



## **FESTIVAL OF ROWING 2026 – COMPLETE REGATTA NOTICE**

### **1.0 Regatta Format**

1.1 Buffalo regatta & EC Champs consists of six lane sprint racing over 1km and 2km, Selborne & some EC Champs racing over 500m.

1.2 The provisional schedule for the regatta is as follows :-

5th February 06h00 to 18h30 Junior Heats for Buffalo Regatta and **Finals – as below**

6<sup>th</sup> Selborne Sprint heats 6am to 1pm. Coastal Shoot out 1pm to 1.30pm. Selborne Sprint Finals 1.30pm

7th February 06h00 to 18h30 Senior Heats and **All Finals – as below. Finals start 20 min after the last heat has been raced**

### **2.0 Local Rules**

2.1. Except as detailed below the RowSA Rules of Racing apply.

2.2. No junior, apart from coxes, may be entered in a Senior event.

2.3. No composite crews are permitted, including coxes, except for Masters Events.

2.4. ALL crews are to race in their recognized club colours. ie. The colours of the club with which they are officially registered and affiliated to. ROWSA rule 5.2.1.

An athlete may not compete for, or represent two (2) different clubs during the event.

2.5. Progression to the Finals will be in accordance with Rule A2 Rules of Progression for an Eight Lane Course, contained in the Rules of Racing issued by Rowing South Africa, effective from 10 August 2017, curtailed to Six lanes.

2.6. In view of the length of the program:

- a) The Organising Committee reserves the right to combine races of similar boat classes/boat speeds, where the number of entries allows. In the event of combined each class of boat will compete for medals in its own class if there are a minimum of 2 entries for the event.
- b) Crews and boats not at the start of their event 2 minutes BEFORE the scheduled published start-time of the event may be excluded from the race.
- c) In the event of time lost due to bad weather, events might regrettably be removed from the program or race distances shortened to ensure the safety of athletes and in an attempt to still achieve some competitive racing – this will be the sole decision of the President of Jury for the event.

2.7. In order to run on time, inexperienced crews causing significant delays during alignment will be removed from the racing lanes and disqualified.

2.8 In the event of 2 heats converting to a straight final due to scratching, the combined heat must race at the time of the heat as a time trial (then decide if they will still row the final)

2.9 All heats should be raced for time (should finals not be raced due to possible thunderstorms, or heavy winds – which have occurred in previous years', times taken from the Heats will be used for final results)

2.10 Snr M A 1x, 2-, 2x, 4- and Snr W A 1x, 2-, 2x, 4-, the regatta organisers will schedule these events to take place as close as possible to the order of events.

2.11 A traditional random lane draw will be conducted for the Grand Challenge, Silver Sculls, Woman's A 4- and 1x's Finals. This will be a Public draw which will take place at Regatta



Control, 30 minutes after the last Heat for these events has been rowed on the Saturday morning. The draw will be conducted as follows:

The athletes who qualify to race in the Finals of the Men's and Women's Grand Challenge and Silver Sculls, following the progression rules to the final, will have their name physically drawn against a lane number to determine their lane allocations. This will be a public draw and coaches and athletes may be present at the time of the draw.

## 2.12 Finals

In the events of heats, the draw for the finals will be undertaken 3 hours after the completion of the last heat for each event. Progression from the heats will be in terms of the Rules of Racing for 8 lanes curtailed for a 6 lane course. & 7 for Selborne Sprints The draw will be to determine the lane allocations.

## 3.0 Navigation Rules during Racing

3.1 Boats may only be launched from the jetties.

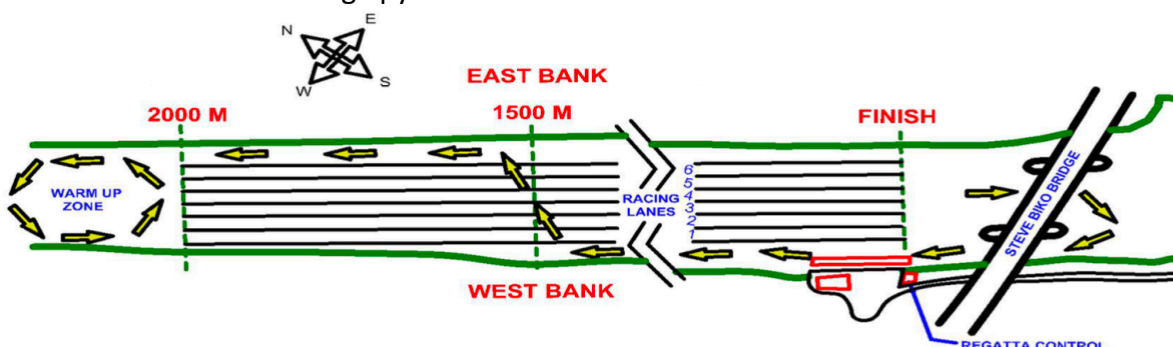
3.2 Boats must be launched on the West bank with their bows pointing up-river.

3.3 All boats must proceed to the start against the West Bank (Clubhouse Bank). Those racing 2000m must remain on this side until they reach the 1500m mark. At the 1500m mark, crews must move across the course to the East Bank and proceed to the 2000m start. CREWS MAY ONLY CROSS AT THE COURSE AT THE 1500M AND ONLY WHEN ADVISED BY THE MARSHAL THAT IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. It is strictly forbidden for any crew to move up-river against the West Bank between the 1500 and 2000 meter marks.

3.4 Crews waiting at the 2000m mark must remain out of the umpire zone and only proceed onto the 2000m start line when requested to do so by the Umpire. The marshaling zone will be between the 2075m and the 2150m mark. The designated warm-up area is beyond the 2150m mark. During warm-up in the warm-up zone, crews are to circulate moving up-river against the East Bank (City Side) and down-river against the West Bank (Clubhouse Side) i.e. Anti-clockwise circulation.

3.5 Any crew required to return to the jetties during the regatta and which is not part of a race may only do so with permission and instruction of a regatta umpire. The returning crew must utilize racing lane 6 in between races to move safely to the finish line.

3.6 Crews reaching the finish line and intending to return to the jetties must proceed through the Steve Biko Bridge between the central pylons before turning towards the West Bank. CREWS TURNING IN FRONT OF THE BRIDGE WILL BE EXCLUDED. Repeated infringements could lead to their club being DISQUALIFIED. Crews moving up-river towards the jetties must pass under the Steve Biko Bridge between the West Bank and the bridge pylon.



For umpire and marshaling zones see Rule 3.4 above



## Coastal Shoot Out



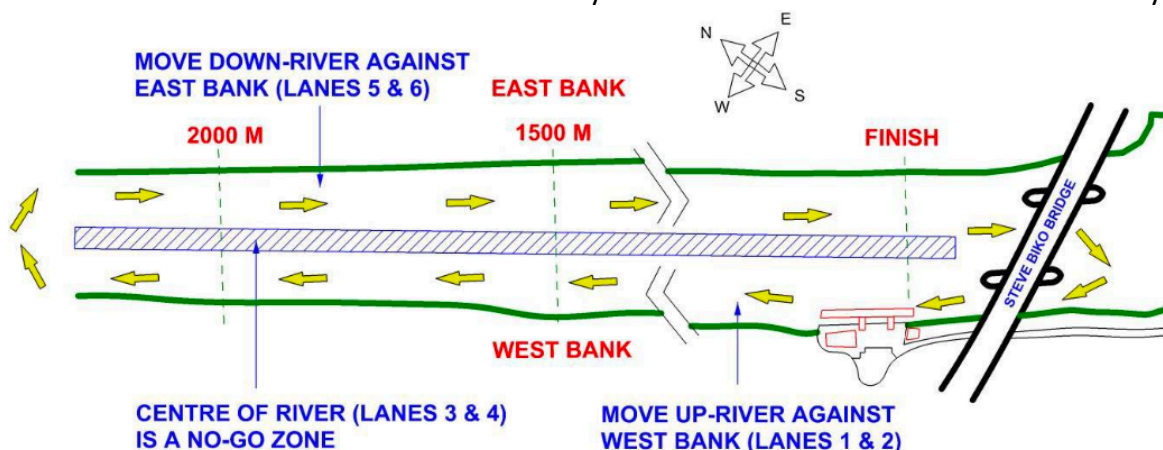
Racing will start at the finish line. There will be 3 lanes. Rowers will start from a standing position. When the race starts they will sit down, row up the lane 250m, turn around a buoy and return to cross the finish line.

Events not held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Racing on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> depending on weather, waves and entries will take place either on the Orient Beach or at the Buffalo River.

## 4 Navigation Rules during Training

During training, crews moving from the start to the finish line may only row down the course in lanes 5 and 6. Lanes 3 and 4 must be considered as forbidden territory and lanes 1 and 2 for moving up-river. No training crews will be permitted to boat during regatta time from 30 minutes before the first race of the day to 30 minutes after the last race of the day.



## 5 Entries

5.1 The first choice (or A) crew must be entered first in the regatta entry system.

5.2 Junior Clubs entering crews into 'age-group' events: as per ROWSA rules 2.3.1

1) Composite crews are only permitted for masters, mixed and female crews with written confirmation from the OC, and athletes must all be representing the same club and may not represent 2 clubs at the same event

2) Clubs entering juniors in age-group events who attend schools which are 'rowing schools', will have the relevant crew excluded from the event as the junior athletes are to be racing for their school unless approval is received from their school.

5.3 Events offered at Buffalo, Selborne & Coastal Shoot Out Regatta 2026 are detailed in Appendix A. The proposed race schedule is detailed in Appendix B.

5.4 Entries must be submitted using the online Regatta Entry System at [www.regatta.co.za](http://www.regatta.co.za).

Contact Gaynor at [row@rowsa.co.za](mailto:row@rowsa.co.za) if you need assistance.



The Closing Date for ENTRIES is: Tuesday 20th JANUARY 2026 at 17h00 (5.00 PM)

Entry fees (per competitor per event) are R80 for Buffalo, R60 for Selborne & R150 for the Coastal Shoot Out for payments received on or before the Final Draw on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025:

Late entries after the 20<sup>th</sup> R250

5.8 Payment is to be made by direct deposit into the following bank account:

EAST LONDON BOATING ASSOCIATION

Standard Bank, Vincent, East London.

Account No.: 241 454 956

Branch Code : 053721

Reference : Club/School Name

5.9 Proof of payment is to be e-mailed to [finance@elba.org.za](mailto:finance@elba.org.za) and [treasurer@elba.co.za](mailto:treasurer@elba.co.za)

'No Pay, No Race', unless agreement has been confirmed in writing before the regatta.

5.10 The draft draw will be available the week before the regatta

5.11 Final draw will be published on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

5.12 Entry fees WILL NOT be reimbursed for entries being scratched after the closing date of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

5.15 Draw for FREE regatta entries

Participants in the following categories of Buffalo Regatta will be entered into a draw for their club to have 10% of regatta entries credited to a maximum of R5000 at next year's Buffalo (see disclaimer)

JM15 8x & JM16 8+ & JM18 2<sup>nd</sup> 8+ & JM18 1<sup>st</sup> 8+

JW15 8x or JW16 8+ or JW18 2<sup>nd</sup> 8+ or JW18 1<sup>st</sup> 8+ or WC 8+ or WB 8+ or WA 8+

MC 8+ & MB 8+ & MA 8+

## 6 Late Entries

6.1 Late entries will be accepted if there is space according to the final draw

6.2 Late entries for Juniors will be accepted cash or card-only on Wed 4th Feb 2026 at Regatta Control from 15:00 to 16:00.

6.3 Late entries for Seniors will be accepted cash or card-only basis on Friday, 6th Feb 2026 at Regatta Control from 17:00 to 18:00.

6.4 No late entries will be accepted at any other stage during the course of the regatta.

6.5. Late entry fees (per competitor per event) is R250:

## 7 Prize Giving

7.1 All medals and trophies including points trophies, will be presented at the Clubhouse +/- 1 hour after the final race Friday for Selborne & on Saturday for Buffalo.

7.2 Points are as follows 1st Place = 30 points. 2nd place = 20 points, 3rd place = 10 points.

## 8 Safety Briefing

**8.1 The entering of your club and athletes in this event serves as an acceptance of indemnity for this regatta, namely that you declare that you understand and accept the rules of entry and that you shall participate at your own risk and indemnify the Regatta Organisers, Sponsors and Officials of the event.**

8.2 An officials' safety briefing will take place 30 minutes prior to the start of racing on each day, highlighting the control from race officials as well as Safety Rules and Guidelines for



the event. All pilots are required at a briefing on Wednesday TBA.

8.3 A copy of the “Event Safety Rules and Guidelines” (Annexure D) will be available digitally and from Regatta Control should a club wish to access a printed copy.

8.4 It is the responsibility of the Club Representative to communicate, inform and explain all Event Rules and Safety Guidelines” to their respective teams. Crews going in opposite directions in the same lane will be deemed a failure by their club to explain and adhere to the rules of navigation and the OC will NOT be held responsible.

## 9 General

Access to the regatta venue is via Nuffield Road from Settlers Way or from the Old Bridge.  
A site parking plan is attached.

## 10 Indemnity

10.1 The entering of your school or members serves as an acceptance of Indemnity in this regatta, namely that you declare that you accept your own risk and indemnify the Regatta Organisers, Sponsors and Officials of this rowing regatta against any claim of whatsoever nature and howsoever arising, which may result from your schools, clubs and/or your rowers’ participation.

10.2 The entering of your school or members further serves that the athlete placed onto the water has passed the required water safety testing and that the responsibility of such competency has been passed by the school, club and coached concerned.

All entries must comprise competent swimmers who must have successfully completed the Sculling Test in terms of Rule 2.1.2 of the Rules of Racing, 28 July 2018 Edition.

## East London Boating Association

Disclaimer: Only valid for clubs present at prize giving. Discount to be generated after the regatta as a credit note which can be used for Buffalo 2026 up to a maximum of R5000.

JM15 8x & JM16 8+ & JM18 2<sup>nd</sup> 8+ & JM18 1<sup>st</sup> 8+ an entry must be made into ALL of these events to be entered into the draw.

JW15 8x or JW16 8+ or JW18 2<sup>nd</sup> 8+ or JW18 1<sup>st</sup> 8+ or WC 8+ or WB 8+ or WA 8+ an entry into any ONE of these events will be entered into the draw.

MC 8+ & MB 8+ & MA 8+ an entry must be made into ALL of these events to be entered into the draw.

# Appendix A Events



## EC Champs

31-Jan

Division	1x	2x	2-	4x	4+	4-	8+
Senior women & men's events							
A (2000m)	x	x	x		x		x
U23/B (1000m)	x	x	x		x		x
C (1000m)	x	x		x			x
D (1000m)	x			x			x
Mixed A		x					x
Masters	x	x		x			x
Junior Women & Men's events							
1st (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2nd (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U16 (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U15 (1000m)	x	x		x			8x

## Buffalo

5/7 Feb

Division	1x	2x	2-	4x	4+	4-	8+
Senior women							
A (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U23/B (1000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
C (1000m)	x	x			x		x
Senior men's events							
A (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U23/B (1000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
C (1000m)	x	x			x		x
Mixed A		x					x
Masters							
Masters A	x	x			x		x
Masters B/C/D (1000m)	x	x			x		x
Masters E/F/G (1000m)	x	x			x		x
Masters H+ (1000m)	x	x			x		x
Junior Women							
1st (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2nd (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U16 (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U15 (1000m)	x	x		x			8x
Junior Men's events							
1st (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2nd (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U16 (2000m)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
U15 (1000m)	x	x		x			8x

## Selborne Sprints 500m

06-Feb

Division	1x	2x	2-	4x	4+	4-	8+
Mixed (open)		x					x
Women & Men's events	x	x	x		x		x
Junior Men & Women's events							
1st	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2nd	x	x	x	x	x		x
U16	x	x	x	x	x		x
U15	x	x		x			8x

## Coastal Shoot Out (Coastal Boats provided)

06-Feb

Division	1x	2x	2-	4x+
Women	x			
Men	x			
Mixed Coastal (open)		x		x
Junior men	x	x		x
Junior women	x	x		x



# Appendix B Schedules



## Bufflo Regatta, Saturday Finals

7,00	1	JM15		10,05	2x	Masters B-D		13,50	4x	Masters B-D	
7,05	4x	JW16		10,10	4+	JW19 2nd		14,00	2-	JW19 2nd	
7,10	2-	JM16		10,15	2x	WB		14,05	8	MC	
7,15	8	JM19 2nd		10,20	8	MB		14,10	4+	JM16	
7,20	1	JW19 2nd		10,25	2x	JM16		14,15	2x	JW19 2nd	
7,25	4x	JM19 1st		10,30	1	JW19 1st		14,20	8	WA	
7,30	2x	JW19 1st		10,35	4-	JM19 2nd		14,25	4x	MB	
7,35	2x	MB		10,40	4x	JW15		14,30	4x	Masters A	
7,40	2x	Masters A		10,45	2x	JM15		14,35	2	WC	
7,45	8	WC		10,50	1	Masters H		14,40	8	JW19 1st	
7,50	1	JW15		10,55	4-	JM19 1st		14,45	4+	WA	
7,55	4-	WB		11,00	4+	MA		14,50	1	WB	
8,00	2-	JM19 1st		11,05	2-	WA		14,55	4x	MA	
8,05	8	Masters H		11,10	8	Masters B-D		15,00	2x	Masters H	
8,10	1	JM16		11,15	8	WB		15,05	1	MB	
8,15	4+	JM19 2nd		11,20	4-	JW16		15,10	4x	JW19 2nd	
8,20	2x	WA		11,25	2-	JM19 2nd		15,15	2-	MA	
8,25	8	JW19 2nd		11,30	8	JM16		15,20	1	Masters B-D	
8,30	1	JM19 2nd		11,35	1	Masters E-G		15,25	4x	WA	
8,35	4+	JW19 1st		11,40	4x	JM19 2nd		15,30	4+	WB	
8,40	2x	JW16		11,45	2x	JM19 1st		15,35	2x	JM19 2nd	
8,45	1	MC		11,50	2x	MA		15,40	1	JW16	
8,50	4	WC		11,55	8	Mixed		15,45	8	JM/W15	
8,55	4x	Masters H		12,00	Break			15,50	4+	MB	
9,00	Break			13,00	8	Masters A		15,55	1	WA	
9,20	2-	MB		13,05	4-	JW19 2nd		16,00	4	MA	
9,25	2x	Mixed		13,10	4+	JM19 1st		16,05	8	Masters E-G	
9,30	4	MC		13,15	2	MC		16,10	4-	JM16	
9,35	4x	Masters E-G		13,20	2x	JW15		16,15	2	Masters E-G	
9,40	1	WC		13,25	1	MA		16,20	2-	JW16	
9,45	4x	JM15		13,30	4-	WA		16,25	4-	MB	
9,50	2-	JW19 1st		13,35	4-	JW19 1st		16,30	2-	WB	
9,55	1	JM19 1st		13,40	8	JW16		16,35	8	MA	
10,00	4+	JW16		13,45	4x	WB		16,40	4x	JW19 1st	
								16,45	8	JM19 1st	



## Friday Coastal & Selborne Sprint Finals

Coastal Shoot Out				Selborne Sprint			
1	CMix2x	12.50	Heat	25	Jnr Women U16 2x	15,30	
2	CJM1x	12.55	Heat	26	U23 Women 4-	15,35	
3	CM2x	13,00	Heat	27	Jnr Men 1st 4+	15,40	Trevor Shelper Cup
4	CW1x	13.05	Heat	28	Jnr Men 1st 4-	15,45	
5	CJW1x	13.10	Heat	29	Jnr Women 2nd 4x	15,50	
Balance of events to take place on Sunday. Schedule to follow				30	Jnr Women U16 8+	15,55	
Selborne Sprint				31	Jnr Men U15 1x	16,00	
1	Mix 2x	13,30		32	Jnr Women U15 2x	16,05	
2	Jnr Women 1st 8+	13,35		33	U23 Men 4-	16,10	
3	Jnr Men U15 4x	13,40	EL Boating Cup	34	Jnr Men 2nd 1x	16,15	
4	Jnr Men 1st 2-	13,45	Charles McGill Cup	35	Jnr Men U16 8+	16,20	Preston Cup
5	Jnr Women 2nd 2-	13,50		36	U23 Women 2x	16,25	
6	U23 Women 2-	13,55	Bode Cup	37	Jnr Women U16 4+	16,30	
7	Jnr Men U16 1x	14,00		38	Jnr Men 2nd 4+	16,35	Squibs Ogilvie Cup
8	U23 Women 1x	14,05	Demi Davidson Trophy	39	Jnr Men 1st 1x	16,40	Wally botha Trophy
9	Jnr Women/men U15 8x	14,10		40	Jnr Women 1st 4+	16,45	
10	Jnr Men 2nd 8+	14,15	John Vermaak Cup	41	U23 Men 2x	16,50	
11	Jnr Women 1st 2x	14,20	Gquma Challenge	42	Jnr Women U15 4x	16,55	Cecil Godfrey Trophy
12	Jnr Men 1st 4x	14,25	Gquma Challenge Trophy	43	Jnr Men U16 2-	17,00	
13	Jnr Women U16 4x	14,30	Rags Godfrey trophy	44	Jnr Women 2nd 2x	17,05	
14	U23 Men 2-	14,35		45	Mix 8+	17,10	
15	Jnr Men U16 4x	14,40		46	Jnr Men 2nd 2x	17,15	
16	U23 Men 1x	14,45		47	Jnr Women U16 1x	17,20	
17	Jnr Women 1st 1x	14,50	Kate Godfrey Trophy	48	Jnr Women U16 4-	17,25	
18	Jnr Men U15 2x	14,55		49	Jnr Men U16 2x	17,30	
19	Jnr Women 2nd 1x	15,00		50	U23 Women 8+	17,35	
20	Jnr Men 2nd 4x	15,05		51	Jnr Women U16 2-	17,40	
21	Jnr Men U16 4+	15,10	EL Boating Cup	52	Jnr Men 1st 2x	17,45	Hutton Trophy
22	Jnr Women 2nd 4+	15,15		53	U23 Men 8+	17,50	
23	Jnr Women U15 1x	15,20		54	Jnr Women 1st 4x	17,55	Godlyn Rentals Salver
24	Jnr Men 2nd 2-	15,25		55	Jnr Men 1st 8+	18,00	B.R.A Cup