

**Western Reserve Rowing Association's
Formal Selection and Bid Submission Process for
The Head of the Charles Regatta**

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Western Reserve Rowing Association's Formal Selection and Bid Submission Process for The Head of the Charles Regatta

I. Preamble

This document formalizes the Western Reserve Rowing Association's ("WRRRA") selection and bid submission process for 4+/8+ shells at the Head of the Charles Regatta ("the HOCR"). Interpretations of this document shall be consistent with the following tenets:

- A. Educate and Encourage – Inform WRRRA members of and promote WRRRA representation at the HOCR;
- B. Provide a Clear Process – Clearly describe the application criteria and selection process for WRRRA rowers, coxswains and alternates;
- C. Define Expectations for the Head Coach – Provide guidance to the Head Coach ("the Coach") for the submission of shells having the greatest chance of competitive success while also emphasizing broad WRRRA member participation;
- D. Publicize Financial Support – Describe WRRRA's financial contributions that are available to facilitate member participation; and
- E. Emphasize the Privilege – Highlight the distinction of representing WRRRA at the HOCR and the accompanying level of commitment undertaken by WRRRA participants.

II. HOCR Try-out Announcement

- A. The Coach shall annually circulate a draft HOCR Announcement ("the Announcement") to the WRRRA Board ("the Board") for its review, comment and approval. In the event that no Coach has been hired or (s)he is rendered unavailable to fulfill the duties put forth by this document, the Board may appoint a designee or committee to perform these duties. Accordingly, throughout this document the term "Coach" shall then be understood to refer to the appointed designee or committee.
- B. After receiving the Board's approval, the Coach shall publish via email the Announcement by June 15 of the same calendar year HOCR to all WRRRA members.

- C. The Announcement shall include information pertaining to the criteria the Coach shall use to evaluate those rowers and coxswains who choose to try out (“the Trialists”), dates and deadlines of significance, try-out eligibility requirements, and expectations for those selected Trialists who subsequently represent WRRRA at the HOCR.

III. Deadline to Express Try-Out Interest and Eligibility

A. Deadline for a Trialist to Express Try-out Interest

A Trialist who wishes to be considered for a seat in a boat shall express interest in writing to the Coach by July 1 of the same calendar year HOCR. The Trialist should include his/her name, date of birth, gender and other relevant information (e.g. desire to participate as a coxswain or rower, physical limitations with regard to side rowed, etc.).

B. Eligibility Requirements

1. Age

- a. A Trialist shall be at least 18 years of age by the date of the same calendar year HOCR.

2. WRRRA Membership

- a. Only members of WRRRA shall be eligible for bids submitted by WRRRA to the HOCR.
- b. A Trialist shall be a member of WRRRA in good standing no later than July 1 (inclusive) of the same calendar year HOCR.

3. General Sweeps or Summer Rower League Membership

a. General Sweeps Members

- i. A Trialist shall be a General Sweeps member in good standing by July 1 (inclusive) of the same calendar year HOCR.
- ii. If a rower who has not yet paid the Masters Competitive Program fee is selected for the HOCR lineup they will be required to pay the ½ season fee

for this program to account for the coaching they will receive in preparation for the HO CR.

b. Summer Rowing League Members

- i. As an alternative to General Sweeps Membership under §III(B)(3)(a)(i), a Trialist may be a member of Summer Rowing League (“SRL”).
- ii. Notwithstanding the Eligibility Requirements of §III(A)-(B)(2), an SRL member shall also pay a one-time fee to become eligible as an HO CR Trialist. This fee exempts the SRL member from the full, long-term cost of the ½-year General Sweeps and ½-year Masters Competitive Program fees.
- iii. In the event that the Coach selects an SRL Trialist for an HO CR boat, the SRL Trialist must subsequently pay the ½-year fee of General Sweeps as well as the ½-year Masters Competitive Program fee. WRRRA will apply the one-time fee of §III(B)(3)(b)(ii) against the balance of these fees.
- iv. The Board shall announce the amount of the one-time fee prior to June 15th of the same calendar year HO CR.

IV. Trialist and Crew Evaluations

All Trialists shall try out according to a process delineated by the Coach. No Trialist shall be automatically reseeded in a boat which earned an automatic bid based on performance at the previous calendar year HO CR.

A. Individual Trialists

The Coach shall evaluate a Trialist based on his/her ergometer trial results and on-water evaluations over the span of several weeks. The Coach shall also take into account a Trialist’s age and gender for the purpose of HO CR age and gender-specific categories but shall not otherwise use such parameters to discriminate against a Trialist.

B. Submission by Crew

(This section does govern guaranteed CRF bids, which are addressed in §V(B).)

1. WRRRA members who wish to race as a crew rather than as individual Trialists may submit a bid request and crew line-up to the Board by July 1.

2. Single Crew in an Event Category

If the request is the only one submitted for that event category from within WRRRA, the Board shall examine the past performances of the involved Trialists to determine whether to submit a bid for that independent crew.

3. Multiple Crews in an Event Category

If more than one crew wishes to compete in the same event category, the Coach shall designate and announce a time trial/race to determine the allocation and ranking order of such bids.

V. **Submission of Bids by Cleveland Rowing Foundation** *(Refer to the CRF HOCR Bid Request Process for full details).*

A. WRRRA Request to CRF to Submit Additional Bids

1. If the Board receives multiple qualified bid requests for the same event category, it may ask the Cleveland Rowing Foundation (“CRF”) to submit a bid in that event category before the August 15th deadline.

2. To determine which of the competing shells is submitted through WRRRA, the crews shall race against one another under mutually agreed upon conditions. The winning crew shall have the opportunity to choose whether to be named in the CRF bid. If the winning crew declines to be entered through CRF, then the next fastest crew may choose to be named for this bid. Because the CRF policy requires that a line-up for this bid be submitted at the time the bid is requested, the crews must race and decide bid preferences by August 13th of the same calendar year HOCR.

3. WRRRA shall not pay the entry fee or other associated costs for bids accepted by HOCR made through CRF.

4. WRRRA shall not pay the cost of shell rental or transportation for bids accepted by HOCR made through CRF.

B. CRF Guaranteed Bids

1. In accordance with the CRF Bid Request Process, if CRF receives a guaranteed bid, crews (independent or selected by the WRRRA Coach) that wish to be considered for this bid shall express interest to compete for this bid and submit a line-up to CRF prior to the HOCR.
2. Crews shall race in their proposed HOCR line-ups. The crew finishing with the fastest time shall be awarded the bid.

VI. Coach's Recommended Bids to the Board

- A. By August 1, the Coach shall present his/her HOCR recommendations for guaranteed and non-guaranteed bid entries in the form of preliminary line-ups to the Board. The Coach shall list all bids in order of priority, and shall include alternates for these line-ups. His/her recommendations shall be final. The Coach shall not request more bids than the association may fill with qualified Trialists.
- B. The Coach shall then individually inform the Trialists of his/her recommendation privately via email no later than August 10 of the same calendar year HOCR.
- C. A Trialist who accepts his/her selection shall notify the Coach in writing by a deadline the Coach specifies.

VII. Board's Bid Submissions to HOCR

- A. In arriving at which and how many bids to place, the Board shall consider the Coach's recommendations, bid requests from independent crews, and available funds for support.
- B. The Board shall make decisions regarding which bids to place before August 8.

VIII. Finalizing HOCR Line-Ups

- A. The Coach's Duties after Receiving the HOCR Draw List
 1. The Coach shall make final selections for seats in boats with accepted entries and shall submit final lineups & athlete waivers to the HOCR prior to its deadline.

2. The Coach shall also designate one or two alternates of each gender. In making such decisions, the Coach shall consider each category of the event/bid when selecting alternates.
3. The Coach shall determine specific practice times/days for the HO CR crews once entries and line-ups are final.
4. The Coach shall determine and publish via email to rowers, coxswains and alternates (“the HO CR Participants”) an attendance policy for practices and preparatory races.
5. Within his/her discretion, the Coach may at any time replace a rower or coxswain with an alternate if the rower or coxswain fails to follow previously established requirements (e.g. attendance of practices).

B. Requirements for All HO CR Participants

1. HO CR Participants shall attend HO CR practices and pay for travel, lodging and other expenses associated with racing at the HO CR.

C. Requirements for Alternates

1. In accepting selection as an alternate for a rower or coxswain, the alternate commits to the same HO CR training routine.
 - a. An alternate rower shall be versatile enough to replace personnel on either side of a boat. The Coach shall approach rowers and coxswains who are deemed to be appropriate alternates.
 - b. Alternates shall accompany the team to the HO CR and be available to serve as an alternate if needed. A rower or coxswain who is unable to make this commitment shall decline the invitation to be an alternate.

IX. Finances

A. WRRRA Financial Contribution

1. WRRRA shall pay the HO CR application fees.
1. WRRRA shall also pay costs associated with HO CR boat transportation or rental for crews representing WRRRA.

B. Compensation for Coxswains

1. Coxswains shall not receive compensation to race at the HOCR.
2. Coxswains shall also not receive compensation for participation in HOCR practices or other HOCR preparatory races.

X. Trialist Evaluation Feedback

A Trialist not boated in an HOCR line-up may request a single, private meeting with the Coach regarding his decision. The Coach shall acknowledge the request and promptly schedule a meeting.

XI. Access to Equipment

WRRRA crews with bids accepted to the HOCR shall work with the Board and Coach to determine a reasonable schedule for equipment usage. Such negotiations shall proceed with the goal of maximizing all qualified crews' access to WRRRA equipment.

XII. Annual Open Meeting

Notwithstanding the Announcements in §II, WRRRA shall host a meeting open to all WRRRA members during the last week in June to address questions concerning the HOCR.

XIII. Miscellaneous

All other circumstances omitted or not adequately addressed by this document shall be brought to the attention of the Coach and Board for resolution. Revisions made after June 1 shall begin applying to the following calendar year HOCR.