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Head of the Yarra 2009
Saturday 28 November 2009
www.headoftheyarra.com
Information For Competitors
August 2009

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For enquiries or further information, please go to www.headoftheyarra.com or contact:

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1. Race Day

Race day 2009 is Saturday, 28 November 2009.

2. Closing Date for Entries and the Draw

Rowing Victoria manages Head of the Yarra entries through the ROMS entry system, except for international entries. The ROMS entry system will close for entries at 7pm, Sunday 8 November 2009.

Please note that this closure is approximately 3 weeks in advance of the race.

The provisional race draw will be posted on the Head of the Yarra website on or before Tuesday, 17 November.

This year, we will be inviting all interested parties to meet with the HOY Regatta Secretary to make submissions in relation to the provisional race draw. This is scheduled for 6.30pm, Wednesday 18 November at Hawthorn Rowing Club. Competitors from outside of Melbourne of course retain the option of calling the Regatta Secretary by telephone.

Accordingly, our timelines for accepting entries and conducting the draw are summarised as;

Date	Event	
Sun, 8 Nov	HOY Entries close – 7pm	20 days before race day. Please put this in your diary and note the abnormally early closing date.
Tue, 17 Nov	Provisional race draw available on Head of the Yarra website	We invite all competitors to review the provisional draw and advise us of any errors and corrections required.
Wed, 18 Nov	6.30pm Meeting at Hawthorn Rowing Club to receive race draw feedback and submissions.	All interested parties are invited to meet with us at Hawthorn Rowing Club to provide feedback and make submissions in relation to the provisional draw. Please note that this meeting is not a forum to tender late entries.
Thu, 19 Nov	Race draw submissions close 5pm	
Fri, 20 Nov	Final draw posted on Head of the Yarra website	No crew changes will be accepted from this point that change the race category of the crew concerned.

3. Race Categories and Order for 2009

Entries in the Head of the Yarra have increased significantly in recent years. This has been a positive for all concerned, but we have been closely watching the effect of this on each race category. We have therefore decide to,

- split the Mixed eight (20 entries in 2008) into 2 categories, and
- added Womens D and Schoolgirl C in response to increased entries from these crews in categories “above” their status.

We trust that these enhancements will provide more competitors with the opportunity to better pursue success in the Head of the Yarra.

2009 will be the 3rd year we have run the race in categories. This year, there is another slight change to the order of categories to better reflect the relative course times of crews in the various categories. Please refer to the table below.

* Indicates that the category result will be posted at the front of Hawthorn Rowing Club as soon as it becomes available (*NB course umpire reports / penalties may delay category results*).

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
1	* Male Masters H+	Average age of crew is 70 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
2	* Womens D (<i>new race category</i>)	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
3	* Womens C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
4	* Female Masters D+	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
5	* School Girl C (<i>new race category</i>)	FSCH8 + 03
6	* Female Masters B/C	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
7	* Mixed Eight A-C (<i>new race category from splitting Mixed Eight into 2 categories</i>)	Average age of crew is 49 years of age or less, no minimum age for individual rowers. All crews that have an average age of 27 or under are subject to the Masters A handicap (scratch).
8	* Mixed Eight D+ (<i>new race category from splitting Mixed Eight into 2 categories</i>)	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers
9	School Girl B	FSCH8 + 02
10	School Girl A	FSCH8 + 01
11	Male Masters E-G	Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
12	School Boy D	MSCH8 + Y10 02, MSCH8 + Y10 03
13	Womens B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
14	School Boy C	MSCH8 + 04, MSCH8 + Y10 01
15	Male Masters D	Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
16	Male Masters B/C	Average age of crew is 36 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
17	School Boy B	MSCH8 + 02, MSCH8 + 03
18	Male C	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
19	School Boy A	MSCH8 + 01
20	Male B	Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
21	Womens Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.
22	Male Open	Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.

For your planning, please note that it will not be possible to accommodate requests to move crews to the rear of the grid to facilitate boat / coxswain recycling. This is an outcome of racing the Head of the Yarra in race categories.

4. Race day time table -11am race start

To help you plan your race day, we provide you with a tentative race day timetable order of events. Please note that these times are likely to change marginally and are not guaranteed.

You may care to note that as usual, the race start time is structured around the Yarra River's tidal movements between the City and Hawthorn. Accordingly, all crews this year will be competing against an outgoing tide.

TIME	ACTIVITY
10am	River closure –no crews are permitted on the Yarra River upstream of Princes Bridge except to compete in the Head of the Yarra. Crews rowing to start line from upstream must arrive behind the start line by 10am.
11am	First of the 180 crews start at Henley Staging Judges Box
11.30pm	First starting crew crosses the finish line at “Bridge Road” bridge Hawthorn.
2.45pm	Open crews start at rear of field.
3.25pm	Last Open crew finishes.
3.45pm	Crews wishing to row back downstream may depart the finish line staging.
3.40pm	Regatta Secretary and Referee approve final results.
3.45pm to 4.30pm	Presentations of winners & trophies and announcement of “Head of the Yarra”
4.45pm	Scores of eight oared crews depart Hawthorn Rowing Club for return journey back to Princess Bridge rowing sheds
6pm or soon after	Race results posted on www.headoftheyarra.com
7pm approx	Head of the Yarra Dinner

Please note that crews will not be able to depart the finish line staging back downstream until approximately 3.45pm.

At least one more Head of the Yarra Information Sheet will issue before the race to up date you on other important matters for the 2009 Head of the Yarra.