

Hi Everyone

With this year's Marlborough Championships you will notice we have continued with theme of the last two years.

Our goal with the Marlborough Champs is a regatta that is more enjoyable, fairer and more flexible than any other.

The key things to note are;

1. The regatta programme has no age group events. Races are now as per the new ability grades of Masters, Novice, Intermediate, Club, Senior and Open. This requires everyone (administrators, coaches, rowers and parents) to think just a little differently about who their athletes are when entering. By now everyone should have their 2019/2020 grades from RNZ.

2. Simple entry fee. The entry fee this year is \$25+ gst per rower irrespective of how many races they row. This is simpler for both of us to administer. There is no limit on the number of races that an athlete can row. It is up to the judgement of the coaches as to how many events each athlete can handle. We feel you are better placed to know your athletes than we are.

3. Entry system. We will not be using rowit to collate entries this year. Entry will simply by telling us how many crews you want in each event and the names of the stroke seat. This will require some honesty on your behalf. If you need to have someone in a crew who is of a higher grade to make the boat "happen" just let us know. The crew can still race and qualify for the finals but will not be eligible for aggregate points. We will also need a complete list of athletes you are bringing for our health & safety plan. Entries to [strickland.nz@icloud.com](mailto:strickland.nz@icloud.com) by Nov 22 rd at 10pm.

4. Crew changes. We realise that this early in the season that you might wish to play with your crews from Saturday to Sunday. Feel free to do so, but as above please be honest about what grade the athletes are in your boat.

5. To help our commentary team, a crew list (and even some anecdotes) would be great and can be handed to the regatta secretary on race day. Trust me it's hard to talk rubbish for six minutes straight so any help is appreciated.

6. Coaches Happy Hour. At the end of Saturdays racing we invite all of the coaches and officials to imbibe of a cold refreshment. It's our way of saying thanks for bringing your crews and helping with the regatta. Also it's a great chance for a chat and a telling of tall tales. At this gathering we will also discuss Sunday's racing, so it is important for all clubs to be represented.

All of this should result in a great weekend of racing on the Wairau River. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch. See you at the end of November.