

2011 RCA Rules of Racing –Summary of Rules Changes

Section	Title	Summary of new rule
1.5	Application of the Rules of Racing	Outlines that Organizing Committees may apply for exceptions to the Rules of Racing
1.7	Canadian National Regattas	Removed: -Canadian Small Boats Championships (Speed Orders) -National rowing ergometer competitions, where appropriate Added: -National Junior Team Trials -National Rowing Championships -And any other regattas deemed by the RCA Board of Directors as Canadian National Regattas.
2.1	The Definition of a Competitor	Added Championship Events at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
2.3	Categories of Rowers	Junior - is now Under 19 Master - minimum age is now 21
2.5	Coxswains Weights	Cox minimum weight 50 kg for women's crews, 55 kg for men. No maximum on deadweight
2.6	Weighing of Coxswains	Cox weigh in between one and two and a half hours before their event. Cox weigh in only once per day Cox may see or be told their weight
2.7	Masters Competitors	Addition of a AA age: 21 - 26 years to the categories of Master Athletes
2.8	Masters Handicap	If handicap is required, the handicap is applied to the finish time.
2.11	Weighing of Lightweighters	Test scales available all day. No distinction between national and other regattas in terms of weigh-in protocols Weigh-in times: between 1 and 2.5 hours before first scheduled weight restricted event of the day Athletes weigh in for weight restricted events only once per day Weigh scales accurate to 0.1 kg. Athletes to be able to see or be told their weight Rowers or crews not making weight are excluded from their weight restricted events.
2.12	Adaptive Competitors	A (arms only) is now: AS (arms and shoulders)

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		All adaptive athletes competing at National Regattas must be classified by two National classifiers (medical and technical). Adaptive athletes are eligible to row in adaptive or non-adaptive events at the same regatta that provide a suitable competitive opportunity.
3.1	Classes of Boats	Removed: Octuple (8x+)
3.3	Construction of Rowing Boats and Equipment	More detail on the shape and function of the bow ball, from FISA: The bows of all boats shall be fitted with a solid white ball shape, minimum diameter 4 cm which covers the point of the bows. 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. Any racing shell failing to meet the requirements above shall not be allowed on the water.
3.5		Heel ties have to be 7cm instead of 7.5cm
3.8	Floatation Requirements	Changed to the FISA Guidelines for the Safe Practice of Rowing
3.9	Boat Weighing	Deleted
3.9	Adaptive Equipment	New Section. Follows the FISA Regulations
4.5	Non Standard Courses	Added timed skilled, skilled competitions to the list of events
5.3	Course, Installations, Draw, Jury, Control commission	States that the Organizing Committee is responsible for timing
6.2	Athlete Clothing	No more same headgear rule
6.7	Tobacco and Liquor Products	All advertising relating to tobacco and to alcohol is prohibited on all rowing equipment and uniforms at regattas. For all other advertising issues and concerning tobacco use, please refer to RCA Policy.
7.2	Entries	States the Organizing Committee will create a form and the clubs/schools must declare their athletes fit to compete
7.4	Objection to an Entry	Process if there is an objection to an entry – for national regattas, objection to RCA, for all others to the Provincial Rowing Association
7.6	Crew changes before the First Heat	OC specifies cut-off time for entries Substitutions including for singles may take place for medical reasons with “proof”
7.7	Crew changes after the First Heat	Family death was added to the list of reasons for a substitution
8.1	Safety General Principles	Adaptive Rowers may require special considerations around safety—details about nature of disability have been removed.

Section	Title	Summary of new rule
8.4	Umpire and Safety Boats	Umpires to ensure that boat drivers wear a kill switch if available
8.6	Coach and Team/Club Representatives Meeting	Chief Umpire shall attend and communicate safety and racing information at the meeting
8.10	Fairness-General Principles	Updated wording addresses need for respect by competitors and coaches towards umpires and regatta volunteers
9.1	Progression-General	Organizing Committee must select and publish the progression system
9.2	Direct Entries (2 to 6)	Can be a race for lanes
9.3	Events with 7 or more entries	Organizing committee must choose a form of progression and publish it. Lists the possible types of progression (In Appendix 2)
9.4	Draw	Organizing committees may seed crews if part of the progression system.
10	Start	Script in Appendix 6, to be used at all starts to bring consistency to what the athletes hear
10.1	Start Zone	May issue a yellow card for crews late to the start
10.4	Quick Start	Must inform the crews by saying, "This will be a quick start"
10.7	False Start	Gives starter the authority to give excluded crews instructions on how to return to the dock
10.9	Damage in the Start Zone	Adds that a crew must stop rowing and raise their arm
10.11.3	Interference (Alerting the Umpire)	If a crew indicates it has been disadvantaged during the race and intends to object, the umpire must give them additional instructions on what to do.
10.11.5	Interference (Stopping a Race)	Gives instructions on the proper way to stop the race
10.14	Objections at the finish	Clarification as to actions to be taken by the umpire at the finish, if a crew raises an objection. Umpire may disagree with crew's view of events (but crews may still lodge protest)
10.16	Protest	States the process and reasons for lodging a protest
10.18	Penalties	Clarification as to how to issue a yellow card. Yellow cards may also be issued by any umpire to a coach for a rules infraction. Disqualification for coaches means they may not participate in any event at the regatta after the disqualification "re-row" section removed (moved elsewhere) as it is not a penalty
11.1	National Umpires	All Umpires are required to attend a refresher seminar every three years to retain their license.
11.2	Umpire License Suspension	States that RCA will create a policy for this
11.14	Duties of the Starter	Explains when and how to convey yellow card information to the offending crew
11.17.4	Duties of the Umpire (During the start procedure)	Adds to use an audible device as well as the red flag (instead of a bell, as air horns are often used in Ontario)

Section	Title	Summary of new rule
11.17.6	Duties of the Umpire (Launch Position)	Umpires must advise crews they plan to overtake and note the likelihood of wash or wake
11.17.9	Duties of the Umpire (Timing)	States umpires have to understand how to time a race
Appendix 1	FISA Byelaws 35-37 Courses	Types of Courses
Appendix 2	Progression Options	Lists options an Organizing committee may use (as in 9.1, 9.3)
Appendix 3	Adaptive Rowing Classifications	To be created
Appendix 4:	Head Racing Rule	New Head Racing Rules
Appendix 6:	Start Script	States how the start must be conducted