

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

THESE RULES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATIR COURSE MAP AND INSTRUCTIONS

THESE RULES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATIR COURSE MAP AND INSTRUCTIONS 2018 available from the ATIR event page of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club website (www.atirhkrowing.com). It is mandatory that entrants read, understand and comply with the above documents so that they can understand the general rules governing all vessels competing in the Around the Island Race 2018. If you have any queries, please contact the Rowing Manager of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (rowing.manager@rhkyc.org.hk).

This year's ATIR Rowing is not combined with the sailing race or paddling race. It is open to coastal rowing clubs or organizations submitting an entry application and meeting the requirements of the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee. FISA Race Rules will apply to coastal rowing boats in this race unless herein modified. Merging of rowing clubs may be allowed. Each club or organization must submit a complete entry application on an official entry form provided by the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee. No entry will be accepted unless all the requirements herein are complied with. The ATIR Rowing Organising Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

1) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- a) Must submit completed **Entry Form** by the specified entry deadline date.
- b) Must submit all **Crew Indemnity Forms** by the race day.
- c) The Coastal Rowing Race Committee may refuse to accept any entries received after the deadline date.
- d) It is mandatory for the cox of each participating crew (or both coxes if the cox will change at the halfway point) or one of the crew of all doubles, ideally the steersperson, (including one of the crew from each leg for the change crew race) to attend any and all race briefings for the crew before the race. The crew may be disqualified if the steersperson fails to attend the briefings.
- e) Must register crew safety contact and mobile number with race safety officer. WhatsApp to be installed on the smart phone.

2) CREW ELIGIBILITY

- a) Race crews will be classed as Open and Women. The available classes of boats are FISA approved coastal rowing coxed quad sculls and double sculls. In any class the cox may be male or female. No replacements to the entered crew (or crews in the case of the 'change race' format) will be allowed during the course of the race. Minimum age must be not less than 18 years of age as of the day of the race unless special permission is applied for from the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee and granted.
- b) It is the entrant's responsibility to see that their rowers are physically fit and capable of participating in a marathon coastal rowing event. If there is a question regarding a rower's physical fitness, it shall be the entrant's responsibility to provide a medical clearance form and obtain the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee's approval before the rower enters the race. Entrants shall ensure that their rowers are experienced in long distance coastal rowing in the design of boat used during the race.
- c) All crew members must be able to swim a distance of at least 100m and tread water in paddling clothes for a minimum of 15 minutes. Whilst this will not be policed by the race organizer, it is the responsibility of club captain's and/or coach's to ensure that all their rowers and/or crew members meet this standard. **Rowers are advised to wear a**

Personal Flotation Device (PFD); those that choose not to wear a PFD acknowledge the additional risk they are taking.

- d) Each Rower must sign the Rower registration and indemnity form including publicity waivers.
- e) Merging clubs: Rowers from different clubs may merge to form a crew provided that each rower gets written permission to merge from their respective club's designated representative and submits these same letters of permission to the Race Director for approval.
- f) To ensure that participants are capable of completing the event safely, each member of the race crew will be required, upon request, to provide information of a minimum standard of capability and/or experience as required by the ATIR Rowing and Paddling Division Safety Officer.

3) ROWING BOAT DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT

- a) All rowing boats will be allowed to participate in the race **ONLY** if deemed by the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee on the day of the race to be of appropriate design and seaworthiness. Appropriateness will be judged with respect to the following:
 - The design of the rowing boat must be in keeping with the spirit of the sport of coastal rowing and appropriate to the conditions expected during the race.
 - On inspection, the hull, hatches, plugs and equipment must be sound and in good condition and it must appear that the rowing boat would be appropriately buoyant if swamped or turned over.
 - If shoes are built in, each shoe must have its own separate undamaged heel restraint, no longer than 5cm, which attaches the heel of the shoe to the footplate.
 - Any other criteria deemed appropriate by the Coastal Rowing Race Committee.
- b) Subject to the above, rowing boats (including rigging, hull shape-above waterline, at waterline, and below waterline, and seat design) may be of any design.
- c) No sails or other means of propulsion other than rowing oars are permitted on the rowing boat.
- d) No mechanical means of bailing water out of a rowing boat are allowed.
- e) The following equipment will be required to be within the support boat or rowing boat during the race:-
 - One marine chart, showing all parts of the course in appropriate detail
 - One tow rope (floating)
 - One small first aid box
 - One knife or one pair of tough scissors
 - One tool kit containing tools sufficient to allow adjustment to riggers, gates, seats, foot plates and rudder
 - One buoyancy aid per crew member ready to wear (*refer 4a, below*)
 - One light per rowing boat if poor visibility, or if finishing near dusk.
 - One mobile telephone in the rowing boat, in a waterproof pouch, the number of which has been registered with the RHKYC Safety Officer before the race
 - One smartphone in the support boat with WhatsApp installed and the phone number registered with the RHKYC Safety Officer before the safety briefing and tested by sending message to the race safety officer with boat name and list of the crew. This is to be held by the Safety Contact and be accessible at all times.
 - An optional VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on Channels 99, 96, 72, 77, 14 and 16

- f) Spare oars are allowed to be carried on the rowing boat and/or the support boat.
- g) Each crew is responsible for its own well-being during the race, and must ensure that all crew members appropriately receive water and other refreshments and are appropriately clothed for the conditions during the race. Items appropriate to this well-being must be on board the rowing boat at the start of the race. Any crew taking on such items in any manner whatsoever during the race will be protested and may be disqualified.
- h) During the race each entry shall have its assigned identification symbol permanently displayed on both sides of the bow of the rowing boat. The Coastal Rowing Race Committee will assign this identification.
- i) An inspection of all equipment used in the race may be conducted at the start venue prior to the race.
- j) In the interest of your safety all rowing boats shall have a towing rig affixed to expedite the towing of a rowing boat by support vessels under an emergency situation. Also, each crew must be aware of their rowing boat's towing procedure to assist rescue personnel. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that each rowing boat can be towed quickly and easily should the situation arise.
- k) Although each crew is responsible for their own safety and the seaworthiness of their boat, the Coastal Rowing Race Committee's decision not to permit any crew, any rowing boat or any equipment to race for whatever reason will be final.

4) WATER SAFETY

- a) Each entry must provide LSA/SOLAS or ISO (EN395 - 100N buoyancy, self righting - or equivalent) approved buoyancy aids for each person that boards their support boat and each rower in the boat.
- b) Each entry is responsible for complying with all applicable Marine Department regulations and requirements.
- c) Each entry is responsible for ensuring that each rower, cox, coach, helper and/or guest are water safe.
- d) Each entry is responsible for providing basic first-aid supplies.
- e) Each entry must include a person having a Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency in its support boat and ensure that the steersperson for the crew is knowledgeable of the Rules of the Sea as they pertain to the Harbour and approaches to Hong Kong.
- f) Each entry is responsible for providing adequate nourishment and liquids for all crew members on the rowing boat and each person on the support boat.
- g) The ATIR Rowing Organising Committee reserves the right to disqualify any crew if the Race Director determines that the crew is not capable of participating in or finishing the race within a reasonable time.
- h) In the event of a medical emergency: (1) STOP RACING and inform the race safety officer of the medical issue. We can adjust the time if it is possible for you to restart the race. (2) With the help of safety officer assess the casualty's needs. In line with the crisis management plan, the safety officer will provide directions to the crew on the rescue. It is critical that the crew safety contact follows the race safety officer's instructions.

5) SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE

- a) Any signage used by the entrant must be pre-approved by the Coastal Rowing Race Committee. The ATIR Rowing Organising Committee reserves the right to remove any signage which is not in good taste or which adversely impacts the promotional rights of the title sponsors and the presenting sponsor, or to prohibit any boat displaying such

- signage from racing. Use of conflicting sponsorship signage on rowing boats, support boats, and the crew themselves, shall be left to the discretion of the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee.
- b) Signage on a rowing boat may be in any place except both sides of the bow where the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee requires placement of the assigned identification for each entry.
 - c) Final determination for use of sponsorship signage will be left to the discretion and judgment of the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee.

COURSE RULES

6) START OF THE RACE

- a) All rowing boats shall be ready to start before the time set for the beginning of the race at the designated start venue.
- b) The start of the Race will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Race Director.
- c) No crew may start the race unless its support boat is within 200m of the start line five minutes before the time of the start for that crew and has been identified by the relevant crew to the starter as their support boat. Any crew who's support boat is not in the vicinity of the start line and identified to the starter at least 5 minutes before the race start time will not be allowed to start the race until their support boat is on hand. The starter may prevent any crew from starting if the late arrival of their support boat is likely to interfere with later race starts.

7) COURSE

- a) The course shall be that defined by the ATIR Rowing Organising Committee, as presented in the "ATIR Course Map and Instructions 2018" document.
- b) In general a crew may follow any course to the finish line to circumnavigate Hong Kong Island, subject always to requirements of the Marine Department to stay on the appropriate side of all channel markers and subject to complying with the clauses below.
- c) Specific diagrams will be provided at the race briefing meetings to identify the extent of the course. "ATIR Course Map and Instructions 2018" will be available before the race day. Entries are encouraged to visit the finish line area before the race.
- d) Please note that the start and finish will be in Victoria Harbour in Causeway Bay.

8) ROWERS AND COXES

- a) The number of rowers in a boat must at all times during the race be the same as the number for which the boat was designed.
- b) Boats designed to include a cox must be coxed at all times during the race.
- c) For crews doing the change of rowers, the exchange can only happen at the location specified in the "ATIR Course Map and Instructions 2018" document.

9) SWAMPING OR OVERTUNING OF ROWING BOAT

- a) If a rowing boat swamps or overturns after the start of the race, the rowing boat may be righted and bailed out and will be allowed to continue in the race. No mechanical devices will be allowed throughout the race to bail a rowing boat.
- b) Persons on an support boat may assist in righting and bailing out a swamped rowing boat.
- c) The support boat will stand by and render any assistance to the swamped rowing boat but must not tow a swamped rowing boat in the direction of the finish line while the rowing boat is officially entered in the race.

10) SUPPORT BOAT

- a) Each entry must have one (1) support powerboat to accompany them throughout the race. The support boat assists only in the case of an emergency or after the rowing boat ceases to be officially entered in the race.
- b) **IF A SUPPORT BOAT IS OVER 30 FEET IN LENGTH, IT MUST REMAIN CLEAR OF THE RACE COURSE UNLESS IT IS REQUIRED TO COME TO THE AID OF THE RACING CREW.**
- c) **A support boat must be licensed** and bear a Marine Department number. If an support boat does not have a number, they **will be asked to leave the course, and the entering crew will be declared ineligible to race.**
- d) All support boat(s) must meet the minimum Marine Department requirements to carry passengers.
- e) For safety purposes, all support boat(s) must have a Marine Department approved carrying capacity to accommodate the relief and support crew of the racing boat being escorted in addition to the crew and passengers of the support boat itself, along with the Marine Department required equipment and the required safety equipment as per these rules, e.g. the spare oars.
- f) All passengers travelling on board any support boat do so entirely at their own risk.
- g) A support boat must be equipped with two-way communications. In addition to the WhatsApp enabled mobile phone, Marine Band (VHF) Radio communication is preferred, but not compulsory. **Any entry whose support boat does not have a working communication system will NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.**
- h) It is recommended that all support boats have a GPS on board.
- i) A support boat must have sufficient engine capacity and towing equipment to take the boat they are supporting safely under tow.
- j) A support boat is required to carry a minimum liability insurance coverage required by the Marine Department.
- k) Each support boat skipper must hold a valid Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency in accordance with Marine Department regulations.
- l) Each support boat must follow behind its assigned rowing boat throughout the race, except for swamped and overturned rowing boats. It can at no time come alongside or ahead of the rowing boat except in the case of an emergency, and it must make way without deliberately blocking, or causing interference, or wake, to any approaching rowing boat or other support boat in the race.
- m) **A support boat may not deliberately cause a wake to assist their rowing boat or interfere with another rowing boat. A support boat must not block or cause a wake to approaching rowing boats in the race.**
- n) At all times, a support boat must maintain a safe distance from rowing boats and other boats. To aid in this, please refer to the “ATIR 2018 notes to junk drivers” document.
- o) Rowing boats and other boats in the race always have the right-of way over support boats.
- p) Coaching and directing from the support boat is permitted.
- q) Other than equipment required for safety, a support boat must not transport any articles, including refreshments, to a rowing boat.
- r) Unsafe conditions due to a support boat being overcrowded, or not meeting the Marine Department requirements, or the requirements of the Coastal Rowing Race Committee, can result in the support boat being declared unfit or unseaworthy as a support boat by the Coastal Rowing Race Committee. The related entries will not be allowed to participate.
- s) The Coastal Rowing Race Committee will have the final decision on the approval or disapproval of any vessel used as a support boat.

11) FINISH AREA

- a) Relief crew members and crew members on the support boat should follow the instructions of any designated personnel while unloading gear from support boats. Crews need to keep the pier clear and are asked to remove off loaded gear in a quick and timely manner to ensure everyone's safety.
- b) Crews on the support boat should be ready to disembark quickly at Kellett Island pontoons. Support boats are NOT permitted to be secured to the pontoons.
- c) Support boats are asked not to stop or anchor in the area in front of the Kellett Island Clubhouse or Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter as this may interfere with the safe navigation for rowing boats.

12) PROTESTS

- a) If required, a Protest Committee will be formed at the end of the race. The composition will be the Safety Officer, the Finish Line Judge, the Rowing Manager and two other suitably experienced RHKYC members not otherwise involved in the protest.
- b) Protests must be lodged in writing within 30 minutes of the last crew finishing (or withdrawing) from the race.
- c) The Protest Committee will meet with the complainant and with any other witnesses relevant to the protest. An adjudication on will be issued on the day of the race.
- d) Possible penalties for infractions of racing and safety rules can include time penalties and disqualification.