

181st Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta



Local Rowing Directions 2026



Entry details

It is a condition of entry that CREW NAMES are attached to the Official Entry Form and that the Local Rowing Directions are read. All entries to be completed on an OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM supplied by the Local Rowing Entries Secretary or downloaded from the Regatta website – www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk

ALL ENTRY FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, 24th JULY, 2026 WITH THE APPROPRIATE ENTRY FEE AND A LIST OF CREW NAMES TO:- Hilary Bastone, 15A Mount Boone, Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 9PB or email: hilarybastone@hotmail.co.uk.

Please make cheques payable to: Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta.

Payment by BACS accepted: Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta * 52-30-20 * 33087903.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The draw for positions and boats will be held at Dartmouth Rowing Club on Sunday, 26th July, 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Entry Fees

The entry fee for the open local rowing events is £5.00 per seat and applies to all adult entries (rowers over the age of 16). Long Distance Race entries £40 - Whaler entries £20 - Pair- Oared and double sculls entries £10 - Championship entries £5.00. There is no charge for Coxswains.

Entry conditions

1. Entry Qualifications:

- (a) Entry for the Licensed Victuallers' Association races is restricted to Public Houses, Restaurants and Hotels eligible for membership of the LVA within the following Parishes: Dartmouth, Blackawton, Dittisham, Kingswear, Stoke Fleming, Strete and Tuckenhay. Crews must be residents of the above mentioned Parishes or have resided in one of these Parishes previously for a period of at least 10 years. Entries for the Licensed Victuallers' Association races are restricted to no more than three crews per establishment.

- (b) The Invitation Whaler Race will be by invitation only and no rower contesting a final in any of the Friday Whaler Races will be eligible.
- (c) Entry to the Double Sculls Race is restricted to Sports Clubs within the Parishes of Dartmouth, Blackawton, Dittisham, Kingswear, Stoke Fleming, Strete and Tuckenhay. Crews must be members of the Sports Club for which they are entered. Entries from Public Houses will not be permitted.
- (d) Crew members in the Open Whaler Races, the Double Sculls Race and Licensed Victuallers' Association Whaler Races are not permitted to row for more than one crew in each of these events.
- (e) The Junior Pair-Oared race offers three options of entry: All Male – All Female – Or Mixed crews. Mixed crews will be included in the male section of the race. Rowers must be over 11 years but under 16 years of age on 1st September, 2026.
- (f) The Long Distance Races are non-LVA events for which points will not be awarded. These will be three straight races – Men's, Ladies' and Mixed with no heats. The first seven crews to enter each race will be accepted and vetted as genuine.
- (g) Entrants for the Youths Whaler Race must be over 16 but no more than 18 years of age on 1st September, 2026.
- (h) At the closing date for entries there must be at least three entries for an event. If not, there may not be a race.

2. Coxswains:

- (a) In all Whaler races coxswains must be over the age of 15 years.
- (b) In all Cadet 'Blue' Boat races coxswains must be over the age of 11 years on the 1st September, 2026, with the exception of the Junior Pair-Oared Race which will be organised to run with the tide on the timing of these events. Coxswains for these crews must be 16 years or over.
- (c) All under 16 years, rowers and coxswains, must wear a life jacket. Regatta life jackets will be available from the Crew Marshal. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

3. The Rowing Officials will decide, following the Finals on the Friday, who are the winners of the Best Coxswain, the Best Rower and the Best Race.

Rowing Programme

Practice Week - Monday, 17th – Friday, 21st August inclusive from 6.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. All Whalers and Cadet 'Blue' Boats must be moored securely on the North Embankment Jetty by 8.30 p.m. No mooring of any boat at any time during training other than on the designated pontoon. The practice area is between Noss and Warfleet only. Junior training only under adult supervision. All under 16 to wear a lifejacket at all times. All practice rowing will be at competitor's own risk. Any other requests will be at the discretion of Yorkie Lomas.

Heats and Mixed eight-oared Whaler Race final	Sunday, 23rd August
Semi-finals and Long Distance Whaler Race finals	Monday, 24th August
Finals	Friday, 28th August

Racing Rules

1. Signing-in:
 - (a) Any crew failing to report to the Crew Marshal at the pontoons off Coronation Park at least **30 minutes** before the scheduled start of the first heat of any event on Sunday and Monday will be disqualified.
 - (b) Any crew failing to report to the Crew Marshal at the pontoons off Coronation Park at least **30 minutes** before the scheduled start of any final on Friday will be disqualified.
 - (c) Crews are asked to respect the assistance given by Pontoon Marshals and abide by their instructions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Substitutes:
 - (a) No substitutes are permitted in the Championships of the Dart.
 - (b) In all Long Distance Races four crew members may be substituted; in Whaler Races two crew members may be substituted; and in all Pair-Oared races one member of a pair only may be substituted between the closing date for entry and the heat in which they are drawn. Entries such as A. Rower; A.N. Other Rower; and similar classifications will be treated as a named rower.
 - (c) No substitution will be permitted in any race after the relevant heat has been rowed other than exceptional circumstances such as injury or bereavement.
 - (d) Substitute coxswains are only permitted after heats due to work commitments, illness, bereavement or other unforeseen circumstance. Crews signing-in must inform the Crew Marshal and Clerk of the Course who will inform other crews at the start.
3. Positions commence from Dartmouth shore.
4. Boats and positions as drawn must be adhered to.
5. Any competitor not taking the position allotted, receiving assistance during a race, or using oars other than those supplied with the boat, or of the specification laid down by the Regatta Committee, will be disqualified.
6. Each boat shall maintain its position drawn throughout the course and finish on that station, or be disqualified.
7. Every boat shall abide by its accidents, but if during a race a boat, whilst still in its own water, shall be interfered with by any outside boat or person, the Clerk of the Course has the discretion to re-start the race.
8. There will be a centre buoy positioned between Dartmouth Yacht Club pontoon and the yellow mainstream buoy. From Dartmouth, crews in positions 1, 2 and 3 stay Dartmouth side of the marker buoy and crews in positions 4, 5 and 6 stay Kingswear side of the marker buoy.
9. Races will finish between Dartmouth Yacht Club (Dartmouth shore) and the yellow mainstream buoy.
10. Any boat passing the yellow mainstream buoy on the Kingswear side will be disqualified as this is deemed to be off course.
11. Modifications to the Whalers and/or the Cadet 'Blue' Boats such as foot straps will not be permitted at any time, but cushions will be allowed. Anyone breaking this rule will be excluded from all further local rowing races during the Regatta.

12. All protests are to be lodged with the Recorders at the Finish Tent. Protests will be settled by the Official Starter/Clerk of the Course and Finish Judges. Their decision will be final.

13. Rights to use the name and likeness.

By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority the right to make use and show, at their discretion, any photograph, audio and video recordings and other reproduction of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

14. These local rowing directions and rules encompass the local rowing event at the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta. In the event of ambiguity and/or doubt the local rowing committee and its representatives will make a decision in the SPIRIT OF THESE RULES and the ROYAL REGATTA.

The Boats

WHALERS

The Whalers have been drawn and will take the same position in each race as follows:

Position 1	Grey	Britannia
Position 2	Yellow	Clifton
Position 3	Green	Townstal
Position 4	Orange	Hardness
Position 5	Red	Friend of Bayards
Position 6	White	Dartmouth
Position 7	Blue	Wayward Castle (Spare boat)

CADET 'BLUE' BOATS

The Cadet 'Blue' Boats have been drawn and will take the same position in each race as follows:

Position 1	Grey	Harbour Bookmen
Position 2	Yellow	Kingswear
Position 3	Green	Castaway
Position 4	Orange	Cats Pillar
Position 5	Red	Percy Williams
Position 6	White	The Dart
Position 7	Blue	Ken Armstrong (Spare boat)