

A Spectator's, Supporter's and Parent's Guide to Home International Rowing Regatta, Lough Rinn 2023

If an athlete is under 18 years old, their coach is responsible for telling them when and where they need to be, what to bring with them, and going through the Safety Plan with them

Getting there

The regatta will take place at **Lough Rinn Caravan Park, Clooncahir, Mohill Co Leitrim N41 KH22**
Car parking is available across the road opposite the regatta park.

The venue

Beware of boats being manoeuvred on land and please keep close watch on younger children at all times. Spectators are not permitted in the boat storage areas or on the pontoons as a matter of safety.

Please take a look at the Circulation plans at the back of the Safety Plan which will show you the relevant facility locations as well as the course layout.

Competitors will primarily be based in the area immediately in front Regatta office, with each Team having their own marquee.

Please do not attempt to access the Team marquees as these are for accredited athletes only.

There is viewing area across from the finish line 800 meters to the right of the crew area. All presentation will be done in this area.

There will be also be a temporary Grand Stand with limited numbers of seating. Spectators are encouraged to gather in this area to cheer on their teams.

The merchandising tent will be in the viewing area along with a food truck.

There is no shelter available for spectators; you may need umbrellas, water and wind proofs, or sun lotion and sunglasses.

Safety

We take safety very seriously. Our safety plans and risk assessments have to be approved by Rowing Ireland before the Regatta is allowed to take place.

We have Leitrim County Council Civil Defence first responders and safety launch in attendance, plus Rowing Ireland experienced safety crews on the water. These are in addition to our own marshals and umpires.

It is a condition of racing that all coaches must go through the published Safety Briefing with every crew – and especially their coxes – before boating.

Refreshments

There will be a food truck available in the viewing area.

Toilets

There are four portable toilets located close to the viewing area. Please note that the facilities in the Lock Rinn Caravan Park are for those with accessibility requirements only.

Disabled Access

There are accessible toilet facilities in the main caravan building

Race Control and Results

The caravan office near the crew staging area the hub for both Race Control and the timing team who generate the results.

All safety boats, incident response and medical incidents are also coordinated from here.

Crews boating are monitored and any delays are radioed to the umpires at the Start and other officials. Race results are recorded and logged here.

Delays or problems with racing crews should be notified to an official as soon as possible, so they can be relayed to Race Control. Please do not enter the finish cabin unless invited to do so.

Jury

Due to the international nature of the regatta, it is raced under World Rowing rules rather than Rowing Ireland Rowing rules, with the exception of any variations specifically agreed by the Home International Regatta General Management Committee (HIR GMC). This means that the umpires are known collectively as the Jury, and a President of the Jury is appointed.

The Races Explained

This is a top-quality regatta for athletes and crews who have been selected to represent their country. The event is run under World Rowing rules, and adherence is expected including dress code (e.g. any hats worn by a crew must match each other!), conduct and time keeping at a higher level than you might see at some other events. The regatta is intended to give crews their first taste of international competition, and we think that the formality of the occasion should be respected.

Due to the nature of the event, there is only one race in each boat class, and medals are awarded for the result of each race.

A medal ceremony will be held after each race.

Racing may be suspended in the event of an accident on the water, or of adverse weather or water conditions jeopardising safety. The officials will attempt to give as many updates as possible, but please understand that their attention may be on dealing with a safety-related situation, so your patience would be appreciated if this happens.

Scoring and Challenge Trophies

The following challenge trophies, lent by the countries shown, shall be awarded to the teams scoring the highest total in the relevant categories.

Senior Women: The Dame Katherine Grainger Quaich (Scotland)

Senior Men: Annamarie Phelps MBE Cup (England)

Junior Women: The Irish Travel Agency Cup (Ireland)

Junior Men: The John Hartland Trophy (Wales)

Points for each race shall be awarded as follows:

1st = 4 pts; 2nd = 3 pts; 3rd = 2 pts; 4th = 1 pt.

No points are scored by a crew that is excluded, or that fails to complete the course by reason of its own accident. Crews dead-heating will share the points for the places involved, i.e. equal 1st place means 3.5 pts each.

In an event where only 3 crews are entered, then the points shall be: 1st = 3 pts; 2nd = 2 pts; 3rd = 1 pt.

In an event where only 2 crews are entered, then the points shall be: 1st = 2 pts; 2nd = 1 pt.

If only 1 crew is entered, then 3 points are awarded (but no medal).

These exceptions apply as per entries received by the close of entries. They do not apply if crews subsequently scratch (decide not to race).

In the case of a tie, the trophy shall be awarded to the team with the greatest number of 1st places. If a tie still results, the trophy shall be awarded to the team whose 8+ occupies the higher position in the 2km race.

The Start

Umpires are in charge of the racing. The start is a pontoon across the course, similar to other multi-lane courses. Most races will involve four crews, one from each country, and will be raced in lanes 1 to 4 (counting from the airport side). As the navigation channel is close to the accessible edge of the Dock, the racing might feel a bit far away, but this is necessary to ensure crews have space to warm up and cool down safely.

The Finish

The finish umpire and judges are in the Finish tower directly aligned with the finish post on the opposite bank. If it's a close race a number of officials keep close watch to ensure the correct outcome is given.

You may hear the announcer talk about a 'canvas' length between boats, this is the distance from the bow ball to the front of the cockpit where the crew sit (covered in canvas in traditional boats).

Race Procedure

At the Start

The marshals will hand crews over to the Umpiring team whose job it is to enforce the rules during the race, as follows:

Roll Call

As a final check to ensure the correct crews are presented for the race, the Starter will call the race number, the event and the competitors.

The Start

The Starter will raise a red flag after saying "Attention!", then say "Go!" while dropping the flag.

False Start

If any crew starts before the Start signal, the Starter will stop the race by shouting "Stop Rowing", waving a red flag and ringing a bell. The Starter may restart the race, give a yellow card to the offending crew (two of these leads to a red card and exclusion) or exclude the offending crew.

Keeping on station

Any crew wandering off station will be directed back to their lane by an Umpire calling the name of the crew, giving an instruction in which direction to move and raising a white flag. If two crews merge

together, an umpire will call for them to move apart and hold the flag above their head. Failure to obey can lead to exclusion from the race. **At this regatta, Umpires are located on the bank and not behind the crews in launches.**

Clashing

If boats and blades contact each other, an Umpire may decide to stop the race, may exclude one or more crews, and may order the race to be re-rowed from the start. The Umpire may allow the race to continue and take action at the end of the race.

The Finish

If the race has been in order and no objections are made by any of the crews, the Umpire at the Finish will raise a white flag which will be acknowledged by the Finish judges.

Objections

If a crew disagrees with a decision, they must raise their hand and call to the Finish umpire immediately after the race has finished, who will go and talk to them about it and consider their objection.

If they are still not happy with the decision, they may make a protest to the Board of the Jury in the finish cabin, but to do so they must be supported by their coach or team manager ONLY.

All officials and helpers are volunteers, committing to spend up to 12 hours of the day to make the event a success. A vast army of local club members kindly help with this event. Please treat them well – their support is indispensable.

Umpires are highly trained and qualified – their decisions are final and the ultimate authority is the President of the Jury.

Marshals are well briefed, experienced in rowing and many have additional safety and coaching qualifications.

Results and prizes

Results will be announced over the PA system and displayed outside the Finish cabin.

Due to the nature of the event, every race is a final. Medals will be presented to the winners of each race by a number of dignitaries and Officials from Leitrim Co. Co. and Rowing Ireland.

First Aid/Emergencies

Leitrim Co. Co. Civil Defence first responders will be based near the crew staging area. In the event that you need specific urgent help of any kind during the regatta please speak to the nearest official; all those on duty will have radios to contact each other.

Results

Full results will be on the Regatta website after the event, and updates throughout the day will be provided on HIR's social media accounts:

Photographs

There will be several photographers from SDS PHOTO.PRO; if you do not wish to be photographed, please inform the Match Director or your Team Manager. Photos will be able to be viewed online within a few days of the event.

Website <https://www.sdsphoto.pro/ri>

Live stream

There will be a live stream of the races link to live stream will be updated in the coming days.