

BIAC Fall Regatta: Rules and Regulations

Course Description

This challenging 5K race course starts at the south end of the San Mateo Marina Lagoon, near the 101, and winds north to finish close to Kehoe Avenue. Most of the course is in a residential area; respect for residents and their property is essential. The course is fairly narrow and has several tight turns, three bridges and various docks to avoid. The course is marked with buoys; please keep your boat within buoys at all times and study the course map in advance.

Boats must observe safe practices and follow the instructions of Marshalls and Dock Masters. Boats must keep to the right of the center buoys on the river at all times. Turn around is at the start and finish only. The holding area at the start is tight and boats should launch no more than 45 mins before their race time. Boats should be on time for their race and work with the start officials to set off in order of bow number. Please do not cross the buoys marked "Danger" near the start, as this area is too shallow for even sculls.

The bridges at Hillsdale, Highway 92, and Fashion Island Bridge will have large buoys in the arches that are considered out-of-bounds. (See map for the allowed traffic pattern through bridges.) After crossing the finish line, boats should continue paddling around the island, bear left, and return to Parkside Aquatic Park for docking.

Bow numbers will be distributed at registration and collected on the landing beach. Please secure the plastic bow number to your boat and the paper bow number to the bow seat rower and/or coxswain. In the unfortunate event of a collision with private property on course, please notify race officials immediately upon landing. Our continued use of the venue for hosting a regatta depends upon good relations with the local residents.

Fall Regatta Rules:

- Racing crews have the right of way over all other boats. Boats warming up or returning from the finish must yield to oncoming crews at bridges and otherwise, stay in the right hand lane, off the racecourse.
- Overtaking crews have the right of way over slower boats. Boats being overtaken must yield to the outside of a turn or otherwise follow the instructions of the faster boat.
- Passing is forbidden under bridges and immediately before bridges. A slower boat about to be passed must PROMPTLY yield after a bridge.
- Stay right of all buoys in the center of the waterway, and stay left of all bouys marking obstacles near shore. No cutting corners.
- Row around the island at the finish before stopping.
- Crews must use sportsman-like conduct and language.
- This is a challenging course and **not** appropriate for novice coxswains! Use only race-seasoned coxswains and ensure that all coxswains from your team fully understand the rules of racing and have reviewed the course map.

Infraction	Time Penalty
Missed Buoy	10 sec
Wrong Arch	30 sec
Unsportmanlike Language/Conduct	10 sec
Failure to Yield (major)	60 sec
Interference (major)	60 sec
Minor infractions on course: interference / failure-to-yield	10 sec
Egregious offences	Disqualification

- Bow balls and heel tie-downs or quick-release shoes are required.
- In case of any dispute, results will be determined by the rules in the regatta packet followed by the accepted master handicapping rules in [Rules of Rowing](#).
- At the discretion of race officials, penalties may be increased for egregious offenses or decreased.