed by the Referees*.

All competitors should be in the warm-up queue area five (5) minutes prior to the start of their race. Boats should assemble in the warm-up queue area in numerical order.

Equipment failure

Prior to the Start, if a competitor loses his/her bow marker or experiences equipment breakage prior to the Start, he/she should notify Marshals as soon as possible upon entering the warm-up area.

There will be no guaranteed provision for breakage after the Start.

Start Line Approach

Boats should merge into ONE single file line in numerical order as they enter the Start Chute, allowing an interval of 2-3 lengths (or as instructed by Referees) of open water behind the preceding boat. Boats should maintain an interval of 2-3 lengths as they approach the Start Line. Crews or scullers that fail to follow the commands of Referees may be penalized.

Rules of Racing

Interference and/or buoy penalties are assigned by the Referees following their review of the observations and recommendations. Repeated or severe interference may result in disqualification.

Coxswain on Board

Fours and eights must have their coxswain on board during the entire race. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

Buoys during racing

During racing, boats must stay on the Course that is between the buoys. If a boat takes a buoy on the wrong side of the hull during an event, it will be assessed as a 5-second penalty for the first buoy, and a 10-second penalty for any additional buoys passed on the wrong side during the same event. A crew that has left the course may only return to the course when it is safe to do so. Re-entry that causes an unsafe situation or impedes the progress of another crew may incur a 60-second penalty.

Arch violations under bridges

Going through the rightmost and leftmost pillars under the I-35 bridges, or going in between the pillars between the Suspension, Franklin, Old Railroad, and Railroad bridges (as described by the Race Course map) will result in a 60-second penalty in addition to any buoy violations incurred by doing so. Take note of the Traffic Patterns indicated on the Race Course Map for all bridges along the race course.

Failure to yield (interference)

When a passing crew (The Passer) closes to within one length of open water on the boat being overtaken, it is the responsibility of the slower crew to yield the line chosen by the Passer in a timely manner. The Yield should be completed by the time the overtaking boat has closed within ½ boat length. A crew failing to yield to a Passer when there is adequate room and time to yield will incur a 60-second penalty.

Severe collision

A passing crew (The Passer) has the right to pass on the side of its choice if and when a safe pass can be accomplished. The Passer must allow sufficient room for both their boat and the boat overtaken to stay safely within the race course. If a pass is attempted, the Passer shall not press the right to overtake to the point of severe collision. The actual severe collision incident can be caused by either a Passer or a Passeur. During a severe collision one or more of the following may occur:

- (A) damage to a boat
- (B) personal injury
- (C) the boat being overtaken is forced either off the race course or into a bridge or
- (D) a rower is struck by the blades of another boat

If a crew causes a severe collision, that crew may be assessed a 60 second time penalty and may face further sanctions.

Safety of rowers

If one or more rowers are lost from a boat during the race, the affected crew should first ensure the safety or rescue of the rower(s). If the rower(s) is (are) safe, the crew may continue to the finish line.

Unsportsmanlike conduct

Incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct by a competitor or crew, including the use of personally abusive language shall be documented by the Referees. The Referees may impose penalties ranging from reprimand to time penalties up to 60 seconds.

Enforcement of Racing Rules

The Regatta covers every section of the course, from start to finish, with fully trained referees. Their calls on questions of interference and buoy violations will be considered final. No re-rows or time credits to fouled entries will be possible. Offenders WILL BE PENALIZED according to the racing rules. Preliminary results will be released following each race, and Official Results will be released once all Referees' calls have been reviewed.

Violations	Time penalty
Buoy (during racing)	1 st buoy - 5 seconds Each additional buoy - 10 seconds
Arch	60 seconds
Safety	60 seconds
Failure to yield (interference)	60 seconds
Severe collision	60 seconds
Unsportsmanlike conduct	Referee discretion

Appeals Process

Protests resulting from situations occurring on the water will be handled in the manner described in the Rules of Rowing. For the Head of the Brazos, the written protest (along with the fee prescribed by the Rules) must be submitted to the LOC at the Baylor Crew boathouse no more than one hour after the finish of the last boat of the protesting crew's event. Official results will be posted at the Baylor Crew boathouse.