



THE HEAD OF THE
RIVER RACE Est. 1926

THE HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE 2026 – ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

The Head of the River Race (HoRR) will be run under British Rowing Rules of Racing, (BRRoR) <https://www.britishrowing.org/events/entering-competitions/rules-of-racing/>

1. The Race from Mortlake to Putney will start at **12:15 GMT on Saturday 28th March 2026** and is a competition for open eights.
2. Entries will **open on Monday 5th January 2026 at 09:00.**
3. The entry fee is **£152** per crew.
4. Entries will formally be suspended at **17:00 GMT on Friday 30th January 2026 for Overseas Crews (Early Entry)**, and at **17:00 GMT on Friday 6th March 2026 for British Rowing, Welsh Rowing, and Scottish Rowing crews**, this is the final deadline for new entries.
 - a. Overseas Crews may still enter until **Friday 6th March** but subject to a 60-crew limit.
 - b. Confirmation of accepted Overseas Entries will be provided on Monday 2nd February for Overseas Crews that have completed early entry.
 - c. The official close of entries is **Friday 13th March** and full substitutions will be allowed until this deadline.
5. A maximum of 400 crews will be accepted. This number includes a maximum of 60 Overseas crews.

Entry Instructions

1. Submitting entries

All entries (including Overseas and Scottish entries) must be made on the British Rowing Online Entries system (BROE2). All competitors must be registered to race with British Rowing or another association recognised by BR or World Rowing (BRRoR 2-1-1a).

Crews not registered to use BROE2 should visit <https://www.britishrowing.org/events/entering-competitions/online-entry/>.

Overseas crews are advised to register well in advance of the entry deadline. We recommend that Overseas Crews visit <https://www.britishrowing.org/events/entering-competitions/overseas-entry/> for further information on how to enter using BROE.

2. Composite Crews

No entries from composite crews will be accepted, with the exception of the Lightweight and PR3 pennants.

3. BROE2 Categories

Please enter club crews in the relevant category as detailed below. Clubs with more than one entry, should designate their crews in order of priority "1", "2", "3", etc. (not A, B, C/I, II, III).

British (non-academic) Crew Entry Categories

BROE2 Category	Description	Eligible Pennants	Page, Vernon, Jackson*	Small Medium Club**
CO – Club Open	This is the category for all non-academic and non-overseas crews that do not fall into the categories below.	Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
BC – Club Beginner	This is offered to crews composed of newcomers to the sport. 'Beginner' is defined as a crew comprised of rowers from any British Rowing Club who have been rowing for no more than 12 months at the date of the race. All crews entered in the 'Beginner' category must have a coxswain with more than a year's experience and have 3 PRI points. Note Rules of the Race 7. Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coxes are sufficiently competent to navigate and control an eight on the Tideway.	Jack Shepperd Trophy/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
CM – Club Mixed	This is offered to clubs that can not raise an Open eight, clubs that have entered an Open eight in any category may not enter. The crew must have a minimum of 50% women rowers.	Fastest Mixed Crew/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
CP – Club PR3	All rowers should have an AR3 or PR3 classification. Composite crews are permitted, but will not be eligible for club awards.	Fastest PR3 Crew/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
CL – Club and Lightweight	All rowers weigh-in at a maximum of 75.0 kg on race day (BRR0R 2-2-1). Weighing-in to be held at Ranelagh Sailing Club, Putney Embankment and Tideway Scullers School, Chiswick Bridge from 10:15 to 11:15 on Saturday 28 th March 2026. Composite crews are permitted but will not be eligible for club awards.	Fastest Lightweight Crew/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y



CB – Club Masters B	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 36 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Junior Club Crew/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
CC – Club Masters C	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 43 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Masters B/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
CD – Club Masters D	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 50 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Masters C/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
HMF	Restricted to crews comprised of serving members of His Majesty's Forces.	Forces Pennant/Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y

Academic Crew Entry Categories

All members the crew must be *in statu pupillari* – that is, registered as students of the relevant University or College as at Race day. Crews consisting of alumni/or other affiliated members must enter Club events.

BROE2 Category	Description	Eligible Pennants	Scott Skirving, Thames Valley**	Small Medium Academic**
AO Academic Open	– Open to all academic clubs	Bernard Churcher Trophy/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
BA Academic Beginner	– Academic Beginner is defined as a crew comprised of rowers who have been rowing for no more than 12 months at the date of the race. All British Rowing university & college crews must have BUCS “Beginner” status. All crews entered in the ‘Beginner’ category must have a coxswain with more than a year’s experience and have 3 PRI points. Note Rules of the Race 7. Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coxes are sufficiently competent to navigate and control an eight on the Tideway.	Aitken Trophy/ Bernard Churcher Pennant/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y
AL Academic and Lightweight	– All rowers weigh-in at a maximum of 75.0 kg on race day (BRR0R 2-2-1). -in to be held at Ranelagh Sailing Club, Putney Embankment and Tideway Scullers School, Chiswick Bridge from 10:15 to 11:15 on Saturday 28 th March 2026. Composite crews are permitted, but will not be eligible for academic awards.	Fastest Lightweight Crew/ Bernard Churcher Pennant/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	y	y

Junior Crew Entry Categories

BROE2 Category	Description	Eligible Pennants	Other Awards	Small Medium Club**
JO – Junior Open	Open to academic institutions, umbrella clubs and high-performance clubs. The crew must have at least an average age of J16 (BRRoR 2-3 c). No rower may be J14 (BRRoR 2-3 f) or younger.	Fastest Junior Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	Scott Skirving, Thames Valley**	y
JC – Club Junior	This is not open to academic institutions. We reserve the right to refuse entry in this category to umbrella or high performance clubs. Schools, umbrella clubs and high performance clubs should enter JO. The crew must have at least an average age of J16 (BRRoR 2-3c). No rower may be J14 (BRRoR 2-3f) or younger.	Fastest Masters D/ Fastest non-academic club/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	Page, Vernon, Jackson	y



Overseas Crew Entry Categories

OO – Overseas Open	This is the category for all overseas crews that do not fall into the categories below.	Overseas Trophy/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
OU – Overseas University	All members the crew must be <i>in statu pupillary</i> – that is, registered as students of the relevant university or College as at race day.	Bernard Churcher Trophy/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
OL – Overseas and Lightweight	All rowers weigh-in at a maximum of 75.0 kg on race day (BRROR 2-2-1). Weighing-in to be held at Ranelagh Sailing Club, Putney Embankment and Tideway Scullers School, Chiswick Bridge from 10:15 to 11:15 on Saturday 28 th March 2026. Composite crews are permitted but will not be eligible for other overseas awards.	Fastest Lightweight Crew/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
OB – Overseas Masters B	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 36 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Masters B/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
OC – Overseas Masters C	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 43 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Masters C/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
OD – Overseas Masters D	Crews (excluding coxswains) should have an average age no lower than 50 years old on the day of the race. This is based on the average age of crew, measured in whole years attained during current year. Each competitor must be qualified as Masters, i.e. qualified as Masters A (BRROR 4-4a).	Fastest Masters D/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n

OJ Overseas Junior	–	The crew must have at least an average age of J16 (BRRoR 2-3c). No rower may be J14 (BRRoR 2-3f) or younger.	Fastest Junior Club Crew/ Fastest Overseas Crew/ Fairbairn Trophy, 2nd & 3rd placed crew	n	n
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Eligibility for trophies and awards will be determined by, and at the full discretion of, the Committee.

**High performance centres are only eligible for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place pennants.*

***Please see www.horr.co.uk for eligibility*

4. Payment

Payment must be made via BROE2. Any payment not made in BROE2 by the close of respective entries may be rejected.

5. Inclusion and Diversity

HoRR follows British Rowing's Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion Competition Policy and Procedures.

6. Boating Information

On entry, clubs will be required to submit details of the Tideway club from which they are boating. Permission must be secured in advance of submitting the entry. If this section of the entry remains blank at close of entries, or if the Tideway club named has not given its permission, the entry will be rejected.

7. Additional Club Information

The following additional club information is required at entry. Please submit this in the relevant fields as prompted in BROE2. This is a condition of entry.

a. Speed Order of crews

In the text field please list the speed order of entered crews. Please note, this is only relevant for the top 30 crews, as we rank by CRI for all crews outside the top 30.

b. Trailering Information

Space on the Putney Embankment is very limited and therefore fully loaded trailers will be given priority access to Putney.

The Committee suggests clubs from the same region or country share a trailer; please indicate this on entry when prompted.

8. Additional Crew Information

The following additional information is required at entry. Please submit this in the relevant fields as prompted in BROE2. This is a condition of entry.

Once the entry has been completed in BROE the following crews must also complete the HoRR Cox, Crew & Club information form:

- Crews where the cox is under 16 years old
- Crews with under 60 CRI
- Scottish crews
- Overseas crews

Please read the information below before completing the information.

a. Crews where the cox is under 16 years old

To ensure that coxes have a sufficient level of experience to cope with Tideway conditions entries secretaries need to detail the experience of any cox under 16 years old using the HoRR Cox, Crew & Club information form prior to the 13th of February 2026. You will need to have entered the crew and have a BROE id to complete the form, any crew whose entry is refused will receive a refund. Note Rules of the Race 7. Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coxes are sufficiently competent to navigate and control an eight on the Tideway.

b. British crews with less than 60 Rowing points

To ensure that a crew has a basic level of experience to cope with Tideway conditions we expect that crews have at least 60 RPs. If you are entering a crew with less than 60 RPs, please explain your crew's relevant experience using this [HoRR Cox, Crew & Club information form](#) prior to **17:00 GMT on Friday 13th of February 2026**.

You will need to have entered the crew and have a BROE id to complete the form, any crew whose entry is refused will receive a refund. All crews entered in the 'Beginner' category must have a coxswain with more than a year's experience and have 3 PRI points. Note Rules of the Race 7. Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coxes are sufficiently competent to navigate and control an eight on the Tideway.

c. Scottish crews

To ensure that your crews race amongst crews of a similar pace, please provide a note of the SR points for each member of the crew and indicate your expected finish position by placing the letter A-D and a justification for this by completing the HoRR Cox, Crew & Club information form.

Use the information below to work out your expected finish position.

A	Expected finish position 1 to 75	Crew would expect to finish in top six in National Championships.
B	Expected finish 76 to 175	Good club crew – perhaps National Championships standard.
C	Expected finish 176 to 275	Average club crew – might win three or four events during a season
D	Expected finish below 276	Novice club level

NB. If you give your crew a letter that is seen to be clearly wrong when the results are published, the club may be barred from entering in 2027.

d. Overseas crews

To ensure that your crews race alongside crews of a similar pace, please indicate your expected finish position by placing the letter A-D and a justification for this in the relevant additional entry field. Use the information below to work out your expected finish position.

Use the information below to work out your expected finish position.

A	Expected finish position 1 to 75	Crew would expect to finish in top six in National Championships.
B	Expected finish 76 to 175	Good club crew – perhaps National Championships standard.
C	Expected finish 176 to 275	Average club crew – might win three or four events during a season
D	Expected finish below 276	Novice club level

NB. If you give your crew a letter that is seen to be clearly wrong when the results are published, the club may be barred from entering in 2027.

e. Eligibility for the Vernon, Page, Jackson and Scott Skirving Trophies and Thames Valley Academic Award

British clubs will be asked whether they are eligible for the above noted trophies. Please refer to the 2026 Awards to determine your eligibility.

f. Eligibility for Small/Medium Academic/Club Pennants

Please refer to [2026 Small Medium \(horr.co.uk\)](https://horr.co.uk/2026-small-medium/) for eligibility.

Please note that the deadline for appeals is 17:00 GMT on Friday 6th February 2026.

The Draw

1. Draw for Overseas Crews

The Overseas Crew early entry deadline is **17:00 GMT on Friday 30th January 2026**. Overseas crews may still enter until **Friday 6th March**, subject to a 60-crew limit. Therefore, we recommend completing early entry.

If the Overseas entry exceeds 60 completed entries at **17:00 GMT on 30th January 2026** entries will be accepted as follows:

- All those crews which finished in the top 280 in 2025 are guaranteed a place in HoRR 2026.
- All those crews not having a place under the above will go into a draw for the remaining places up to a total of 60.
- The Overseas Draw will take place on Monday 2nd February 2026, and clubs will be informed of the result as soon as possible thereafter by e-mail.
- Substitutes made up to **17:00 GMT on Friday 13th March 2026** are not subject to the 50% crew limit.

2. Draw for British Crews

If the entry exceeds 400 completed entries at **17:00 GMT on Friday 6th March 2026** entries will be accepted as follows:

- Third and subsequent entries from school clubs will not be accepted. If the remaining entry still exceeds 400 the first 280 crews in the 2024 finishing order will be entitled to a place in the 2026 Race.
- All clubs who enter but have no place under (a) will be given one place.
- All crews who finished below 280 in 2025 and are not entitled to a place under (b) will go into a draw for the remaining places up to a limit of 400.
- Substitutes made up to **17:00 GMT on Friday 13th March 2026** are not subject to the 50% crew limit.
- **The Draw for places will be held on Saturday 14th March 2026 at noon.**
- Clubs will be notified as to whether their entries have been accepted on Sunday 15th March 2026.
- The full Start list will be on the website on Monday 16th March 2026.

3. 2026 Start Order, classifications and related matters

The start order will be determined in the following way:

- The top 30 finishers from HoRR 2025 will inherit that finishing place, subject to their Ranking Points not otherwise placing them below 60th in the PRI ranked start order.
- With the exception of the top 30 finishers from HoRR 2025, the start order will be compiled solely on the basis of each crew's Ranking Points total as declared at the time entries close.
- Overseas crews will be allotted a ranking by the Committee.
- The first c.120 in the start order, plus approx. 30 Overseas and Scottish Rowing crews of a similar standard, will form the Championship Group of exactly 150 crews. These will form the first 3 divisions, marshalling as usual above Chiswick Bridge.
- The remaining crews will be divided into two groups, Academic and Club, and ranked according to their RP totals (or equivalent for overseas & SR). Each group will then be cut off after the 50th-ranked crew, and be arranged in the following start order:
 - i. Division 4 – Academic (50 crews)
 - ii. Division 5 – Club (50 crews)
 - iii. Division 6 – Academic (variable size)
 - iv. Division 7 – Club (variable size)
 - v. Divisions 6 and/or 7 will, if necessary, also be limited to 50 crews, with further crews forming a Division 8.

If substitutions made between close of entries and Race Day, meaning that the RP total of a crew goes up or down, any such crew will simply start in its already-allocated place. If a Club has concerns following substitutions that the race pace of the Crew has been dramatically reduced, they should email the Hon. Secretary who will pass this information to the Chief Marshal.

Names of crew members entered may be inspected after 13th March on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Safety

Adverse Conditions may affect the running of the HoRR, at worst a full cancellation, the safety of all participants is always the first priority of the Committee. If weather and/or river conditions are poor, but not bad enough to force cancellation, the Committee may decide to hold the Race over a shorter course, and possibly with fewer crews. The full review and notification protocol is available on the website.

General Race Instructions will be posted on this website by the Chief Marshal not later than 31st January and marshalling instructions will be updated to match the draw by the 16th of March. It is a crew's responsibility to read these prior to arriving for training.

All crews should be aware that they should be fully aware of the guidance within British Rowing's RowSafe document <https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/policies-guidance/rowsafe/>.

Bow coxed hulls are not permitted.

It is strongly recommended that any crew with average age 55 or more (i.e. FISA Masters E or older) only enter the Vesta Veterans HOR instead, and for reasons of capacity any such entries to HoRR may be refused.

In view of the nature of the course, the character of the Race and safety considerations you are strongly urged to ensure that inexperienced coxes are placed with experienced crews and vice versa. Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all coxswains have appropriate experience and knowledge to undertake coxing on the Tideway. A minimum age of 15 is expected, any club entering a cox younger than 15 must list their experience and confirm their ability using this form ([HoRR forms](#)) prior to the deadline of **17:00 GMT on 13th of February 2026**.

You will need to have entered the crew and have a BROE id to complete the form, any crew whose cox is not deemed experienced enough will receive a refund.

Child Protection

It is a condition of entry that all clubs have read and understand the contents of the HoRR Welfare Policy and Plan 2026; by submitting an entry a club is accepting its conditions and requirements.

Substitutes and Scratchings

Names of substitutes (maximum FOUR only apart from the coxswain) who are to row in the Race must be notified through the BROE system by the start of the Race.

A crew no longer eligible for pennants entered must immediately notify the Hon. Secretary by email. The ultimate sanction for not doing so may result in exclusion from the 2026 race if not doing so prohibits a winning crew from being presented with their pennant on race day.

Failure to record all substitutions will very likely result in the misallocation of ranking points. Accordingly, any failure to record substitutions that requires the after-Race attention of HoRR will attract action under BRRoR 8-4.

Notice of withdrawal (“scratching”) should be made through the BROE2 system before the start of the Race. This is a safety requirement to aid the Marshals.

Prize giving

The prize-giving will take place at **17:00 GMT on race day** at London Rowing Club in Putney.

Insurance

The Race requires that you confirm that your club carries public liability cover for at least £1,000,000 (British Rowing Row Safe); this is usually incorporated in your club’s general policy, but you are strongly urged to consult your insurers if there is any doubt.

IMPORTANT - By submitting the entry, the Club’s representative is confirming the following:

1. I have read and understand the requirements of the BRITISH ROWING Row Safe Code, Rules of Racing section 7, HoRR Welfare Policy & Plan and the document “Rules of the Race 2026”.
2. I have read and accept the Regulations relating to the Draw in the event of over-subscription.
3. I accept that there will be little or no refund in the event of weather-related cancellation.
4. I confirm that this Club has Public Liability insurance for at least £ 1,000,000.
5. I confirm that all members of any crew entered in Academic categories are currently *in statu pupillari* at the university/college concerned.
6. I certify that all competitors are experienced to a sufficient standard to compete in this Race.
7. I certify that all the competitors named in the on-line entry and any substitute who may be introduced, are members of this Club which is a member by affiliation of British Rowing (or of Scottish Rowing/Welsh Rowing) or an Association recognized by British Rowing or FISA licensed to race **and eligible to compete in the Award for which they are entered.**

Dan Baillache

Rebecca Heap

Hon. Secretary

Entries Secretary

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