



BUFFALO REGATTA 2025 – REGATTA NOTICE

1.0 Regatta Format

1.1 The regatta consists of six lane sprint racing over 1000 and 2000 meters.

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

6th February 06h00 to 18h30 Junior Heats for Buffalo Regatta and

Finals – as per the Order of Events to follow

8th February 06h00 to 18h30 Senior Heats and **All Finals – as per**

the Order of Events to follow

Finals will 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 (except Snr C – See Addendum C), 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. 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.

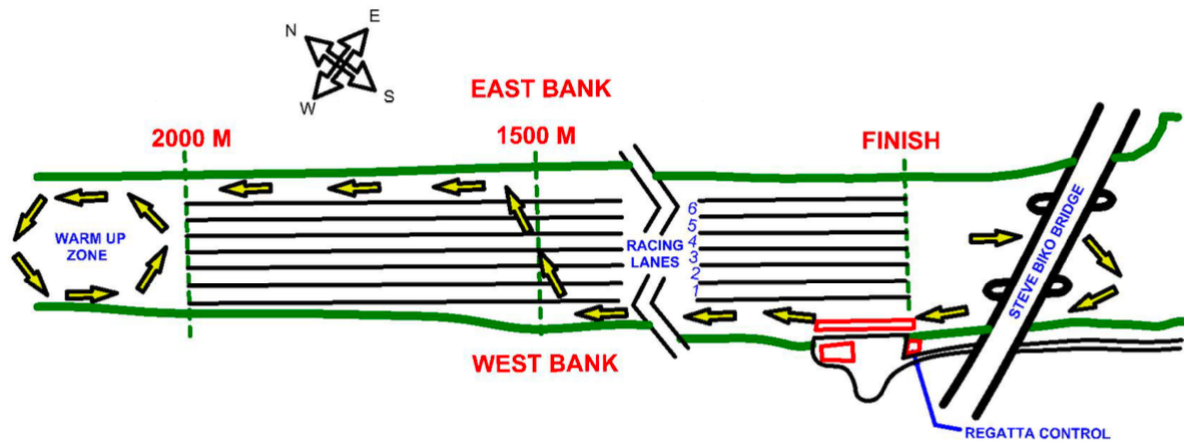
3.2 Boats must be launched on the West bank with their bows pointing up-river.

3.3 All boats must proceed to the start against the West Bank (Clubhouse Bank) and 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 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.

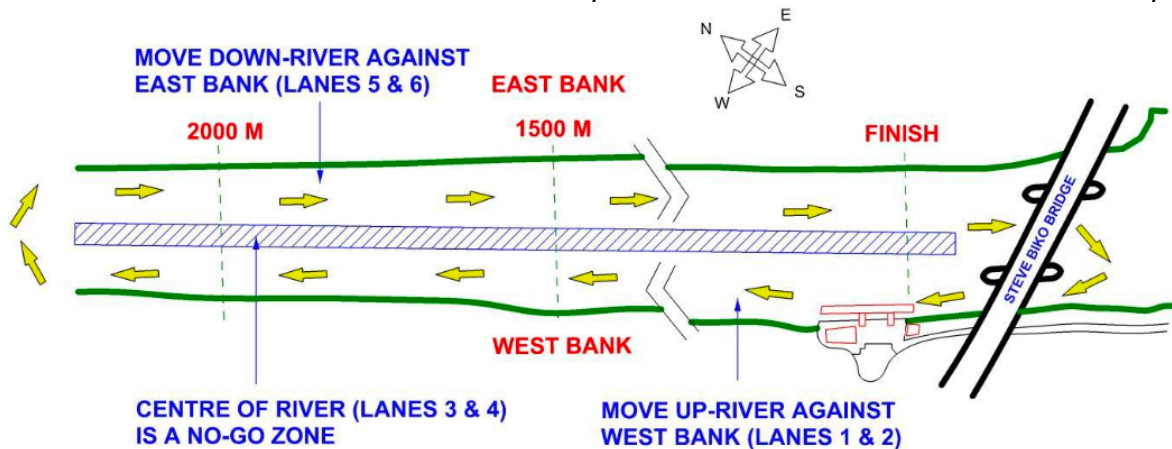
3.6. Crews reaching the finish line and intending to return to the jetties must proceed through the Steve Biko Bridge between the central pylons before turning towards the West Bank. CREWS TURNING IN FRONT OF THE BRIDGE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Crews moving up-river towards the jetties must pass under the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



For umpire and marshaling zones see Rule 3.4 above

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 not permitted, 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 disqualified from the event as the junior athletes are to be racing for their school unless approval is received from ROWSA.
- 5.3 Events offered at Buffalo Regatta 2025 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. Contact Gaynor at row@rowsa.co.za if you need assistance.



The Closing Date for ENTRIES AND PAYMENT is:

Wednesday 22th JANUARY 2024 at 17h00 (5.00 PM)

Entry fees (per competitor per event) are as follows for payments received on or before the 20th Jan 2025:

a) Senior Men and Women Entries: R 70-00/seat

b) Junior Men and Women Entries: R 70-00/seat

ALL entries payments received after 23rd Jan 2025 R100/seat

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 and 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 31st Jan 2025

5.12 If an event is over-subscribed (entries exceed maximum limit) all 'A' boats will be included. 'B' boats will be included on a first-come-first-served basis with respect to receipt of entries, provided payment has also been received.

5.13 If any entries are not accepted due to over-subscription of the event, the fees will be reimbursed by the East London Boating Association by the 29th March 2024.

5.14 Entry fees WILL NOT be reimbursed for entries being scratched after the closing date of 20th January 2025.

5.15 Draw for FREE regatta entries

Participants in the following categories will be entered into a draw for their club to have their regatta entries credited (see disclaimer)

JM15 8x & JM16 8+ & JM18 2nd 8+ & JM18 1st 8+

JW15 8x or JW16 8+ or JW18 2nd 8+ or JW18 1st 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 of 31st Jan 2025

6.2 Late entries for Juniors will be accepted cash or card-only on Wed 5th Feb 2025 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, 7th Feb 2025 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 R150:

7 Prize Giving

7.1 All medals and trophies including points trophies, will be presented at the Clubhouse approximately 1 hour after the final race on Saturday.



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.

8.3 A copy of the "Event Safety Rules and Guidelines" (Annexure D) will be available 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 these "Event Safety Rules and Guidelines" (Annexure D) to their respective teams and athletes.

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.

Lunga Mcetywa: President
Bill Godfrey: Regatta Convener
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 2nd 8+ & JM18 1st 8+ an entry must be made into ALL of these events to be entered into the draw.

JW15 8x or JW16 8+ or JW18 2nd 8+ or JW18 1st 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 – Buffalo Regatta Events

Division	1x	2x	2-	4x	4+	4-	8+
Senior men							
A (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C (1000m)	✓		✓		✓		✓
Senior Women							
A (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C (1000m)	✓		✓		✓		✓
Masters (1000m)	✓		✓	✓			✓
Masters Novice (1k)		✓		✓			✓
Junior Men							
1st (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2nd (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U16 (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U15 (1000m)	✓	✓		✓			8x
Junior Women							
1st (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2nd (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U16 (2000m)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U15 (1000m)	✓	✓		✓			8x