

RIGTEC ENGINEERING BILLY WEBB CHALLENGE RACING RULES

The rules of racing of the NZRA and the NZSSRA shall apply except as modified by these rules or as the Chief Umpire may determine in the interests of safe and fair competition.

1) THE EVENT

The Rigttec Billy Webb Challenge shall be an approximately 6 Km time trial event held on the Whanganui River on Sunday 26 October 2025.. The start/finish line is a line across the river at the upstream end of the Union Club Pontoon. Competitors will race upstream to a turnaround point above the Aramoho Railway Bridge and then back down to the finish line.

The Billy Webb and Philippa Baker Hogan Trophies will be awarded to the fastest male and the fastest female single scullers completing the event.

The Mahé Drysdale Junior Trophy shall be awarded to the Under 19 Boy or Girl single sculler achieving the highest prognostic percentage of all single scull competitors Under the age of 19, as per NZSSRA rules.

All other single scullers, and competitors in other small boats, will be eligible for nine prizes based on each crew's actual time calculated as a percentage of their assigned prognostic time.

Should any prize be a cash prize, that cash prize will be paid to the entity to which the athlete or athletes are affiliated.

Every rower is only eligible for one cash prize and trophy.

2) ENTRY CRITERIA

Upon entering each individual or crew shall provide their current NZ Rowing classification as per the NZRA Rules of Racing 2025.

All entrants will be assigned a prognostic time based upon their gender and Rowing New Zealand classification, grade or age group and be eligible for the prognostic prizes should they not win the major prize. The Prognostic time assigned a crew determines the start order for all boats, except single scullers fastest prognostic starts last, with the slowest starting first. Single scullers will align across the course in lines, with Men first, Women next, then Under 19 Boys, followed by Under 19 Girls.

1.1 Single Sculls – All entrants in single sculling boats are eligible to compete for the Billy Webb Trophy, in the case of male competitors, and the Philippa Baker Hogan Trophy, in the case of female competitors. The trophies will be awarded to the competitor achieving the fastest time in their respective genders.

The Mahé Drysdale Junior Trophy shall be awarded to the Under 19 Boy or Girl single sculler achieving the highest prognostic percentage of all single scull competitors and are Under 19 as per NZSSRA rules.

1.2 Doubles, Pairs, Quads, both coxed and coxless, and Fours, both coxed and coxless

Competitors may enter the event in any of the small boats listed and be assigned a prognostic time based upon their gender and Rowing New Zealand classification.

Mixed gender boats may enter in any of the small boats listed and will be assigned a prognostic time using the Whanganui Rowing Association Prognostic Calculator.

3) CAPABILITY

By completing and submitting the entry form for this event, individuals or crews are assuring the persons managing the event that those entrants are suitably qualified to enter, compete in and safely complete an event of this nature.

4) THE RACE

The race shall be an approximately 6 Kilometre event starting and finishing at the upstream end of the Union Club Pontoon, and with a turnaround point upstream of the Aramoho Railway Bridge. Buoys will be placed upstream of the centre span of the railway bridge and scullers must turn on the upstream of the buoys before they commence their return to the finish.

5) THE COURSE

A Nominal distance of 6000 metres. The course is upstream from the start/finish line at the upstream end of the Union Club Pontoon, passing under both the Dublin Street Bridge and then the Aramoho Railway Bridge before reversing and going back downstream to the start/finish line.

There will be a buoy placed about midstream off the Settlers Wharf, about 400 metres from the start, boats shall pass to the right of that buoy at all times. Between that buoy and the Dublin Street Bridge, on both the outward and the return legs, there is no restriction on where a sculler may go on the river.

A line of buoys will delineate the centre of the river between the Dublin Street Bridge and the Aramoho Railway Bridge. Competitors must pass to the right of those buoys on both the upstream and downstream legs.

The centre span of the Aramoho Railway Bridge is a no-go area, competitors must pass on the right-hand side of the centre span on both upstream and downstream legs. Buoys will be positioned downstream of this span to provide ample warning and direction.

Any competitor passing through the centre span of the bridge shall receive a 30 second penalty.

Buoys will be placed upstream of the centre span of the railway bridge and scullers must turn on the upstream of the buoys before they commence their return to the finish.

Buoys may be placed in the river to mark any hazard i.e. snag or other impediment that could cause damage to a competitor's boat

START/FINISH LINE

The start/finish line is a line from at the upstream end of the Union Club Pontoon across the river to a mark on the eastern bank of the river below Shakespeare Cliff. The Chief Judge is the sole judge of the finish and shall determine and declare the ranking of the crews in accordance with the order in which they finish.

6) **START –**

6.1 Single Scullers will be started in a line across the river in a shot gun start, starting with Men, then Women, then Under 19 Boys, followed by Under 19 Girls. All groups will start approximately 60 seconds after each other.

6.2 Following the single scullers, each small boat crew will be started individually, with slowest prognostic first and fastest prognostic time last. f

6.3 Bow numbers will be allocated to each crew, and starting order shall be as per the assigned bow number

6.4 The Starter will call small boat crews by bow number at about 15 sec intervals. When the crew is called, they can start rowing so they cross the start line at race speed. The crews time will start as they cross the start line.

6.5 A crew not at the start at the appropriate time or in assigned numerical order may not have a time recorded.

6.6 Any crew crossing the start line prior to being called will be disqualified.

6.7 Crews must not engage in “practise starts” in the start zone.

6.8 Crews must obey all instructions and proceed as directed by the Starter or Safety Boat Operator.

7) **PROPER COURSE –**

The proper course for each boat is determined by its crew providing that it allows ample water for the other boat to steer its proper course. For the avoidance of doubt:

7.1 A leading boat with clear water may determine its own course

7.2 However, a catching boat is entitled to row around the leading boat without undue interference

7.3 Where the boats are alongside each other to any degree, each is to ensure that the other can maintain its course without interference

7.4 If a boat has clear water over a chasing rival within 20 Metres of the turn-around buoy the following boat must stay behind or pass on the upstream side of both the leading boat and the turn-around buoy giving the inside boat enough room to make a proper turn without interference

7.5 If a following boat has achieved overlap before coming within 20 Metres of the turn-around buoys the outside boat must allow the inside boat enough room to make a proper turn without interference

7.6 The umpire is the sole and final judge of a boat's proper course. The umpire may warn a boat that it is off its proper course or about to foul another boat and may direct the steering of the offending boat or boats. The scullers are to heed the umpire's warnings and comply immediately with the umpire's directions.

8) **UMPIRING**

Umpires shall be stationed at regular points along the course and will note any behaviour which is deemed to be undue interference to another competitor. If an individual or crew is observed behaving in such a manner on two separate occasions that individual or crew will be disqualified.

9) **CHIEF UMPIRE**

The conduct of the race is under the sole control of the Chief Umpire who shall endeavour to ensure that each crew has an equal opportunity to win the race. The decisions of the Umpire will be final and not subject to appeal.

10) **KNOWN HAZARDS:**

1.1 All bridge pylons.

1.2 Locations of any other known hazards will be provided at the pre-race briefing

DISCLAIMER

NO LIABILITY - The Whanganui Rowing Association reminds all entrants participating in this event that every care will be taken by the event officials to ensure the regatta is conducted safely and efficiently and in accordance with the Rules of the event and those established by Rowing New Zealand. It is the responsibility of the entrants to ensure those rules are complied with. It is a condition of participation in this event that no liability whatsoever will attach to or be accepted by the Whanganui Rowing Association for any damage to equipment or injury to persons incurred in the course of the event regardless of whether any negligence on the part of any regatta official may be established.