



Rowing NSW Grade Regattas

Competition Guide

The grade regatta system has been in place since 2007 and has provided a good platform for club level competition in the Rowing NSW regatta program. The Regatta Commission is dedicated to maintaining the integrity and relevance of the grade system and to that end it will from time to time make suggestions to the Board to alter the Laws of Boat Racing and the administration of the system. These changes will be formally notified to the Constituent Members in the appropriate manner.

The Regatta Calendar

The season will generally be divided into pre and post Christmas regatta rotation. The pre Christmas rotation comprises a rotation of Distance events, Age/Grade Regattas, and NSWIS Time Trials.

The post Christmas regattas comprise a mixture of both Grade and Age regattas that lead to the Age based State Championships and the Grade Championships at the end of the season.

Age/ Open Regattas

The Age Competition is targeted at promoting elite athlete development.

The continuation and strengthening of Age based racing is for clubs looking at junior, youth and elite development programs. The Age based regattas are targeted at developing crews aiming at competing at State and National Championship and Selection Regattas. Age racing also incorporates Masters Competition. It is recognized that within each Masters Age division there are quite diverse levels of ability and hence the Grade System maybe a more attractive option for some Masters crews than Age based competition.

Grade Regattas

Grade racing is targeted at club competition.

The rules of Grade racing are aimed at providing for different levels of participation and ability within each club and to promote athlete development within a system which allows different standards of rowers to form a crew from within the one club, irrespective of age and past performance. This is seen as a more equitable way in which to promote participation and allow closer competition between rowers of similar current ability.

The Grade Competition is seen as providing significant support for club programs. It is designed to maintain maximum flexibility in putting crews together by eliminating the situation where one Intermediate rower in less experienced crew forces the crew to compete at a higher level. Under the grade rules the crew competes at the combined average ranking of the individual rowers.

To support the growth of club competition nationally the NSW Grade Rules have been aligned with the Rowing Australia rules for Club Events at the National Championships and incorporate the restrictions on entry by elite and national representative athletes.

The Grade System also has a Novice Class that allows athletes who are in their first year of rowing, and who have not won a race in this class to compete against other rowers who are of the same ability.

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| b. Under 23 | 1.00 | A Grade |
| c. Under 21 | 1.75 | B Grade |
| d. Under 19 | 2.00 | B Grade |
| e. School Championship | 2.00 | B Grade |
| f. Under 17 | 3.00 | C Grade |

Where a competitor's RGS is lower (better) than the adjusted score they will retain their original score. Scores are only changed on a win and will not change if there are less than 3 scullers/crews in the race.

3. *Competing in School Events:* To enable school competitors RGS to be representative of the standard of race they compete in at school regattas competitors who race in school events will have a grade score applied as follows:

	<i>Rowing</i>	<i>Sculling</i>
a. School Year 8 events	4.00 (D)	4.00 (D)
b. School Year 9 events	4.00 (D)	3.50 (D)
c. Schoolboy 1 st and 2 nd Year 10 Eight or Schoolgirl 1 st and 2 nd Year 10 Quad or Four	3.00 (C)	3.00 (C)
d. Schoolboy 1 st and 2 nd Eight and 1 st Four or Schoolgirl 1 st Eight	2.00 (B)	2.00 (B)
e. All other Senior or Open School events	2.50 (C)	2.50 (C)

Where a competitor's RGS is lower (better) than the adjusted score they will retain their original score.

Limits to RGS changes

To ensure junior and masters competitors are not forced to compete at too high a level in the Grade System competitors who are Under 16 or over the age of 43 (excluding National Senior A representatives) will have a minimum RGS of 2.25 capping them at C grade. These competitors may still compete at a higher level if they wish to.

Entering Crews

It is anticipated that updates to the RGS from every regatta may not be available in time for close of entries for the next regatta. Because of this lag, entries will be accepted based on the RGS current at the time of lodgment of entry.

Substitutions

Once the Race Draw is completed, crews may substitute rowers only if the substitute rower does not change the crews RGS such that the crew is no longer eligible to compete in the event entered. A substitution that changes the crew RGS to a lower standard Grade is permitted but the crew is required to race in the Grade entered, not the lower Grade.

New Members and Appeals

Where a member does not have an RGS one will be allocated with reference to the scores applied to competitors winning age races and competing in school events. For example if a new member had competed in their school's first eight and was returning to the sport after a couple of years they would receive a score of 2.00. New competitors with no rowing experience will receive a score of 4.

A member's RGS is available on the Rowing NSW web site under the competition tab. An individual's RGS is open to review and all enquiries regarding the change to RGS should be made by club captains or head coaches and should be emailed to the Rowing NSW Regatta Operations Manager paul@rowingnsw.asn.au