

# Rules of Racing

## and related By-Laws

**2023 Edition**

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## DEFINITIONS

**the Board** - the Board of Directors of the HKCRA

**Closed or Invitational Regatta** - a private Regatta in which only some of the Clubs and/or Registered Organizations affiliated to the HKCRA are invited or eligible to compete and which is not Open.

**Club** - a Corporate Member of the HKCRA as defined in Article 6 of the Articles of Association

**Corporate Member** - as provided under Article 6 of the Articles of Association of the HKCRA

**Crew** - includes single scullers

**Event** - a race or series of races leading to (and including) a final in any category of event

**Events Commission** - The Events Commission of the HKCRA

**FISA** - the Federation Internationale des Societes d'Aviron / **World Rowing**

**HKCRA** - the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association

**International Regatta** - is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is open to competitors from all federations affiliated to FISA. FISA decides which regattas shall be International Regattas. (All International Regattas are included in the FISA International Regatta Calendar)

**Indoor Rowing** - Rowing on a machine which is capable of measuring the output of the rower and which simulates the action of rowing in a boat. Rules for Indoor Rowing Competitions are at SECTION B of these Rules. Indoor Rowing is a generic term for rowing on a machine and such competitions may also take place outdoors where suitable venues exist.

**Open Regatta** - any Regatta which is open to all Clubs and Registered Organizations

**Processional Race** - a race in which boats are started at intervals of time or distance and the result is determined by means other than the order of crossing the finish line.

**Race** - any round of an Event, including heat, repechage, semi-final or final

**Regatta** - a sporting competition consisting of one or more rowing Events divided, if necessary, into a number of Races, in one or more classes of boats for rowers divided, as a general rule, into different categories of sex, age, weight and ability

**Registered Organizations** - an organization registered with HKCRA for the purpose of competing in regattas, other than a Club

**Registered Rower** - a rower registered with HKCRA as purpose of competing in regattas. The format of registration shall be determined by the Board and subject to such fee as the Board shall decide.

**Rowing** - Rowing is the propulsion of a displacement boat, with or without coxswain, by the muscular force of one or more rowers, using oars as simple levers of the second order and sitting with their backs to the direction of movement of the boat. Rowing on a machine or in a tank which simulates the action of rowing in a boat is also considered as rowing.

**Status Event** - any Event at a Status Regatta which is held over a qualifying distance of at least 1,000 metres in a category which has been designated by the Events Commission as one which shall have Status classifications (see Part 2) and in which 3 or more crews start

**Status Regatta** - an Open Regatta designated by the HKCRA as a Status Regatta

**Umpiring Commission** - the Umpiring Commission of the HKCRA

## **SECTION A - ROWING**

### **Rules for Rowing Competitions**

#### **Part 1 - Scope**

##### **Rule 1 - Rowing Boats**

In a rowing boat, all load-bearing parts, including the axes of moving parts, must be firmly fixed to the body of the boat, but the rower's seat may move along the axis of the boat.

##### **Rule 2 - Application**

These Rules of Racing shall apply to all rowing Races and Regattas, including Indoor Rowing, held in Hong Kong, China and shall be observed by all organisers and officials of, and competitors in, such Races and Regattas.

##### **Rule 3 - Exceptions**

The Organising Committee of a Closed Regatta may depart from these Rules of Racing with the approval of the HKCRA. In such cases those rules which differ from the Rules herein must be clearly stated in the Regatta Notice, which shall be copied to the HKCRA.

##### **Rule 4 - Right to Participate**

###### **(1) Regattas in Hong Kong**

- (a) In order to compete in a Regatta in Hong Kong a person must be a Registered Rower.
- (b) No Registered Rower or member of a Club may compete in any Regatta that is not held under either the Rules of Racing of the HKCRA or a body recognised by the HKCRA or FISA.
- (c) Every crew entering a Regatta in Hong Kong must enter and compete under the name of a Club or Registered Organizations.

###### **(2) International Regattas and Regattas Outside Hong Kong**

- (a) No Club shall make an entry for an International Regatta without the prior approval of the HKCRA.
- (b) No member of a Club shall compete in any event outside Hong Kong as a representative of their Club unless they have been duly entered by their Club.

##### **Rule 5 - HKCRA Annual Regatta Calendar**

All Regattas approved by the HKCRA shall be entered in the HKCRA Annual Regatta Calendar. The HKCRA may also include the dates of other Regattas and competitions, including Closed or invitational events, for general information and convenience of rowers.

No Regatta shall take place under these Rules unless the date and time have been approved by the HKCRA.

## **Part 2 - Rowers and Coxswains**

### **Section 1 - General**

#### **Rule 6 - Eligibility**

Regattas are open to all competitors who are eligible under these rules. As a condition of participation all rowers must be able to swim.

#### **Rule 7 - Categories**

The following categories of rowers are recognised by the HKCRA:

1. **U19** (men and women)
2. Seniors (men and women)
3. Lightweights (men and women)
4. Masters (men and women)
5. Para-Rowing (men, women and mixed)

### **Section 2 - Coxswains**

#### **Rule 8 - Coxswains**

There shall be no age limit for coxswains in events for **U19** or masters crews.

The gender of the coxswain shall be open so that a men's crew may be coxed by a woman and a woman's crew by a man.

The minimum weight for a coxswain wearing racing uniform is 50 kgs.

To make up this weight, a coxswain may carry additional deadweight as close as practicable to his person in the boat. No article of racing equipment shall be considered as part of this deadweight.

These provisions shall also apply to coxswains in lightweight events.

Senior Status classifications (Rule 14) shall not apply to coxswains.

#### **Rule 9 - Weighing of Coxswains**

Coxswains shall be weighed wearing racing uniform on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first Race in each Event in which they are competing on each day of competition.

### **Section 3 - **U19** (men and women)**

#### **Rule 10 - Definition of U19**

A rower aged not above 19 shall be classified as a **U19**.

A rower ceases to be a **U19** on 31st December of the year in which he/she reaches the age of 18.

Every **U19** rower must be able to prove his/her age by presentation of an official document.

#### **Rule 11 - Additional Junior Categories**

The HKCRA may establish additional Junior categories within the definition of Junior, for the purposes of competition. Where such additional categories are established, the same measurement of age shall apply (for example, **U16** - A rower will cease to be a **U16** on 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 16).

#### **Rule 12 - Safety of Juniors**

Clubs and Registered Organizations shall be responsible for the safety of their Juniors. In particular every Junior must be able to swim in accordance with Rule 6.

## **Section 4 - Seniors (men and women)**

### Rule 13 - Definition of Senior

Senior Rowing events are open to rower of all age categories, except event with different age limitation.

### Rule 14 - Classification of Senior Rowers

The Senior Category shall be further classified into Senior Status Classifications as follows:

- Division 1 - A Division 1 rower is one who
- (a) is not eligible to compete in Division 2 or Division 3 Events, OR
  - (b) has represented Hong Kong as part of a senior team in any on-water rowing competition, whether as a crew member or as a reserve rower within the past 48 calendar months.

A Division 1 rower who has not won a Division 1 Status Event within a period of 18 calendar months will revert to Division 2 Status at the end of that period.

- Division 2 - A Division 2 rower is one who:-
- (a) (i) has not had three wins in any combination of Division 1 or Division 2 Status Events since achieving Division 2 Status, AND
  - (b) (ii) is not eligible to compete in Division 3 Status Events.  
has been a Division 1 rower and has not won a Division 1 Status Event within a period of 18 calendar months as a Division 1 rower. Upon reverting to Division 2, such a rower will have the same status in Division 2 as a rower promoted from Division 3.

- Division 3 - A Division 3 rower is one who has not had top 2 positions in any combination of Division 1, Division 2 or Division 3 Status Events in two regattas and is not eligible to compete in Novice Events.

- Novice - A Novice rower is one who has not yet won any Status Event. A rower shall no longer be a Novice after the expiry of 12 calendar months from the date of his first competition. A rower who is no longer a Novice under this Rule shall become Division 3 from the same date.

### Rule 15 - Separate Status for Rowing and Sculling

Rowers shall hold a separate status for rowing and sculling in accordance with Rule 14 based upon their separate results in rowing and sculling Status Events.

## **Section 5 - Lightweights (men and women)**

### Rule 16 - Lightweights

Lightweights shall be classified as follows:

For men the average weight of a crew (excluding coxswain) shall not exceed 70kg. No individual rower shall weigh more than 72.5 kg.

A single sculler (male) shall not weigh more than 72.5 kg.

For women the average weight of a crew (excluding coxswain) shall not exceed 57 kg. No individual rower shall weigh more than 59 kg.

A single sculler (female) shall not weigh more than 59 kg.

### Rule 17 - Status Classifications for Lightweights

The Events Commission may determine that specific Status classifications be applied to Lightweight rowers (similar to those for Senior rowers).

### Rule 18 - Weighing of Lightweights

Lightweight rowers shall be weighed wearing at least their racing uniform on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first Race in each Event in which they are competing on each day of competition.

**Crew member** must weigh in together as a crew.

If the first race is subsequently postponed, the lightweight rower is not required to be weighed again on the same day for the same event.

The provisions of Rules 8 and 9 apply to coxswains of Lightweight crews.

## **Section 6 - Masters**

### Rule 19 - Definition of Masters

A rower may compete as a Masters rower from the beginning of the year during which he/she reaches the age of 27.

### Rule 20 - Masters Categories

A rower may compete in Masters rowing events from the beginning of the year during which they reach the age of 27. The age of the rowers in a Masters rowing event shall be that which they reach during the year of the event.

Regatta shall be held in the following crew age sub-categories:

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Masters A Minimum age : | 27 years          |
| Masters B Average age : | 36 years or above |
| Masters C Average age : | 43 years or above |
| Masters D Average age : | 50 years or above |
| Masters E Average age : | 55 years or above |
| Masters F Average age : | 60 years or above |
| Masters G Average age : | 65 years or above |
| Masters H Average age : | 70 years or above |
| Masters I Average age : | 75 years or above |
| Masters J Average age : | 80 years or above |

The average age and minimum age exclude the coxswain.

Every Masters rower must be able to prove his/her age by **present** of an official document. Each competitor shall be responsible for his/her own health and fitness.

## **Section 7 - Para-rowing (Men, Women and Mixed)**

### Rule 21 - Definition of Para-Rowing

(1) No rower may enter a Para-Rowing event under these Rules unless they have been classified as set out in the FISA Para-Rowing Classification Regulations (“These Regulations shall be deemed to be part of these Rules”).

(2) Only a rower having a minimum disability as defined in the FISA Para-Rowing Classification Regulations, such disability leading to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation, shall be eligible to compete.

### Rule 22 - Coxswains of Para-Rowing Crews

For para-rowing events there is no restriction on coxswains in respect of para-rowing eligibility, sex or age. The minimum weights of coxswains shall apply to para-rowing events.

## Rule 23 - Para-Rowing Sport Class & Sport Class Status

HKCRA recognises the following para-rowing sport classes:

### (1) PR3

- (i) PR3-PI - Athletes in the PR3 sport class with a physical impairment
- (ii) PR3-B1, B2 and B3 - Athletes in the PR3 sport class with a visual impairment who have been classified and issued a sport class of B1, B2 or B3 respectively.

### (2) PR2

### (3) PR1

### (4) II - Athletes in the PR3 sport class with an intellectual impairment

HKCRA recognises the following sport class statuses:

- C (Confirmed)
- R (Review)
- N (New)

A rower's sport class and sport class status shall be determined by a recognised Classification Panel upon completion of the classification process as set out in the FISA Para-Rowing Classification Regulations. A list of all para-rowers who have been classified in accordance with these requirements, showing the respective sport class and the sport class status of each rower shall be maintained by HKCRA and shall be made available for inspection upon request. A list made available for public inspection shall indicate the name, club, sport class and sport class status of each rower but shall not identify any individual's disability.

## Rule 24 - Para-Rowing Boat Classes

The following para-rowing events may be held:

- PR3 Mixed coxed four (PR3 Mix4+)
- PR3 Mixed double sculls (PR3 Mix2x)
- PR3 Men's pair (PR3 M2-)
- PR3 Women's pair (PR3 W2-)
- PR2 Mixed double sculls (PR2 Mix2x)
- PR2 Men's singles sculls (PR2 M1x)
- PR2 Women's singles sculls (PR2 W1x)
- PR1 Men's single sculls (PR1 M1x)
- PR1 Women's single sculls (PR1 W1x)
- II Mixed coxed four (II Mix4+)

In Mixed para-rowing events half of the rowers in a crew shall be men and half shall be women. In the 4+, the coxswain may be of either sex.

A PR3 Mix4+ crew may include a maximum of two rowers whose impairment is visual, only one of whom may have a sport class of PR3-B3. A PR3 Mix4+ may not include rowers with intellectual disabilities.

A PR3 Mix2x crew may include a maximum of one rower whose impairment is visual and that rower may be either PR3 B1 or PR3 B2.

A PR3 pair crews may include one rower whose impairment is visual.

PR3 Mix2x rowers with a physical impairment must have a minimum of a loss of 20 points in one limb when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the Classification Application form for Physical Impairment.

## **Part 3 - Boats and Equipment**

### **Rule 25 - Construction of Equipment**

The construction, design and dimensions of boats and oars shall, in principle, be unrestricted, except that boats permitted to be used for Novice or Recreational Sculling events shall be restricted to those stipulated for this purpose by the HKCRA.

### **Rule 26 - Safety Requirements for Boats**

In order to protect the safety of rowers, all boats are required to be fitted with the following:

- (i) The bows of all boats shall be fitted with a solid white ball shape, minimum 4 cm in diameter. If this is an external part it shall be firmly affixed to the bow of the boat such that it does not significantly deflect if a side force is applied. If it is an integral part of the hull construction, it shall afford equivalent protection and visibility.
- (ii) Foot stretchers or shoes which, in the event of capsizing, allow the rowers to get clear of the boat without using their hands and with the least possible delay. Each shoe or device shall be independently restrained such that when the heel reaches the horizontal position the foot will be released from the shoe. In addition, where laces, Velcro or similar materials must be opened before the rower can remove his feet from the shoes or other device, all such materials must be able to be released immediately by the rower with a single quick hand action of pulling on one easily accessible strap.

### **Para-Rowing Boats**

All boats, equipment and strapping used for para-rowing events shall fully comply with the FISA Para-Rowing Competition Regulations in this regard. In particular:-

- (i) Para-Rowing **PR1** single sculling boats shall be fitted with stabilising pontoons which shall meet the FISA specifications for such equipment and shall be fitted and adjusted in accordance with the current FISA Para-Rowing Competition Regulations. Stabilising pontoons are optional for the Para-Rowing **PR2 single sculling boats and** double sculling boats.
- (ii) The requirements for strapping worn by para-rowers in accordance with FISA Para-Rowing Competition Regulations shall also be required for para-rowers under these Rules.

## **Part 4 - Competition Courses**

### **Rule 27 - The Course**

The Organising Committee for a Regatta shall decide the length of the course and the number of lanes, depending on the factors for that particular regatta, including the type of regatta, the category of events, the length and width of water available, the number of available boats and the likely weather conditions.

However, in principle, Hong Kong Championship events shall be raced on a 2000m straight course of at least 6 lanes, except for Masters Events which shall be 1000m.

## **Part 5 - Organisation of Regattas**

### **Section 1 - General**

#### **Rule 28 - Authority of HKCRA**

All rowing Regattas in Hong Kong are under the authority of the HKCRA, and subject thereto, of the Club or other body responsible for the organisation of the Regatta. An Organising Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of a Regatta.



### Rule 29 - Duties of the Organising Committee

A Club or other body responsible for the organisation of a Regatta shall appoint an Organising Committee. The Organising Committee is responsible for the proper organisation of the Regatta.

The Organising Committee shall carry out the following duties:

- (1) Fix the programme of the Regatta, including the Events, in agreement with the HKCRA.
- (2) Issue a Notice of Regatta and Entry Forms to all HKCRA Clubs and Registered Organizations at least 14 days before the day of the regatta.  
A copy of the Notice shall at the same time be sent to the HKCRA.  
The Notice of Regatta must include all those items set out at Annex 1 to these Rules.  
The Regatta Entry Form must include all those items set out at Annex 2 to these Rules.
- (3) Appoint a Regatta Controller who will be responsible to supervise the conduct of the Regatta in close co-operation with the Chief Umpire.
- (4) Appoint a Safety Advisor who shall be responsible for all aspects of safety at the Regatta.
- (5) Prepare appropriate prizes for the winners (and, if possible, second and third places) at the Regatta.
- (6) Accept all valid entries.
- (7) Collect the entry fees.  
Entry fees for regattas shall be set by the HKCRA. If an Organising Committee wishes to change the level of entry fee for a particular regatta, prior approval must be sought from the HKCRA.
- (8) After the close of entries, to conduct a random draw to determine which crews shall compete in which heats of an Event in accordance with Rule 43 and which crews shall race in which lanes.
- (9) Not later than 3 days before the Regatta, send a copy of the Draw and Regatta schedule listing the crews in each Race and the time of each Race to all Clubs and Registered Organizations which have entered, with a copy to the HKCRA.
- (10) Take all such steps which may be required to ensure the proper organisation of the Regatta.
- (11) Within 7 days following the regatta, send the results with full crew names and placings to the HKCRA.

### Rule 30 - Disputes, Appeals and Cases not Covered

Disputes between Clubs and/or Registered Organizations at a Regatta shall be referred to the Organising Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Organising Committee may be submitted to the Board of the HKCRA.

All matters not specifically covered by these Rules shall be decided by the Organising Committee (in consultation where necessary with the Chief Umpire), which shall take care to ensure that no breach of these Rules arises from such decisions and shall make a report of such decisions to the HKCRA within 3 days following the Regatta.

### Rule 31 - Prizes and Sponsorship Contracts

Competitors may receive cash or other prizes for competition where such prizes are notified in the Notice of Regatta.

Competitors may also enter into sponsorship contracts provided that these contracts are reviewed and approved by the HKCRA in advance and that these contracts are in accordance with HKCRA Rules and with the laws, rules and regulations of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

In this respect, the HKCRA will not approve sponsorships relating to tobacco or related companies or to strong liquor (in excess of 15%). The HKCRA may also refuse to approve sponsorships which it considers might harm the healthy and sporting image of rowing.

#### Rule 32 - Payments to Competitors

There shall be no restriction imposed by the HKCRA on payments to a competitor from any legal source.

#### Rule 33 - Advertising

There shall be no restrictions on advertising at Regattas held under these Rules, except that the prohibition on tobacco and strong liquor companies and products in Rule 31 shall also apply to all forms of advertising at Regattas.

*(Clubs and rowers should note that competitions outside Hong Kong or held under other Rules may have additional restrictions on advertising, and they should approach the HKCRA for information before competing overseas or entering sponsorship agreements for overseas competitions.)*

### **Section 2 - Entries**

#### Rule 34 - Restrictions

No rower may compete for two different Clubs or Registered Organizations at the same Regatta.

#### Rule 35 - Entries

The following requirements will apply:

- (1) An entry shall not be valid unless the entry form has been completed and signed by an authorised official of the Club or Registered Organizations submitting the entry form.
- (2) Entries shall close at least six clear days before the date of the Regatta. No official of the Organising Committee shall divulge any entry or report the state of the entry list until such list is closed.
- (3) No rower shall be entered more than once for the same Event.
- (4) If only one crew is entered for an Event, the Organising Committee shall cancel the Event and refund the entry fee for that crew.

#### Rule 36 - Entry Form

All Regattas entry forms shall be submitted via a HKCRA designated website. (Except overseas team)

#### Rule 37 - List of Entries

Not later than 3 days before the Regatta the Organising Committee shall send a copy of the draw and timetable for racing to all Clubs and Registered Organizations which have entered for the Regatta.

#### Rule 38 - False Declarations and Questionable Entries

An Organising Committee may investigate any questionable entry and cancel an entry which is found to be invalid.

An Organising Committee may exclude from an Event any Club or Registered Organizations making a false declaration concerning names or classifications of competitors for that Event.

A report on each such case, clearly stating the reasons why the entry was cancelled or the crew excluded, must be sent to the HKCRA within 3 days. The HKCRA may take such further action as it considers appropriate in such cases.

## **Part 6 - Conduct of Regattas**

### **Section 1 - General**

#### **Rule 39 - Safety**

The safety of rowers and coxswains shall be the prime concern of the Organising Committee and the officials in charge of the Regatta.

The Organising Committee shall impose all necessary safety measures depending on the nature and location of the course, the weather conditions and other factors and the Safety Advisor shall actively monitor these measures throughout the Regatta.

The Organising Committee shall take all steps to provide the safest conditions possible. However, the ultimate responsibility for competing lies with the Club or Registered Rower for whom the rower is competing and with the individual rower. In this respect the HKCRA accepts no legal liability.

#### **Rule 40 - Traffic Rules on the Course**

The Organising Committee shall publish and display clearly in the boating area the traffic rules to be followed by all boats on the water during the Regatta.

In particular there shall be adequate provision for separation of crews racing from those proceeding from the boating area to the Start, and from the Finish to the landing area. In addition, arrangements shall be made to ensure proper separation of crews warming up and cooling down.

#### **Rule 41 - Other Boats on the Water**

During the Regatta no other boats shall be permitted on the Regatta course or the warm up areas except those that are competing.

#### **Rule 42 - Progression System**

- (i) Where the number of entries for any Event exceeds the number of lanes available a progression system shall be used. The Organising Committee shall conduct a draw to decide the heat and lane to which crews will be signed in the first round. The draw shall be random unless the Events Commission decides in the case of a major event that the heats should be seeded.

- (ii) The progression system shall comprise preliminary heats, repechages or semi finals (where necessary) and finals.

1-6 entries: Direct final

1-7 entries: 2 heats, last boat of the heats will be eliminated and remaining go to final.

8-12 entries: 2 heats, only 3 fastest crews in each heat will proceed to final.

13-18 entries: 3 heats, the winner of each heat goes forward to final. The second and third faster crews of each heat goes to repechage, the first 3 crews in the repechage go forward to final.

#### **Rule 43 - Seeding**

In case seeding is required, the Events Commission shall decide which crews are to be seeded and the manner of seeding. In principle, not more than two crews shall be seeded in any one heat. The Events Commission may seek technical advice in deciding which crews shall be seeded.

#### Rule 44 - Withdrawals

If a crew withdraws from an Event for which it has been entered, it shall give notice on the designated form to the Organising Committee as early as possible, at the latest, it shall give notice of withdrawal no later than one hour before the first heat of the Event. For any withdrawals received after this time, except when accompanied by a medical certificate, the club/ Registered Organizations/ crew shall pay a penalty equal to the entry fee. In the case of a withdrawal the Organising Committee may conduct a new draw if required.

A withdrawal once made is irrevocable. There shall be no refund of entry fees.

#### Rule 45 - Crew Changes Before the First Heat

- (i) Crews - Clubs and Registered Organizations may substitute up to one half the number of rowers (as well as the coxswain, if applicable) in any crews entered by them, provided that the substitutes are members of the same Club /Registered Organizations and the changes are advised in writing to the Organising Committee at least 30 minutes before the start of the Heat concerned.
- (ii) Illness or injury - In the case of illness or injury to a member of a crew before the first heat, a substitution may be made if the Organising Committee is satisfied that the nature of the illness or injury is such to prevent the rower from competing. Such a substituted rower may not compete again on the same day, but may compete in a later round of the same Event on the following day (in a 2-day Regatta) subject to the Organising Committee being satisfied that the reason for the substitution and reinstatement was genuinely related to the illness or injury and the rower's recovery.
- (iii) Single scullers - No substitute is permitted for a single sculler.

#### Rule 46 - Crew Changes after the First Heat

- (i) Crews - No change may be made in a crew which has already raced except in the case of serious illness or injury, in which case the approval of the Organising Committee is required. The Organising Committee may seek such advice as is necessary to help them come to a decision and shall also consult the Chief Umpire. A rower who has been replaced under this Rule shall not be permitted to row again in the same Event, even if restored to health. Not more than one half of the rowers in a crew (plus the coxswain, if applicable) may be changed in accordance with this Rule.
- (ii) Single scullers - No substitute is permitted for a single sculler.

#### Rule 47 - Appointment of Umpires

The Umpires shall be appointed by the HKCRA Umpiring Commission and consist of persons carrying out the following duties:

1. Chief Umpire
2. Starter
3. Aligner (Starter **might** also acts as the Aligner when starting pontoons are not used)
4. Race Umpire
5. Chief Finish Judge
6. Crew Marshal

Each of the above officials shall be holders of a current HKCRA Umpire Licence. They may be assisted by other Umpires or by other officials who do not hold an Umpire Licence.

Number of Umpires for Regattas as stated in Annex 3.

## **Section 2 - Running of Regattas, Duties of the Umpires, Rules of Umpiring**

### **Rule 48 - Duties of Umpires and Rules of Umpiring**

The duties of Umpires and rules of umpiring are set out at Annex 4 to these Rules.

### **Rule 49 - Role of the Umpires**

Under the direction of the Chief Umpire, the Umpires shall ensure that the Regatta is run in accordance with these Rules and, in particular, that all crews in any particular Race compete under the same conditions.

### **Rule 50 - The Chief Umpire**

The Chief Umpire shall allocate duties to each of the umpires at a Regatta and shall supervise their activities.

### **Rule 51 - Collaboration with the Organising Committee**

The Chief Umpire and the Umpires shall work in close co-operation with the Organising Committee.

### **Rule 52 - Safety of Rowers**

The safety of rowers and coxswains must be the prime concern of the umpires at all times during the regatta.

The Chief Umpire shall ensure proper co-ordination between the umpires, the Organising Committee and the Safety Advisor to observe good safety practices

### **Rule 53 - At the Start**

Crews must be at their starting positions two minutes before the time of their race.

The Starter may start the Race without waiting for absentees.

The Starter may award a Yellow Card against a crew arriving late at its starting position He may also exclude the crew from the Event.

### **Rule 54 - Starter and Aligner**

The Starter and the Aligner shall ensure that the correct starting procedure is followed.

The Starter shall inform the crews of their starting positions and the time remaining until the start of the race when they arrive at the Start.

He shall start the race when the crews are ready and when the Aligner indicates that the crews are correctly aligned.

The Aligner alone shall decide if the boats are correctly aligned and if one or more crews have caused a false start.

If the Aligner indicates that there has been a false start, the Starter shall stop the race and award a Yellow Card against the crew or crews which, in the opinion of the Aligner, caused the false start. The Starter shall exclude from the event any crew receiving two **yellow cards**.

### Rule 55 - Starting Procedure

Crews must attach themselves to their start pontoons at least two minutes before the starting time of their Race. When there are two minutes remaining to the start time, the Starter shall announce *“Two Minutes”*

This means the crews are officially under Starter’s orders.

The announcement of *“Two minutes”* shall also mean that crews should prepare to race, such as remove additional clothing, check equipment, etc., and must be ready within two minutes.

Before giving the Start command, the Starter shall ensure that the Race Umpire and Aligner are ready.

When the boats are aligned and the crews are ready to race, the Starter shall make a roll call by announcing - in lane order - the names of each of the crews in the race.

Once the roll call begins, the crews must make sure their boats are straight. Each crew is responsible for being straight and ready to race at the end of the roll call.

Once the roll call begins, the Starter shall take no further notice of crews raising their hands or indicating that they are not ready or not straight.

After the last crew has been named in the roll call, the Starter shall check that the Aligner still has the white flag raised to indicate that the crews are aligned, and shall then say:

*“Attention”*

The Starter shall then raise the red flag (or, where traffic lights are in use, press the button to change the light from neutral to red).

After a clear pause the Starter shall give the start command by dropping the red flag quickly to one side and simultaneously saying:

*“Go”*

(or, where traffic lights are in use, pressing the button for the green light and activation of the audible signal through the loud speakers)

The pause between the raising of the flag and the start command (or to change the light from red to green) shall be variable from race to race.

If the starting procedure is interrupted for any reason external to the crews or for a false start, then the Starter must begin the procedure again, starting with the roll call.

### Rule 56 - Quick Start

Should the wind or water conditions make it difficult to align crews or if there are no starting pontoons (i.e. a free start), the Starter may dispense with the roll call. In this case, after the Starter announces *“Two Minutes”*, he shall inform the crews he will use a Quick Start.

After the crews are aligned, in place of the roll call he shall say:

*“All Crews”*

After a clear pause he shall then say:

*“Attention”*

The Starter shall then raise the red flag (or, where traffic lights are in use, press the button to change the light from neutral to red).

After a clear pause the Starter shall give the start command by dropping the red flag quickly to one side and simultaneously saying:

*“Go”*

(or, where traffic lights are in use, pressing the button for the green light and activation of the audible signal through the loud speakers)

The pause between the raising of the flag (or to change the light from red to green) and the start command shall be variable from race to race.

#### Rule 57 - False Start

A boat whose bow crosses the start line after the Starter has raised his red flag or shown the red light and before the start command is given has caused a false start.

If the Aligner considers the start to be false, he shall raise his red flag to indicate to the Starter that the race should be stopped. The Starter shall sound the bell or horn and wave the red flag, indicating to crews that the race has been stopped. (Where traffic lights are in use and they include both visual and audible signals to indicate a false start then these shall be used instead of the red flag and bell.) The crew which, in the opinion of the Aligner, caused the false start shall be awarded a Yellow Card by the Starter **after return to the start position**.

Where start pontoons are being used, a Yellow Card (or Yellow Cone) shall be placed behind the crew which caused the false start. This Yellow Card shall apply until the Race has been rowed and shall therefore apply in the case of a postponement or a re-row.

A Yellow Card given for being late at the Start or as a disciplinary measure under Rule 72 shall have the same effect as a Yellow Card given for a false start.

A crew having two false starts or which has received two Yellow Cards applying to the same Race shall be excluded.

#### Rule 58 - Race Umpire

**Race** Umpire shall ensure the proper conduct of the Race and the safety of the rowers. In particular, he shall ensure that no crew gains any advantage or suffers any disadvantage from its opponents or from outside interference. **Race** Umpire alone shall decide whether a crew has gained any advantage or suffered any disadvantage for the purpose of this rule.

If a crew is impeded, the **Race** Umpire shall ensure that its chance of winning is fully restored to it.

He shall impose appropriate **sanctions** on crews at fault but, in principle, only after a previous warning.

**Race** Umpire shall not give any steering indications to crews. However, he shall endeavour to ensure that accidents are avoided and to prevent crews from being impeded by their opponents. If necessary, the **Race** Umpire may stop the Race, impose any necessary **sanctions** and order the race to be re-rowed, either immediately or later, from the start or from some other point. He shall decide on the new starting time in consultation with the Chief Umpire and he shall inform the crews concerned.

The **Race** Umpire may also exclude crews after the race has finished or may confine a re-row to such crews as he shall decide.

#### Rule 59 - Finish of the Race

A crew has finished the Race when the bow of its boat has crossed the finish line. The Race shall be valid even if the crew is incomplete. However, a crew in a coxed boat crossing the finish line without the coxswain shall not be placed.

#### Rule 60 - Finish Judge

The Finish Judge shall determine the order in which the bows of the boats cross the finish line. He shall measure the time taken by each crew to cover the course, check that the race has been correctly run and record the order of finish of the crews.

#### Rule 61 - Dead-Heats

If there is a dead-heat between two or more crews then the following procedure shall operate:

- (1) In a heat, repechage or semi-final, if only one of the crews involved in the dead-heat is to progress to the next round, then if possible, both crews should progress. If this is not possible for any reason, then there must be a re-row within two hours between the two crews involved in the dead-heat. The re-row can be over a shorter distance if so decided by the Organising Committee. If the crews involved in the dead-heat progress to the next round, their lane in the next round shall be decided by ballot and no re-row is required.
- (2) In a Final, if a dead-heat occurs then those crews shall be given equal placing and the next placing shall be left vacant. If the tied placing is for a medal position then the Organising Committee shall provide additional medals or prizes.

#### Rule 62 - Crew Marshal

The Crew Marshal shall check that the composition of the crews is correct, that their equipment is in order and that crews leave for the Start on time.

#### Rule 63 - Considering Protests - The Jury

In the case of a Protest, a Jury comprising the Chief Umpire, together with two other Umpires not involved in the incident which caused the Protest, shall consider and take decisions on the Protest in accordance with Rules 74 and 75.

#### Rule 64 - Exceptional Cases

If it is necessary to take decisions affecting the Regatta which are not covered under these Rules, the Organising Committee shall make such decisions after consulting the Chief Umpire.

#### Rule 65 - The Regatta Report

The Chairman of the Organising Committee and the Chief Umpire shall provide a report to the HKCRA detailing any disputes arising at the Regatta, any incidents involving exclusion or disqualification of crews and any incidents which resulted in damage to equipment or injury to persons. This report shall be received by HKCRA not later than 3 days after the Regatta.

The Organising Committee shall send to the HKCRA the complete results of the regatta within 7 days.



### **Section 3 - Conduct of Crews**

#### **Rule 66 - General**

All rowers shall compete in their Races in accordance with these Rules. They shall comply with the instructions of the Umpires and of the Organising Committee and must observe all traffic regulations in force.

They shall in particular:

- (1) Not cross the finish line in either direction while boats in a Race are in the process of finishing;
- (2) Stop when boats in a Race are approaching their position, so as not to distract or cause interference to the boats racing;
- (3) Respect traffic rules in warm up and cool down areas.

#### **Rule 67 - During the Race**

Rowers are responsible for their own steering. Each crew shall have a lane reserved for its own use. A crew may at its own risk, leave its lane provided that it does not interfere with any other crews or gain any advantage thereby.

The Umpire alone shall decide if a crew is in its own lane.

**Crew not taking part in a race shall not** follow a race over any part of the course, even outside the course.

#### **Rule 68 - Rowers' Clothing**

Members of the same crew shall compete wearing **the official registered** uniform clothing of their Club or Registered Organizations.

The blades of the oars shall be painted in the same manner on both sides.

Any changes in the design of the official uniform of the club or Registered Organization shall be notified to and registered with the HKCRA before being used in Regattas.

#### **Rule 69 - Coaching**

It is prohibited to use any electric, electronic or other technical devices from outside the boat, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of coaching crews during a Race.

No objections or protests shall be accepted on the basis of this Rule, however if any contravention is brought to attention of the Jury it shall be investigated and if a crew is found to have contravened this Rule they may be disqualified.

#### **Rule 70 - Sanctions**

The Umpires shall impose appropriate **sanctions** in case of any breach of these Rules. **Crews may be sanctioned without prior warning or other notification from the Umpire.**

### **Section 4 - Umpires' Licences**

#### **Rule 71 - Method of Obtaining and Renewing a Licence**

Any person may become a HKCRA umpire, provided that he meets the requirements set down by the HKCRA Umpiring Commission, including the passing of an examination.

The HKCRA Umpires' Licence is valid for a period of two years.

The Umpiring Commission shall establish conditions and criteria for renewal of umpire licences.

The title of Senior Umpire shall be awarded to those umpires who meet the requirements set down by the HKCRA Umpiring Commission.

## Section 5 - Objections, Protests, Appeals, Disciplinary Measures and Procedures

### Rule 72 - Objections

A crew claiming that its race has been improperly run or judged must make an Objection to an Umpire immediately after the finish of the Race and before getting out of the boat except when prevented by unavoidable circumstances.

The Race Umpire shall decide immediately on the Objection and shall verbally advise the crew making the Objection of his decision. He shall also inform the Chief Umpire.

A crew **sanctioned** at the start may make an Objection to the Starter, Race Umpire or other Umpire at the time.

### Rule 73 - Protests

A crew whose Objection has been rejected or crews affected by the Umpire's decision on the Objection may lodge a Protest in writing to the Jury not later than 30 minutes after the Umpire has advised his decision regarding the Objection. The Protest shall be accompanied by a deposit of HK\$500, which amount shall be refunded if the Protest or Appeal is successful.

The Jury (Rule 65) shall decide if the Protest is justified. As a general rule, in the case of a Protest concerning a final of an event, the victory ceremony of that event will be postponed until after the decision has been made.

### Rule 74 - Sanctions

The Jury may, after hearing the views of all concerned, impose the following **sanctions** on rowers, coxswains or persons accompanying them in the case of any breach of these Rules or unsporting or improper behaviour:

1. Reprimand
2. Yellow Card (applying to the next Race in which the crew is concerned)
3. Exclusion from the Event
4. Disqualification from all Events in the Regatta

The Jury may recommend to the Board that a disqualification extending beyond the Regatta in question be imposed. Only the Board may impose such a **sanction** and then only in serious cases which cannot be adequately dealt with by imposing the above **sanctions**.

The Jury may also require a re-row of some or all of the crews in a Race or may impose any other appropriate measure in order to assure the fairness of the competition.

### Rule 75 - Appeals

Decisions taken by the Jury on protests relating to the conduct of a race are final.

An appeal may be made to the Board against the decision of the Jury on matters not related to the conduct of a race. Any such appeal must be received by the HKCRA not later than three days after the Jury's decision has been announced.

## **Part 7 - Anti-Doping**

### **Rule 76 - Anti-Doping**

The use of performance enhancing drugs and doping practices by Members, Registered Rowers and rower support personnel of the HKCRA and those taking part in activities organised by the HKCRA or any Club is strictly prohibited. All Members, Registered Rowers and rower support personnel of the HKCRA and those taking part in activities organised by the HKCRA or any Club, shall comply fully with the latest Anti-Doping Rules of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, the Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee and the Anti-Doping Bye-Laws of FISA. Any person in breach of this provision or assisting in a breach by others will be subject to disqualification in accordance with Rule 76 and suspension or termination of membership in accordance with Article 14 of the Articles of Association. The Board reserves the right to communicate details of any breach to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and the Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee and FISA

## **Part 8 - Concluding Provisions**

### **Rule 77**

These Rules of Racing were approved by the Board of the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association in accordance with Article 28 of the Articles of Association on Revised December 2018. They were further amended on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 and the amendments took effect immediately.

### **Hong Kong, China Rowing Association**

Chairman  
NG Kong Wan

Company Secretary  
YEUNG Chun Wa

## **Annexes to Section A**

### **Annex 1**

#### **Requirements of Notice of Regatta (Rule 29)**

Notice of Regatta shall include: -

- (a) Place, date and time of Regatta;
- (b) The categories of Events and the Events;
- (c) Special restrictions or conditions, whether or not they affect classification of competitors;
- (d) For Open Events, the statement that they are held under the HKCRA Rules of Racing;
- (e) The cost of entry fees;
- (f) The length of the course for each Event;
- (g) The date and time at which entries close;
- (h) The date, time and location of the draw;
- (i) The name of the organising body;
- (j) The address, telephone and fax number for entries and correspondence;

#### **Note:**

The Notice of Regatta shall be issued to all HKCRA Clubs and Registered Organizations at least 14 days before the day of the regatta.

A copy of the Regatta Notice must be forwarded to the HKCRA at the same date it is sent to Clubs and Registered Organizations.

## **Annex 2**

### **Requirements of Regatta Entry Form (Rule 29)**

The Entry Form for a Regatta shall include: -

- (a) The name of the Club /Registered Organizations entering;
- (b) The names and classifications of rowers and for Junior and Masters events, the dates of birth of rowers. The names of the competitors shall be set out in order of rowing, beginning with bow, who shall be designated No. 1.
- (c) The following form of certificate shall appear on the Entry Form:

“I certify that all competitors named and any substitutes who may be introduced are Registered Rowers, and members of this Club or Registered Organization or the Club or Registered Organization shown against their names, which is a Club or Organization registered with the HKCRA and are eligible to compete in the Events for which they are entered. (Note: If any competitors are members of a Club or Organization not registered with the HKCRA then the full details must be included together with the Entry Form.)”

## Annex 3

### **Number of Umpires at HKCRA Regatta**

1. Chief Umpire - 1
2. Starter - 1
3. Aligner - 1 (each starting position need min. 1)
4. Race Umpire - 2-4 (depends on different Regatta event)
5. Finish Judge - 3
6. Crew Marshal - 4 (Every In/Out pontoon location min. 2)

### **Number of Umpires at HKCRA Indoor Rowing Regatta**

1. Chief Umpire - 1
2. Chief Marshal - 1
3. Race Umpire - number based on the ratio of rowing machine 1:8

### **Number of Umpires at HKCRA Coastal Rowing Regatta**

1. Chief Umpire - 1
2. Starter - 1
3. Aligner - 1
4. Race Umpire 1- 2 (depends on different Regatta event)
5. Finish Judge - 2
6. Crew Marshal - 2
7. Key Turning Mark Umpire (numbers depends on the design of the course)

## **Annex 4**

### **Duties of Umpires and Rules of Umpiring (Rule 48)**

The duties and powers of the different Umpires are as follows.

#### **1. Starter**

##### **1.1 General Duties**

Before taking up his/her duties, the Starter must satisfy himself that all equipment and installations required by the Rules covering the start and the course are present and in working order.

In particular, the Starter must have:

- a red flag (with a white diagonal cross if desired),
- a bell or hooter,
- a megaphone or a microphone and loudspeakers,
- radio or telephone communication

In addition, at a Regatta where start pontoons are in use, the Starter should have a clock which is clearly visible to the crews on the course and those waiting for the start; a board and markers to enable the Starter to inform crews of any postponement of races.

The Starter shall check that the radio and/or telephone communication with the Aligner (where applicable), the Chief Umpire, the Finish Judge and the Race Control area is in working order. The Starter shall also make certain that any crews on the water are obeying the prescribed traffic rules.

##### **1.2 Information to Crews**

The Starter shall inform the crews how long to the start and tell them (as soon as they arrive at the start for the first time) in which lane they will race. He shall check to see that the competitors' uniform and equipment is in order.

##### **1.3 Starting Procedures**

The starting procedures to be used by the Starter (including Quick Starts and False Starts) are described in Rules 55, 56 and 57.

##### **1.4 The Umpire to be Ready**

Before the start, the Starter shall make sure that the Race Umpire is ready to follow the Race.

##### **1.5 Exclusion**

The Starter shall exclude from the race a crew causing two false starts or which has received two Yellow Cards applying to the same Race.

##### **1.6 Late Arrival**

The Starter may give a Yellow Card to crews arriving late (less than 2 minutes before the start time) at their starting positions.

He may exclude a crew arriving after the start time.

##### **1.7 Postponement**

Should it be necessary to postpone a race or should some other unexpected event occur, the Starter shall consult the Race Umpire and the Chief Umpire; he shall then inform the crews of the new starting time both verbally and in writing (visible to all competitors) on a board at the starting area. The Starter shall inform the Race Control of the new starting time.

The Starter shall inform the Chief Umpire of anything unusual.

In all cases, crews must inquire from an Umpire regarding any changes before **leaving the Start area.**

## 2. Aligner (where applicable)

### 2.1 Equipment and Communications

The Aligner must have:

a white flag,  
a red flag,  
direct communication with the boat-holders or crews (this will preferably be by wireless transmission to headsets, but can also be either by megaphone or microphone and loudspeakers,  
radio or telephone communication

Before taking up his duties, the Aligner shall ensure that the radio and telephone link with the Starter and between the Aligner and the boat-holders on the starting platforms are in good working order.

### 2.2 Aligning

The Aligner instructs the boat-holders to adjust the position of the boats until they are correctly aligned so that all the boats have their bows exactly on the start line. When he is satisfied that this is the case he raises his white flag to indicate this to the Starter. If the crews go out of line during the starting procedure he shall lower his flag and realign the crews.

### 2.3 False Start

If there is a false start, the Aligner shall inform the Starter and the Race Umpire by immediately raise a red flag. The Starter and Race Umpire shall then stop the Race. After the race has been stopped, the Aligner shall tell the Starter the name of the crew or crews which caused the false start.

## 3. Race Umpire

### 3.1 Equipment

The race Umpire must have:

a white flag,  
a red flag,  
a bell or hooter,  
a megaphone or microphone and loudspeakers for communication with crews,  
radio communication

### 3.2 Duties on the Way to the Start

On the way to the start, the Race Umpire shall inspect the course installations to ensure that they are in proper order and shall satisfy himself that there are no obstacles on the course. He also makes certain that any crews on the water are following the prescribed traffic rules. If he finds any defect in the installations, he shall immediately inform the Chief Umpire and he shall also inform any crews concerned.

### 3.3 Duties during the Starting Procedure

Should the start for any reason be faulty (except for a false start which shall be decided only by the Aligner), the Race Umpire may order the Starter to stop the race or may stop it himself by sounding a bell or hooter and waving his red flag.

### 3.4 Position of the Umpire's Launch

During the race, the Race Umpire must ensure that his boat is so placed as best to enable him to take action as effectively as possible. The position of the Race Umpire's boat depends on the progress of the race and the possible positions of the crews in the subsequent heats; it may also depend on weather conditions. On a course where there are no lane buoys, the umpire should remember that his launch may assist the crews in their steering.



The Race Umpire must satisfy himself that any crew or crews he is talking to can hear him. Should it be necessary to overtake one or more crews, he must be careful that they are not hampered more than is necessary by the wash of his boat.

### 3.5 Duties during the Race

If a crew is about to

- interfere with another by its wash or by leaving its lane, OR
- gain any advantage by leaving its lane, OR
- put itself or other crews at risk of collision or damage,

the Race Umpire shall raise his white flag, call to the crew at fault, indicating the direction they must move by lowering his flag to one side. In principle, the Race Umpire may not steer a crew unless there is an obstruction in its lane.

### 3.6 Sanctions

Crews interfering with their opponents may be excluded by the Race Umpire but, in principle, only after a warning has been given. Any action taken is entirely at the Race Umpire's discretion.

If a crew is placed at a disadvantage, the first priority is to restore its chances of winning. The imposition of any appropriate **sanctions** takes second place. Should a crew's chance of winning be lost, the Race Umpire must take the most appropriate of action provided by the Rules. He may, for example, stop the race, impose the appropriate **sanction** and order the race to be re-rowed. Depending on circumstances, he may allow the race to continue and announce his decision after the race is over.

He may not just **sanction** the crew at fault while the crew that has suffered interference does not have its chances restored to it.

In no case may the Race Umpire alter a placing.

### 3.7 Type of Race

The Race Umpire's decision may be influenced by the type of Race (heat, repechage, semi-final or final). He must take this factor, as well as the position in the subsequent heats, into account in each race.

### 3.8 Postponement

In principle, the Race Umpire shall decide, in consultation with the Chief Umpire, if unequal conditions on the different lanes justify postponement of the race. If consultation is not possible, the Race Umpire shall make the decision alone.

### 3.9 Safety

The Race Umpire shall take every care to ensure the safety of the competitors and he must do everything possible to prevent damage to boats and equipment. When necessary, he may call a crew's attention by raising his white flag and stop it by giving the command "Stop". If any rowers fall into the water or if any boat capsizes or sinks, the Race Umpire shall immediately alert the safety teams and shall take whatever action he can to assist the rowers until the safety team arrives.

### 3.10 Bad Weather

In the case of squalls or sudden deterioration of the weather, the Race Umpire in consultation with the Chief Umpire shall decide if the Race may be started, is to continue or if it is to be stopped. The Race Umpire may make his own decision where circumstances require this. The safety of the competitors is more important than any of the provisions of the Rules of Racing.

### 3.11 Clothing

When officiating, the Race Umpire shall stand upright in his launch and wear the clothing prescribed by the HKCRA Umpires Committee.

### 3.12 Overall Ability, Coaching

The Race Umpire must keep himself informed on rowing questions in general. It is also desirable that he should get to know the personal peculiarities of individual crews and coaches. Coaching with electric, electronic or other technical devices from outside the boat is not allowed during a Race, and the Race Umpire should make a regular check on the area alongside the course.

### 3.13 Correct Finish

A Race is over only when the last crew has crossed the Finish Line. Even if the Race Umpire is satisfied that the Race has been properly run, he must be sure that no crew is making an objection before indicating to the Finish Judge, by raising his white flag, that the Race was in order.

Before leaving the finish area, he shall make sure that the Finish Judge has acknowledged his signal.

### 3.14 Objection

Should the Race Umpire consider the Race not to have been properly run, or if one of the crews makes an Objection (Rule 72), he shall raise his red flag, consult, when appropriate, the crew making the Objection, and go to the Finish Judge to give him any necessary explanation. The Finish Judge, in such a case, may only announce the result of the race after taking into account the Race Umpire's comments (e.g. an Objection by a crew).

## 4. Finish Judge

### 4.1 Equipment

The Finish Judge must have:

- a white flag,
- a hooter,
- stopwatch or equivalent timing device,
- video or photofinish camera where possible,
- radio or telephone communication

### 4.2 Duties

The duties of the Finish Judge are as follows:

- a) To determine the order in which the bows of the boats cross the finish line.
- b) To measure the time taken by each crew to cover the course.
- c) To satisfy himself that the Race Umpire has indicated, by raising his white flag, that the race was properly run and to indicate to the Race Umpire acknowledgment of his signal by raising a white flag.
- d) To list the crews in their proper order.

The Chief Finish Judge shall sign the official record of the results.

### 4.3 Position

In order to enable the Finish Judges to carry out their duties correctly, they must be seated one behind the other and one above the other along the projection of the Finish Line.

As a general rule, there shall be three finish judges, including a Chief Finish Judge.

### 4.4 Timing

Close finishes shall be decided by reference to photo-finish equipment when such equipment is available.

If the order of finish can be clearly determined by the naked eye, or if photo-finish equipment is not available, times taken by stopwatches or similar equipment may be used.

Should it be necessary to use the photo-finish, the times taken from the photo-finish shall be used for all crews in that Race.

## **5. Crew Marshal**

The number of Crew Marshals shall depend on the number of competitors.

The Crew Marshal shall carry out his duties in the boathouse area and at the pontoon.

The Crew Marshal shall work in close co-operation with the Chief Umpire.

In particular, the Crew Marshal is responsible for checking the following:

1. Weighing of coxswains.
2. Dead weight to be carried by coxswains (before and after the race).
3. Weighing of competitors in lightweight events.
4. Boats and equipment:
  - a) provision of a white ball on the bow of each boat (Rule 26)
  - b) quick-release straps on foot stretchers (Rule 26)
  - c) bow numbers
  - d) possible use of unauthorised radios for coaching
  - e) painting of oar-blades where required.
  - f) correct installation and adjustment of stabilising pontoons on Para-Rowing single sculling boats (Rule 26)
5. Uniform clothing of crews
6. Where required, the photographing of competitors before or immediately after the preliminary heats and the checking of the competitors' identity with those photographs before each subsequent race.

## **Rules of Racing**

### **Hong Kong, China Rowing Association**

## **SECTION B - INDOOR ROWING**

### **Rules for Indoor Rowing Competitions**

#### **Part 1 - General**

##### Rule IR 1 - General Principle

This SECTION B of the Rules of Racing applies to all Indoor Rowing Competitions held in Hong Kong, China and will take precedence over rules in SECTION A where applicable but in all other cases the rules in Section A will apply. For the purposes of this Part the word “Competition” shall have the same meaning as “Regatta” in SECTION A.

SECTION B is intended to supplement the Rules in SECTION A to provide for the specific requirements of Indoor Rowing. The Rules in SECTION A shall apply to Indoor Rowing in matters which are not included in SECTION B.

##### Rule IR2 - Right to Participate

Subject to Rule IR 3, Indoor Rowing Competitions shall be open to all persons registered with the HKCRA and who meet the entry requirements of the Competition, subject to the right of the Organising Committee to limit the numbers of categories or persons who may enter a Competition if facilities are limited or for safety reasons. Such limits must be clearly stated in the Notice of Competition and shall not be unreasonably restrictive. Persons registering with the HKCRA at the time of submitting their entry to the Competition shall be regarded as registered for the purpose of this Rule subject to the payment of such fee as may be required by the HKCRA.

##### Rule IR3 - Closed Competitions

Any organisation may, with the approval of the HKCRA, organise closed Indoor Rowing Competitions which shall, by invitation or otherwise, be open only to those persons, organisations or categories of persons and organisations as shall be stipulated in the Notice of Competition. Any variation of these Rules at such Competitions shall be clearly stated in the Notice of Competition and shall be notified to the HKCRA at least 7 days before the date of the Competition.

##### Rule IR4 - Supplementary Fee

For the purpose of Rule IR2 and IR3, the HKCRA may require the Organising Committee to levy a fee upon all persons or organisations submitting entries for a Competition and who are not registered with the HKCRA. Such a fee shall be paid to the HKCRA by the Organising Committee within 14 days after the end of the Competition concerned and such fee shall be treated by the HKCRA as a registration fee for the period of that Competition for the persons or organisations concerned or such longer period as the HKCRA may stipulate.

## **Part 2 - Rowers**

### **Rule IR5 - Classification of Rowers**

- (1) Competitions may be held for men and women in the following age group classifications:
  - (i) Sub-Junior 12 years and under
  - (ii) Junior 13 - 14 years  
15 - 16 years  
17 - 18 years
  - (iii) Senior 19 - 29 years
  - (iv) Masters 30 - 39 years  
40 - 49 years  
50 - 54 years  
55 - 59 years  
60 - 64 years  
65 - 69 years  
70 - 74 years  
75 - 79 years  
80 - 84 years  
85 - 89 years  
90 - 94 years  
95 - 99 years  
100+ years
- (2) The HKCRA may introduce or agree to additional sub-groups within the above classifications.
- (3) Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior rowers may not compete in any age group below their actual age and may not compete in Masters events. Sub-Junior and Junior rowers may compete in an age group above their actual age and Junior rowers may compete in Senior events. Masters rowers may compete in any Masters age group below their actual age and in Senior events.
- (4) A rower competing outside of his actual age group shall, for the purpose of that Event, only have his result recorded in the age group in which he is competing, although his time may also be recorded against his own age group for record purposes.
- (5) The age of a rower for the purpose of classification shall be the age on the date of the Competition. Where a Competition is held on more than one day, the age shall be that on the day of the final of the Event for which the rower is entered.
- (6) Competitions may be held in both open and lightweight categories. The maximum weight limit for individual lightweight men is 75 kg and for individual lightweight women is 61.5 kg. Rowers shall be weighed in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Racing. These weight limits shall also apply to each individual rower in a crew where an Event is based on crew rowing.
- (7) Men may not enter a Women's event and vice versa.

## **Part 3 - Equipment and Competition Environment**

### **Rule IR6 - Equipment**

Only rowing machines approved by the HKCRA shall be used in Indoor Rowing Competitions. All competitors in any one race shall use identical make and model of rowing machines, the intention being that each competitor shall have equal racing conditions with all other competitors. The rowing machines may have interconnection for electronic timing and external graphic display.

No attachments may be added or connections made to any machine without the approval of the Chief Umpire.

The position of each machine's individual display unit may not be altered except where permission is given by the Chief Umpire for all competitors in a race to do so.

### **Rule IR7 - Competition Area**

The area in which the rowing machines for Competition are located shall be clearly delineated and this shall be the Competition Area.

Only the Race Officials and competing rowers are permitted to enter the Competition Area during racing except with the specific approval of the Chief Umpire.

### **Rule IR8 - Placement of Rowing Machines**

Each rowing machine shall be clearly numbered. The rowing machines shall be placed on a non-slip surface or some other measures shall be taken to minimise the movement of the machines during a Race. The space between each rowing machine shall be sufficient as to not interfere with the adjoining rower or machine. In particular for relay events, sufficient room must be allowed for the movement of other team members waiting or changing rowers so as not to cause interference with the adjoining team. In the event of dispute the Chief Umpire shall decide if the space between machines is sufficient for the purpose of this Rule.

### **Rule IR9 - Resistance Setting**

Where the rowing machine has a facility to adjust the resistance, the setting may be adjusted by the rower before the start of a Race but no adjustment is permitted during a Race. In the case of a relay event, such adjustment may be made at the same time as the rowers change but not at any other time during a Race.

### **Rule IR10 - Draw for Heats and Allocation of Machines**

The Organising Committee shall allocate rowers to machines. Where there are more rowers entered for an Event than there are machines, the Organising Committee shall conduct a random draw for heats. The HKCRA may establish rules for the seeding of rowers between heats.

## **Part 4 - Competition Arrangement**

### **Rule IR11 - Competition Distance**

In principle the Competition distance will be 2000 metres, however the Organising Committee shall decide the length or time duration of each Race and this shall be stated clearly in the Notice of Competition. In particular for Sub-Junior and Junior categories under 15 years, as well as Masters categories over 60 years, a shorter race distance or time duration may be used.

### **Rule IR12 - Individual and Crew Racing**

Races may be held between individual rowers or between teams of rowers (crews) in combinations of two (pairs), four (fours) or eight (eights).

For crew racing, the time taken by all the rowers in the crew will be averaged to give the crew result (Where computer timing is used, the computer programme should calculate the average time of the crew).

Where the result is based on distance rowed, the result of the crew can either be the total distance rowed by all crew members or the average of all such distances, but the method of measuring the result must be clearly stipulated by the Organising Committee and notified to the teams before the Race.

**Part 5 - Duties of Race Officials,**  
**Conduct of Competitions,**  
**Rules of Umpiring**

Rule IR13 - Race Officials

Race Officials shall be appointed by the Organising Committee except that the umpires shall be nominated by the HKCRA Umpiring Commission. The Race Officials will consist of persons carrying out the following duties:

- (1) Chief Umpire
- (2) Chief Marshal
- (3) Race Umpire
- (4) Race Controller
- (5) Timekeepers
- (6) Marshals

The Chief Umpire, Chief Marshal and Race Umpires shall be licensed umpires.

Rule IR14 - Duties of the Race Officials

- (1) The Chief Umpire is responsible to:
  - (a) Supervise the Races, give directions to other Race Officials and make any decisions required under these Rules in consultation with the other Race Officials where necessary
  - (b) Determine when all rowers are ready to start
  - (c) Decide if any rower has caused a false start and cause a yellow card (or yellow cone) to be placed against the machine of the rower who caused the false start
  - (d) Give the starting command where manual timing is used
  - (e) Officially approve the times and distances of all competitors in each Race
  - (f) Determine Objections and other disputes about the conduct of any Race
  - (g) Make determinations in respect of any of these Rules which authorise him to do so
- (2) The Chief Marshal shall work in close co-operation with the Chief Umpire and the Race Controller. He is responsible to:
  - (a) Supervise and give directions to the Marshals assisting him
  - (b) Ensure that the identity and eligibility (including age) of all competitors is checked and is correct in accordance with these Rules
  - (c) Ensure that the weight of lightweight competitors is correctly determined in accordance with these Rules
  - (d) Allocate machines to competitors for warm-up
  - (e) Ensure that the clothing of Team competitors is uniform
  - (f) Inform the crews of the time remaining before the Race and ensure that each rower competes on the machine which has been allocated to him/her
- (3) The Race Umpire shall observe the timekeepers and competitors and shall deal with any occurrences which arise during the race.  
The ratio of Race Umpires to rowing machines should be approximately 1:8.
- (4) The Race Controller shall be responsible to:
  - (a) Coordinate the Races and the Competition programme and in cooperation with the Chief Umpire ensure that Races are run to schedule

- (b) Supervise and control the electronic timing and the graphic display, and where these are in use, he shall be responsible for triggering the computer starting command sequence.
  - (c) Ensure that the times and distances of all rowers are recorded and approved by the Chief Umpire.
  - (d) Where there is no computer interconnection the Race Controller duties may be taken up by the Chief Umpire.
- (5) The Timekeepers shall be under the supervision of the Chief Umpire and shall be responsible to:
- (a) Record the time and distance rowed for each rower (There shall normally be one Timekeeper per one or two machines).
  - (b) Alert the Chief Umpire to any problem or breach of these Rules
  - (c) Monitor the correct changeover of rowers in relay Races
  - (d) Check that rowers in a relay race change at the specified changeover points and within the required time
  - (e) Ensure that upon the instruction of the Chief Umpire a yellow card (or yellow cone) is placed against the machine of any rower who has caused a false start
  - (f) Check the correct functioning of the machines.
  - (g) Check that the monitors on each individual machine are correctly set before the start of each Race.
- (6) The Marshals shall be responsible to assist the Chief Marshal in his duties and shall take directions from him.

#### Rule IR15 - The Jury

A Jury shall be appointed by the Organising Committee comprising the Chief Umpire and either one or two other persons who shall be experienced in the rules and conduct of rowing regattas or **indoor** rowing competitions and who are not otherwise Race Officials at that Competition. The Jury should be present throughout the Competition. The Jury shall consider and decide on any protests under Rule IR23 and IR24 and may impose **sanctions** in accordance with Rule 74.

#### Rule IR16 - Qualification System

Where the number of entries for any Event exceeds the number of machines available for that Event, the Organising Committee shall decide whether to use a qualification system, with the fastest rowers in each heat competing in subsequent rounds until the final, or whether to declare the result of the Event based solely on time taken or distance rowed as the case may be with each rower only rowing once. The Organising Committee shall state clearly in the Notice of Competition the method to be adopted.

If a qualification system is used, all rowers shall be informed before the Competition the number of rowers who will proceed to the next round from each heat and how many rounds will be rowed to reach the final.



## Rule IR17 - Starting Procedure

When all the rowers are on their machines the Race Controller shall say in English and Cantonese

“All rowers put down the handle”  
「請各參賽者放下手把」

When the rowers for which they are responsible put down the handle, each Timekeeper shall raise his red flag above his head.

The Race Controller shall then wait until the flywheels on all machines have stopped. Any rower not following the instructions of the Race Controller or not ready to race without good reason by the time all machine flywheels have stopped may be given a Yellow Card which shall count as a False Start.

After all flywheels have stopped, the Race Controller shall say in English and Cantonese

“All rowers pick up the handle”  
「請各參賽者拿起手把」

When each Timekeeper sees that the rowers for which he is responsible have picked up the handle and are ready to race, he shall lower his red flag (If a Timekeeper sees that any rower is not ready to race after he has lowered his red flag and before the Start command is given, he shall immediately raise his red flag again and alert the Race Umpires).

When the Chief Umpire is satisfied and the Race Controller sees that all red flags are lowered, the Start will then proceed as follows:-

### 1. With Computer Interconnection

The Race Controller shall check that all rowers are ready and when the computer display indicates that all flywheels have stopped, he shall trigger the computer starting command sequence. The computer programme will display the start graphic, and will count down to the Start as follows, at the same time displaying the visual symbols on the graphic display screens

“Sit Ready, Attention - GO / Audible signal”

or

“Five, Four, Three, Two, One - Go / Audible signal”

The command “Go” or “Audible signal” is the signal to start the Race.

### 2. Without Computer Interconnection

The Chief Umpire shall check that all rowers are ready and when he is satisfied that all flywheels have stopped, he shall raise a red flag and say

“Five, Four, Three, Two, One, GO!”

When he says “GO!” he shall at the same time quickly lower the red flag to one side. *[The flag will be a visual signal equivalent to the word “GO” shown on the graphics screen where there is a computer connection]*

The countdown shall be at an even pace. The command “GO!” is the signal to start the Race.

Any rower not ready to race without good reason by the time all machine flywheels have stopped or who in the opinion of the Chief Umpire deliberately delays the Race may be given a Yellow card which shall count as a False Start.

A Yellow card may only be given by the Chief Umpire who may consult the Race Umpire in this respect.

If the designated start time has passed the Chief Umpire may start a Race without reference to absentees or rowers who without good reason refuse to start.

#### Rule IR18 - False Start

A rower starting to row after the **start procedure** has started and before the command “**GO!**” or “Audible signal” is given has caused a False Start.

If the computer programme detects that any rower has caused a False Start the **Chief Umpire** / Race Controller shall stop the Race and the rower or rowers causing the false start shall be given a Yellow Card. A Yellow Card (or Yellow Cone) shall be placed upright on the floor next to the machine of the rower who has been given a Yellow Card.

When a Yellow Card is given, the Chief Umpire shall advise the competitor receiving the Yellow Card that if he causes another False Start he shall be excluded.

A rower having two False Starts or receiving two Yellow Card is applying to the same Race shall be excluded.

Where the machines have no computer interconnection, the Timekeepers shall advise the Chief Umpire by raising a red flag if they consider that a rower has caused a false start. In such cases the Chief Umpire shall have the authority to stop the Race or to allow it to continue. Where the Chief Umpire decides to allow the race to continue in such circumstances no Yellow Card shall be given.

#### Rule IR19 - During the Race

Each rower is responsible for his own machine.

#### **Damage Caused by the Rower**

In the event of any damage caused by the rower to a machine or to the installations which prevents the rower from completing a Race or which causes their time or distance not to be recorded the rower shall be deemed not to have finished the Race and shall not take any further part in that Event.

#### **Damage or Failure not Caused by the Rower**

In the event of damage or failure which is not caused by the rower the following shall apply:

- (i) In a preliminary heat or other round except a final, the rower shall be permitted to compete again in a later heat, or, if there are no further heats, shall be permitted to row alone and the result shall be the time or distance so recorded;
- (ii) In a Final, where the damage or failure occurs within 30 seconds of the Start the race will be stopped and restarted. In other cases the race will continue and the rower shall be deemed to have stopped rowing. Except that where such damage or failure is part of the central computer and timing system, the Chief Umpire shall decide whether a re-row of the whole Race is required in the case that times or distances of all rowers cannot be recorded.

#### Rule IR20 - Relay Races

Relay Races are those in which two or more rowers in the same team take turns to compete on the same machine in the same race.

During a Relay Race where change of rowers is required at specified time or distance points the changeover of rowers must take place at the specified points. A rower must reach the specified changeover point before the next rower starts.

Where a rower changes before reaching the specified changeover point or takes more than 2 rowing strokes after reaching the changeover point then that team shall be awarded a Yellow Card. A team being awarded two Yellow Cards which apply to the same race shall be excluded from the event.

It is the responsibility of each Team to change at the correct points.

#### Rule IR21 - Interference

During a Race no rower or other person shall interfere with another rower. In the case of such interference the Chief Umpire shall decide on the action and the resultant **sanction** to be applied under these Rules (Rule 76).

In particular during a relay Race when changing rowers, care must be taken not to cause any interference or obstruction to rowers of other teams.

Under this Rule, pushing or assisting a rower in any way is not permitted and shall be regarded as interference. However members of the same relay team shall be permitted to hold the feet of the rower of their team only.

The Chief Umpire is responsible to ensure that no external factors influence the result of the Race and to take appropriate action if he considers such influence has occurred.

#### Rule IR22 - Timing and Results

After each race the Timekeepers shall sign the result sheet for each rower and submit the sheet to the Chief Umpire.

#### Rule IR23 - Objections

A rower claiming that his/her Race has been improperly run or judged must make an Objection immediately after the finish of the race and before leaving the Competition Area.

The Umpire shall decide on the Objection and shall verbally advise the rower of his decision.

#### Rule IR24 - Protests

A rower whose Objection has been rejected, or rowers affected by the Umpire's decision on an Objection, may lodge a protest in writing to the Jury not later than 30 minutes after the Chief Umpire has advised his decision concerning the Objection.

The Protest shall be accompanied by a deposit of HK\$100, which amount shall be refunded if the Protest is successful.

The Jury shall decide if the Protest is justified.

As a general rule, in the case of a Protest concerning a final of an Event, the victory ceremony of that event will be postponed until after the decision has been made.

#### Rule IR25 - Appeals

Decisions taken by the Jury on protests relating to the conduct of a Race are final.

An appeal may be made to the Board against the decision of the Jury on matters not related to the conduct of a Race. Any such appeal must be received by the HKCRA not later than three days after the Jury's decision has been announced.

#### Rule IR26 - Exceptional Cases

If it is necessary to make decisions affecting the Competition which are not covered under these Rules, the Organising Committee shall make such decisions after consulting the Chief Umpire.

### **Part 6 - Concluding Provisions**

#### Rule IR27

These Rules for Indoor Rowing Competitions were added to the Rules of Racing and approved by the Board of the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association on 30 April, 2002. They were further amended on **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023** and the amendments took effect immediately.

### **Hong Kong, China Rowing Association**

Chairman  
NG Kong Wan

Company Secretary  
YEUNG Chun Wa

## **SECTION C - COASTAL ROWING**

### **Rules for Coastal Rowing Competitions**

#### **Part 1 - General**

##### Rule CR1 - General Principle

This SECTION C of the Rules of Racing applies to all Coastal Rowing Competitions held in Hong Kong, China and will take precedence over rules in SECTION A where applicable but in all other cases the rules in Section A will apply. For the purposes of this Part the word “Competition” shall have the same meaning as “Regatta” in SECTION A.

SECTION C is intended to supplement the Rules in SECTION A to provide for the specific requirements of Coastal Rowing. The Rules in SECTION A shall apply to Coastal Rowing in matters which are not included in SECTION C.

##### Rule CR2 - Right to Participate

Coastal Rowing Competitions shall be open to all persons registered with the HKCRA and who meet the entry requirements of the Competition, subject to the right of the Organising Committee to limit the numbers of categories or persons who may enter a Competition if facilities are limited or for safety reasons. Such limits must be clearly stated in the Notice of Competition and shall not be unreasonably restrictive. Persons registering with the HKCRA at the time of submitting their entry to the Competition shall be regarded as registered for the purpose of this Rule subject to the payment of such fee as may be required by the HKCRA.

##### Rule CR3 - Rowing, Boats, Regattas

A Coastal Rowing regatta is a regatta in which all competitors use Coastal Rowing boats as defined in these Rules and where the competition course is on the open sea or on a large inland body of water and in accordance with these Rules.

#### **Part 2 - Rowers & Coxswains**

##### Rule CR4 - Age Categories

The following age categories for rowers are recognised by HKCRA for Coastal Rowing:

1. Seniors

Except for the age categories, HKCRA does not recognise any additional categories for Coastal rowing.

##### Rule CR5 - Coxswains

The minimum weights of coxswains shall also apply to coastal rowing. In coastal rowing, the coxswain of a crew may be of either gender.

#### **Part 3 - Boats and Equipment**

##### Rule CR6 - Classes of Boat

The following classes of boat are recognised by HKCRA for Coastal Rowing:

- Solo (C1x)
- Double (C2x)
- Coxed Quadruple Sculls (C4x+)

#### Rule CR7 - Construction of Coastal Rowing Boats, Requirement and Equipment

Coastal Rowing boats used in Coastal Rowing regattas in Hong Kong must meet all the requirements for boats as set out in the FISA Coastal Rowing Competition Regulations including measurement and flotation as well as any additional requirements which may be set down by the Hong Kong authorities

In particular:

- i) Boats must meet the minimum flotation standards set down by FISA, either with the required watertight compartments or built-in flotation utilising bags or tanks.
- ii) Boats must carry a life jacket for every crew member, of a type which meets recognized international standards. Coxswains must wear a life jacket at all times in the boat;
- iii) Boats must have a towing eye located approximately 100 mm above the loaded waterline on the bow fitted with a 15 m buoyant line. Both the towing eye and the line shall be of sufficient strength to allow safe towing of the boat when filled with water and with crew members on board in strong wind and sea conditions. The loose end of the line must be within hand-reach of a rower for the purpose of throwing to a rescue boat if required;
- iv) Any ballast must be fixed securely to the structure of the boat.
- v) During Coastal Rowing races, for safety reasons each boat shall be permitted to carry such radio or telecommunication equipment as permitted or required by the organising committee or by other maritime authorities for such events.
- vi) The Jury may at its discretion refuse permission for a particular boat or crew to go on the water or to participate in the regatta if it believes the boat is unsafe, but it is the responsibility of the crew to ensure the boat and its equipment and the rowers are fully prepared and suitable to participate in any particular regatta.

#### Rule CR8 - Boat Numbers

All boats participating in a coastal rowing regatta must be registered with the organising committee before going on the water, whether for training or competition, and shall be allocated a boat number. Each boat must display its boat number on both sides of the bow in the manner described below for the purpose of identification and safety. Registration is the responsibility of the club in whose name the crew is entered, and the crew concerned. Any crew failing to register their boat in accordance with these Rules or failing to properly display the boat number at all times at a regatta may be **sanctioned**.

The individual numbers and/or letters making up the boat number on the boat shall each be minimum of 20cm high and shall be in contrasting colour to the background.

#### Rule CR9 - Crew Racing Numbers

Each crew member or the bow rower and/or coxswain may be required to display on their racing shirt (or on a bib) such number or other identification as may be required by the organising committee.

For races with beach finishes which require one or more crew members to exit the boat and cross the finish line on foot, every crew member crossing the finish line must clearly display their crew number on their person in a manner visible to the Finish Judges.

### **Part 4 - Competition Courses**

#### Rule CR10 - Characteristics

The race course for Coastal Rowing regattas shall provide, as far as possible, fair and equal racing conditions for all crews. This shall require sufficient width of the start line to allow all the crews in each event to start at the same time (except in the case where there are preliminary heats, the process for which shall have been notified to all teams at the time of their entry).

Wherever possible, the organising committee shall design the course so that the action of the race and competing boats can be seen by spectators on shore. In designing the course the organising committee shall take advantage of wind and wave direction, coastal features and beaches. This may include beach starts or finishes.

The length of course shall be as CR11.

The course may be straight, rectangular, triangular or point to point or of such other shape as may be suited to the location.

For safety purposes the layout of the course shall not allow boats to be travelling in opposite directions in the same water.

The course may be covered more than once. In principle there should be no turning marker closer than one kilometre (1 km) from the start if the required angle of the turn at that marker is greater than 45 degrees.

Where an event has separate preliminary heats, the courses used for the respective heats may be different from one heat to the next but must be of the same racing distance and the racing conditions of each course on the day must be similar.

#### 10.1 Course Markers

- i) A plan of the course(s) showing the location of all course markers together with their description and their GPS position, must be included in the Notice of Regatta and also in the instructions issued to all crews upon arrival at the regatta. The plan shall also be displayed at the boating area;
- ii) For safety purposes, wherever buoys are used to mark the turning points, the organising committee should, wherever possible, use inflatable marker-type buoys to avoid damage to oars and boats in case of collision with the buoy, rather than existing solid moorage buoys and beacons;
- iii) The organising committee shall take all necessary precautions in setting out the course markers and the course to avoid any risks of boats grounding in shallow waters, including by clearly marking such areas and placing warning buoys in the appropriate locations.

#### 10.2 Start and Finish Lines

- i) The start line and finish line shall be visually marked by the alignment of two landmarks or buoys.
- ii) The orientation of the start or finish line shall in principle be perpendicular to the route to be taken to or from the next or previous turning point respectively.
- iii) For all races, except for races against the clock, the start line shall be wide enough to allow all competitors in the race to align and start at the same time.
- iv) The finish line may either be on the water, or if such an option is possible, on the beach. Where a beach finish is provided, the finish shall be a finish line or a flag situated at a designated point on the beach and a crew shall have finished the race when one or more members of the crew has crossed the line or touched the flag as required.

10.3 In case of Sprint Rowing race, the race format shall include “Slalom out / slalom back or straight back” and shall be notified to crews in the Race Notice.

#### Rule CR11 - Length of the Course

11.1 In principle there is no specified racing distance and this may vary from regatta to regatta. However, the length of the course in each case shall be shown in the annual regatta calendar and shall be notified to all participants in the Notice of Regatta. The racing distance may be changed by the Chief Umpire in the case of adverse weather conditions, in consultation with the organising committee.

11.2 For Sprint Rowing format, in principle the race shall comprise a 250m row out, a similar 250m row back to the finish.

## **Part 5 - Safety**

### **Rule CR12 - General Principles**

#### **12.1 Race Director**

The organising committee shall appoint a Race Director who is very familiar with local water conditions and who has experience of Coastal Rowing events. The Race Director shall be responsible for all communications with the local maritime authority and shall ensure that all safety requirements, including rescue services, are in place before the start of races and that all local maritime rules and regulations are met. The Race Director shall cooperate closely with the Chief Umpire and shall participate in any decisions in case of adverse weather conditions. In any case where the Race Director and the Chief Umpire are not in agreement on an issue regarding safety, the decision of the Chief Umpire shall prevail.

#### **12.2 Crew Captains' Meeting**

Before the start of the competition, a meeting shall be convened by the organising committee at which all team managers, coxswains and crew captains must participate. At this meeting, the Race Director will explain and provide to all participants all information reasonably required for the safe running of the event (including local maritime rules, tidal movements, currents, specific topography, known dangers and safety rules).

### **Rule CR13 - General Obligations**

#### **13.1 Rowers obligations**

All rowers and coxswains must:

- be familiar with and respect local maritime rules in addition to the HKCRA Rules of Racing;
- wear appropriate life jackets or have an individual life jacket on board within easy and convenient reach for their personal use at all times when on the water. Coxswains shall wear a life jacket at all times when on the water;
- know what to do in the event of their boat swamping or capsizing and if their boat requires to be towed.

#### **13.2 Crew Captain's obligations**

In Coastal Rowing, one member of the crew shall be designated the "Crew Captain". The designated Crew Captain for every boat shall be notified to the organising committee in writing at the time of the crew's entry and confirmed at the time of registration for the regatta. Such notification is the responsibility of club in whose name the crew is entered, and the crew concerned. Any crew for which a Crew Captain has not been notified shall not be permitted on the water.

The Crew Captain shall be responsible to:

- take responsibility for assessing the risks and the ability of the crew to cope with the prevailing and forecast conditions;
  - familiarize himself with the current and expected weather conditions;
  - register the crew with in the manner required by the organising committee for the competition;
  - check the condition of the boat and the safety equipment on board.
- i) During the outing:
- ensure that the crew respects all navigational and safety rules, and follows strictly the designated competition course or other designated area;
  - require that all members of the crew wear their life jackets as necessary;
  - make necessary decisions for the safety of the crew if the weather deteriorates;
  - monitor any changes in the weather or water conditions which might affect the safety of the crew.
- ii) After the outing:
- fulfill the requirement of the organising committee to register the return of the crew;

## Rule CR14 - Special Coastal Rowing Safety Considerations

### 14.1 General Rules of Circulation

Rowing at sea outside of channels and ports requires special attention to weather conditions, tides, water currents and general maritime traffic. Rowers and coxswains must familiarize themselves with general international maritime navigation rules as well as the specific conditions of the area.

Safety measures and local rules must be vigorously applied by the organising committee and the Jury and must be strictly observed by the crews.

### 14.2 Important rules for rowing at sea

Rowing boats must not hinder the passage of:

- boats that can only navigate safely in a narrow channel or access lane;
- boats with mechanical propulsion in a traffic lane;
- ships with heavy cargo.

### 14.3 Avoiding collisions:

When two rowing boats are on a potential collision course, both boats should move to starboard to give way to the other boat. For clarification, “starboard” means the left hand side of the rowers as they are seated in the boat (bow side).

### 14.4 Shelters

Shelters are ports and bays where boats can easily find refuge in adverse weather conditions and where the crew members can be safely disembarked. Such shelters must be made known by the organising committee to all crews as part of the information to crews. Shelters may be very dependent on the tidal, wind and current conditions. Depending on the conditions, an area may be considered a shelter at a certain time of day only, and may be dangerous and inaccessible at other times. Whatever the route followed by the rowers, they must be aware of all the possibilities of access to the shelters in accordance with the navigational limits imposed on their vessel.

### 14.5 Capsizing

Crews should regularly practice their capsize drill and familiarise themselves with all the steps to ensure the safety of the crew.

## Rule CR15 - Adverse Weather Conditions

The Chief Umpire, in consultation with the Race Director and the organising committee, shall take all decisions on any delay, postponement or cancellation of races, or of changes to the course, resulting from adverse weather conditions or other matters relating to the safety of competitors and officials on the water or the fairness of the course.

This may include reducing the maximum number of boats in races. If the number of boats in a race is reduced under this Regulation, the Chief Umpire may use the ranking in the preliminary heats to determine the number of crews progressing to the final or to seed the races.



## **Part 6 - Conduct of the Race**

### **Rule CR16 - Progression System**

The organising committee shall stipulate the maximum number of crews which can be accommodated on the Start line at one time. Should the number of crews taking part in an event exceed the number of positions available on the Start line, a system of heats shall be adopted. In such case, the number of crews progressing to the next round from each heat shall be the number of available places on the Start line divided by the number of heats which are required.

The number of crews in each heat shall be as equal as possible and in principle the same number of crews from each heat shall progress to the next round.

If an event has fewer entries than there are places on the Start line, there shall be a direct final with no preliminary races for that event.

The organising committee may place a limit on the number of boats in each heat and /or the number of boats to progress to the Final. In principle the minimum number of boats in the Final should be four (4) in any one event and the maximum will be equal to the number of available boats or space available. Such information shall be included in the Notice of Regatta and shall be included in all information given to crews before the regatta. Exceptions may be made in exceptional cases.

### **Rule CR17 - The Draw and Determining the Lanes**

Where a system of preliminary heats is required, a draw shall take place to decide which crews take part in which heats. There shall be no lanes allocated for floating start.

For beach starts where the line of the start is not perpendicular to the first turning marker, crews' starting positions will be allocated by the Chief Umpire by random draw.

Where there has been a preliminary round the position for subsequent rounds shall be allocated based on the ranking of crews in the previous round with the higher ranking crews at the end nearest to the first turning marker.

### **Rule CR18 - At the Start**

There shall be no start zone in Coastal Rowing events. Crews are responsible for their own equipment if there is damage.

Crews must be in the vicinity of the start line two minutes before the designated start time.

The Starter may start the race without reference to absentees.

### **Rule CR19 - The Starting Procedure**

#### **19.1 The Start (floating)**

Each boat shall be at liberty to find its own position on the Start line but it is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that it does not interfere with other boats. Where such interference occurs or is going to occur, each crew must take appropriate avoiding action, but shall follow the instruction of the Starter or Umpire whenever such instructions are given.

The Starter may be assisted by other umpires under the authority of the Starter. The position of the Starter shall in principle be approximately 50-100 meters behind the line of the Start and shall be such that the Starter has a clear view of all boats and the starting signals are clearly visible to all crews on the Start line. A clearly distinguishing jacket should be worn by the Starter.

There shall be an Aligner who shall be positioned exactly on the line of the Start. The Aligner shall be responsible to identify any boats which have crossed the Start Line, i.e. are on the course-side of the Start Line, at the time the start signal is given. He shall immediately notify the Starter and Umpires of his decision in this regard and the offending crews shall be notified in accordance with Rule CR20.

The starting procedure shall be as follows:

- i. It shall be the sole responsibility of each crew to ensure that their boat is behind the Start Line and that no part of their boat is on the course-side of the Start Line at the time the start signal is given and the Aligner shall not be obliged to give any instructions to crews in this regard prior to the start signal being given. Crews in the Start area shall at all times closely follow the instructions of the Starter or Umpire. Any crew not following such instructions may be penalized. After giving the 3-minute, 2-minute and 1-minute signals respectively as provided in paragraphs (iii), (iv) and (v) of this Regulation, the Starter may start the race at the given time without reference to the position of any crew.
- ii. Each crew shall be responsible to be aware of the time remaining before the start. It is the responsibility of crews to be close to the Start Line at the start time of the race and not to cause a false start. There will be no instructions given to crews concerning alignment unless the Aligner considers that too many boats are over the start line and that the race cannot be started in a safe or fair manner.
- iii. Three minutes before the start time, the Starter shall sound 3 clear, short blasts with a hooter and then announce "Three minutes!"
- iv. Two minutes before the start time, the Starter shall sound 2 clear, short blasts with a hooter and then announce "Two minutes!"
- v. One minute before the start time, the Starter shall sound 1 clear, short blasts with a hooter and then announce "One minute!"
- vi. At the Start time, the Starter shall give the signal to start by sounding one long blast with the hooter and simultaneously dropping to one side the start flag (red with white cross).

The official start of the race will be the moment the flag starts to be dropped.

If the Aligner notifies the Starter that many crews are on the course-side of the Start line at the designated start time, or should the Starter find that many crews are late to the Start through reasons beyond their control; the Starter may delay the Start at his sole discretion. Alternatively he may start the race on time and if appropriate may award sanctions as provided in these Rules.

## 19.2 The Start (Beach Starts)

(i) The boats shall be lined up on the beach near the water's edge.

(ii) Boat Handlers - There shall be up to two boat handlers per boat. The boat handlers shall, in principle, be provided by the teams and are recognised as official support crew members. The role of the boat handler is to support the departure and arrival of the crew from and to the beach. The boat handlers for each crew should wear matched uniforms that conform to the rules, and in a colour which is different from the crew (alternatively the boat handlers may wear a coloured bib). In rougher conditions and at the discretion of the Chief Umpire the number of boat handlers may be increased. Boat handlers may not board the boat at any time but may assist the crew in any other way, including rudder fixing, etc. When the boat returns to the beach the boat handlers may "catch" the boat to slow its progress when it reaches the beach and a crew member disembarks to run to the finish line.

The boat handlers shall comply with any instructions of the race officials and shall at all times be subject to the rules of racing.

The boat handlers will support the crews in holding the best pointing for the boat for the crew members to board and depart. The boat handlers must not board the boat or move in to any position where the typical water surface is above their shoulders when standing on the sea bed.

(iii) When the Starter directs crews to put their boats on the water (vii-iii) below), they shall hold their boats approximately 8 meters apart at the edge of the water. In a normal beach start, all crew members shall be holding their boat standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.

(iv) The Starter shall then order the crews to get ready and bring their boats into line. The Aligner shall be the sole judge of whether the boats are in line.

(v) If a running start is used one nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. The runners will start behind a set running start line located on the beach and when the start signal is given shall run to their boat to join the other crew members.

(vi) The remaining crew members shall be holding their boats and standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.

Boat holders may be used for the solo and other boats at the discretion of the Starter.

(vii) It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that it does not interfere with other boats. Where such interference occurs or is going to occur, each crew must take appropriate avoiding action, but shall follow the instruction of the Starter or Umpire whenever such instructions are given. A crew causing interference may be penalised by the Starter or the Umpire.

(viii) The starting procedure for Beach Starts shall be as follows:

The position of the Starter shall be such that the Starter has a clear view of the running start line (in case of running starts) and all boats and the starting signals are clearly visible to all race competitors. A clearly distinguishing jacket should be worn by the Starter.

The Starter shall inform the crews when there is five minutes, four minutes and three minutes remaining before the start time.

There shall be an Aligner who shall be positioned in such location as to be able to properly carry out his responsibilities. In the case of a running start, the Chief Umpire may allocate two Aligners for this purpose.

The Aligner shall be responsible to identify any nominated runner who crosses the set running start line before the start signal is given (in the case of a running start) and any crew whose member(s) start to board their boat before the start signal is given.

The starting procedure for beach starts shall be as follows:

i. Crews must be at their start positions (and in the case of a running start, nominated runners must be at the running start line) and under the control of the Starter two minutes before the starting time of their race.

ii. The Starter may penalise a crew which is late to the start and may start the race without reference to absentees.

iii. When there is two minutes to the start, the Starter shall say "Two minutes!" Any time thereafter the Starter will ask the crews to place their boats on the water, by saying 'Put the boats in the water'.

Once the order to place the boats on the water is given, the crews are under Starters orders and the Starter may start the race at any time.

iv. At the Start time, the Starter shall be clearly visible. The Starter shall say "Attention!"

and after a clear pause shall give the start signal by dropping in one downward motion the raised start flag, simultaneously sounding a hooter in one long blast. The official start of the race will be the moment the flag starts to drop.

The official start of the race will be the moment the flag starts to be dropped.

### 19.3 The Start (Sprint format)

Depend on the race format by beach start or floating start, start procedure maybe vary and shall refer to the race notice.

### 19.4 Delays of Start

Where the start of any specific boat category is delayed for any reason, the Starter shall inform that boat category or categories of the delay. Where the whole race is to be delayed the Starter shall begin the starting procedure again after announcing this to the waiting crews.

## Rule CR20 - False Start

Floating Start - A crew commits a false start when any part of its crew, boat or equipment is on the course-side of the Start Line at the time the Start signal is given.

Beach Start - A crew commits a false start if, in the case of a running start, the crew's nominated runner crosses the set start line before the start signal is given and in all cases if any crew member starts to board their boat before the start signal is given.

The Aligner shall be the sole judge of a false start.

### 20.1. Consequences of a False Start

#### 20.1.1. Individual false start

- i. Floating Start - A crew committing a false start shall be allowed to continue with the race but shall be awarded a time penalty of **1 minute**.
- ii. Beach Start - Where a false start is committed, whether by a runner or by a crew member, the Aligner shall stop the race and notify the crew that it has committed a false start and shall inform the Starter accordingly. In restarting the race, the Starter shall award a 10 second penalty to that crew and for this purpose that crew shall be required to wait for 10 seconds after the start signal is given before making any move to start their race. The Starter shall indicate by voice and flag when the 10 seconds has elapsed and the crew may start.

A crew causing two false starts in the same race in a Beach Start shall be excluded by the Starter.

#### 20.1.2. Multiple false start

If in a race the Aligner indicates that a number of boats have committed a false start, the Starter may decide to stop the race and give the start again or he may allow the race to continue and award **sanctions** to all boats concerned. If he decides to stop the race, the Starter shall do so by waving a red flag and sounding repeated short blasts on the hooter. The Umpire may assist to stop all boats. Where there is a mass false start caused by weather conditions or other external influences, but the Aligner considers the start to have been fair, he may advise the Starter to allow the race to continue with or without **sanctions** to individual crews.

## Rule CR21 - Responsibility of Rowers

All crews shall compete in accordance with the rules. If a crew does not comply with the rules, including if it impedes or interferes with another boat or gains any advantage thereby, it may be penalised.

A crew, which for any reason does not complete the full course as designated by the organising committee, including not rounding all or any of the turning markers, is responsible to declare this to the Finish Judge or other Umpire or to the organising committee at the end of the race. The result of such crew shall show DNF.

## Rule CR22 - Interference

A crew causes interference to another crew if it changes course to prevent another crew from passing, if it does not give way when required under this regulation, or causes a severe collision with another crew through not giving way when required by these regulations.

### 22.1 Severe Collision

A crew causes a severe collision when one or more of the following occur:

- damage to a boat
- personal injury
- forcing another boat off the race course or to miss a turning marker
- a rower is struck by the blades of another boat

In the event of severe collision, the Umpire shall decide who is at fault and may impose a 60 second penalty on the crew responsible. A crew may be excluded in cases of a blatant disregard for the safety of other rowers.

## 22.2. Rules of Giving Way

When three or more boats are on the same line and a coxswain reasonably considers that there is not enough room between his boat and the others the coxswain may call by its boat number one of the crews and say “(Boat Number --!)” - “Attention!” - “Give Way!!”, and the boat called must change its course sufficiently to leave the crowded boat enough room or it may be penalised by the Umpire.

No boat or boats may deliberately or otherwise cause **interference** to another boat which is on a course towards a turning marker or other course mark.

If two or more crews co-operate to cause disadvantage to another crew or crews or to assist another crew or crews, all crews of the club involved in such cooperative action may be disqualified.

## 22.3 Overtaking

It is the responsibility of a crew overtaking another crew to avoid a severe collision with the crew being overtaken; a crew which is being overtaken must not obstruct the course of an overtaking crew.

If a crew being overtaken obstructs or causes a severe collision with the overtaking crew by changing its course or in any other manner, the Umpire may penalise the crew causing obstruction or severe collision by awarding a time penalty of 60 seconds, or may exclude the crew or take other appropriate measures under the rules.

## 22.4. Rounding of a Turning Marker

At the turning markers crews should avoid severe collisions with other crews and observe the rules of overtaking.

Crews are responsible of their own steering and shall follow direction given by Umpires, including Umpires at the turning marker.

In order to be placed in the final ranking for the event, all crew must round all turning markers and must complete the full course as designated by the organising committee.

### Rule CR23 - Finish of the Race

**For floating finish**, a crew has finished the race when the bow of its boat has crossed the finish line between the 2 buoys. All crew members must start and finish the race.

Where, in accordance with Regulation, Rule CR10, a beach finish is provided, a crew shall have finished the race when one or more members of the crew has reached the line or touched the flag on the beach as required. For beach finish races all crew members must start and arrive at the beach.

A crew in contravention of these requirements shall not be ranked in the race and shall be shown on the results as DNF.

### Rule CR24 - Dead Heats

When the order of finish between two or more crews is too close for any difference to be determined, then the result shall be declared a dead heat between the crews involved. If there is a dead-heat, the following procedure shall operate:

- i. In any preliminary round, if a dead-heat occurs between crews and if only one of the crews would progress into the next round, then, on the condition that sufficient boats are available for this purpose, all crews involved in the dead-heat shall progress to the next round. If there are not sufficient boats available then the Chief Umpire and the Race Director, in the presence of the concerned Crew Captains, shall conduct a random draw between the crews involved in the dead heat to determine which of those crews shall so progress, up to the number of boats available for this purpose.
- ii. In a final, if a dead-heat occurs between crews, then they shall be given equal placing in the final order and the next placing(s) shall be left vacant. If the tied placing is for a medal position then the organising committee shall provide additional medals

#### Rule CR25 - Composition of the Jury

Jury shall consist of persons carrying out the following duties:

- Chief Umpire
- Starter
- Aligner
- Race Umpire
- **Key Turning Mark Umpires**
- Turning Mark Umpires
- Finish Judges
- Marshal

The Chief Umpire, the Starter, the Aligner, the Race Umpire, **the Key Turning Mark Umpire**, the Finish Judge and the Marshal shall each hold a National Umpire's licence.

#### Rule CR26 - Objections

A crew claiming that its race was not in order may make an objection to the Umpire immediately after the finish of the race and before leaving the area of the finish line by a member of the crew raising an arm.

#### Rule CR27 - Protests

A crew or crews whose objection has been rejected or who are affected by the acceptance of the objection or a crew that has been disqualified or excluded or ruled DNS or DNF, as well as crews disputing the published results may lodge a protest in writing to the Chief Umpire not later than 30mins after the Umpire has communicated his decision regarding the objection or **publish of official result**. It shall be accompanied by a deposit of HK\$500, which amount shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is successful.

The Jury shall decide if the protest was justified. It shall issue its decision in writing.

#### Rule CR28 - Sanctions

The Umpire shall impose appropriate **sanctions** in any case of breach of the rules. The **sanctions** available to the Umpire are:

- i. Reprimand
- ii. Time penalty
- iii. Yellow Card (applying to the next race in which the crew competes - a crew receiving two Yellow Cards applying to the same race shall be awarded a Red Card and excluded from that event)
- iv. Relegation where specifically provided in these Rules
- v. Red Card (exclusion from all the rounds of the event in question)
- vi. Disqualification (from all events in the regatta)

The Umpire may also order that a crew which has suffered a severe collision be allowed to proceed to the next round of an event (where such rounds are held) if he considers that but for the severe collision the crew would have so progressed of its own accord.

#### Rule CR29 - Appeals

Decisions taken by the Jury on protests relating to the conduct of a race are final.

An appeal may be made to the Board against the decision of the Jury on matters not related to the conduct of a race. Any such appeal must be received by the HKCRA not later than three days after the Jury's decision has been announced.

#### Rule CR30- Marshal

In addition to its other duties, the Marshal at Coastal Rowing events shall check the correct display of the boat registration numbers and that the numbers/identifications required to be worn by crew members are correctly displayed and shall record the details as required by Rule **CR8 & CR9**.

### Rule CR31 - The Starter and the Aligner

The Starter and the Aligner shall ensure that the correct starting procedure is followed.

- Except for a beach start, the Aligner shall not be obliged to give instructions to any crew on their alignment at the Start. It is wholly the responsibility of the crews not to be on the course side of the start line at the time the start signal is given.

### Rule CR32 - The Umpire

The Chief Umpire, in consultation with the Race Director, shall decide the number of Umpires to supervise each race. Where there is more than one Umpire, the Umpires shall have equal status in their areas of responsibility.

The Umpire shall ensure the proper conduct of the race and the safety of the rowers. In particular, he shall observe whether any crew gains any advantage or suffers any severe collision or disadvantage from external factors and shall impose appropriate penalties on crews at fault. The Umpire shall not give any steering indications to crews. Nevertheless, he shall endeavour to ensure that accidents are avoided.

All active umpires' boats shall carry an identification flag or marker to distinguish them from other water craft.

If necessary, the Umpire may impose penalties during the race. He may also stop the race, impose any necessary penalties and order the race to be re-started, either from the start or from some other point either immediately or later. In the latter case, he shall decide on the new starting time in consultation with the Chief Umpire and he shall inform the crews concerned.

Where the Umpire has serious doubt whether a severe collision has occurred or other factors have affected the result of the race, he may decline to take any action or he may take such action as he sees fit in the circumstances.

The Umpire may also allow the race to continue and impose penalties after the race has finished. However, in principle, if a crew is to be awarded a time penalty the Umpire should advise the crew at the time the penalty is awarded by saying to the crew: "(Boat Number!)" - "(reason for penalty!)" - "Time Penalty! (60 seconds)!"

### Rule CR32 - The Finish Judge

The Finish Judges shall determine the order in which the bows of the boats cross the finish line.

In the case of a beach finish they shall determine the order in which the designated rower or rowers reach the finish line or touch the flag as required.

They shall ascertain that the race was in order. They shall be responsible for validating the results.

### Rule CR34 - Health of Rowers

Each competitor shall be responsible for his own health and fitness. For Coastal rowers, it is a personal responsibility of the rower to undergo a pre-competition health screening

## **Part 7 - Concluding Provisions**

### Rule CR35

These Rules for Coastal Rowing Competitions were added to the Rules of Racing and approved by the Board of the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association on 2 March 2018. They were further amended on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 and the amendments took effect immediately.

## **Hong Kong, China Rowing Association**

Chairman  
NG Kong Wan

Company Secretary  
YEUNG Chun Wa