

**BY-LAWS**

of

**MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ROWING ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Article I. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION, LOCATION, CORPORATE SEAL AND FISCAL YEAR**

- 1.1. Articles of Organization. The name and purposes of the corporation shall be set forth in its Articles of Organization. These By-laws, the powers of the corporation and of its Members (if any) and Directors and Officers, and all matters concerning the conduct and regulation of the affairs of the corporation shall be subject to such provisions in regard thereto, if any, as are set forth in the Articles of Organization as from time to time in effect.
- 1.2. Location. The principal office of the corporation in The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall initially be located at the place set forth in the Articles of Organization of the Corporation. The Directors may change the location of the principal office in the Commonwealth Massachusetts effective upon filing a certificate with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- 1.3. Corporate Seal. The Directors may adopt and alter the seal of the corporation.
- 1.4. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall end on December 31 in each year unless the Directors change the fiscal year by filing a certificate with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

- 2.1. Advance opportunity in the sport by supporting multiple team structures and encouraging diversity in championship regatta event categories.
- 2.2. Organize and support a process (“Championship Regattas”) by which Fall and Spring Massachusetts Public School State Champions can be determined.
- 2.3. Facilitate the sharing and dissemination of information pertinent and helpful to all teams whether start-up or established.
- 2.4. Provide competition through the Championship Regattas as an avenue for programs to develop speed and improve competitiveness in the broader world of rowing.

**Article III. MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS**

- 3.1. Powers and Rights. The corporation shall not have Members. Any action or vote required or permitted to be taken by Members under Chapter 180 of the Massachusetts General Laws or otherwise, shall be taken by action or vote of the same percentage of Directors.

**Article IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 4.1. Powers. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Directors who shall have and may exercise all the powers of the corporation.
- 4.2. Number and Election. The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11) individuals who have been involved in the sport of rowing as a coach, board member, or regatta organizer for a minimum of the preceding two years. The Board of Directors shall from time to time fix the number of board members. The remaining Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. At any special or regular meeting, the Directors may increase or decrease the number of Directors by a majority vote of the Directors then in office. Any election by the Directors shall be determined by a plurality of the votes cast by those entitled to vote at the election. No ballot shall be required for such election.
- 4.3. Term of Office. Each Director shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until the Director's successor is elected and qualified, or until the Director sooner dies, resigns, is removed or becomes disqualified. Each year one third of the seats will be up for election.
- 4.4. Committees. The Directors may elect or appoint one or more committees and may delegate to any such committee or committees any or all of their powers, provided that any committee to which the powers of the Directors are delegated shall consist solely of Directors. Unless the Directors otherwise determine, the Executive Committee shall have the power to act on all matters requiring prompt action between meetings of the Directors except for such matters as are specified in Section 55 of Chapter 156B such as, changing the principal office of the Corporation, amending the By-laws of the Corporation, electing Officers required by this chapter to be elected by the Directors, changing the number of Directors on the Board of Directors or filling vacancies in the Board of Directors, removing Officers or Directors from office, and any other provision which is set forth under this chapter. Unless the Directors otherwise designate, committees shall conduct their affairs in the same manner as is provided in these By-laws for the Directors. The conduct and regulation of affairs of any committee shall be set forth in the Procedural Rules of the Association.
- 4.5. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third Wednesday in January in each year, except that when the day falls on a legal holiday observed by any non-retail businesses in Boston, Massachusetts, the meeting shall be held on the next succeeding Wednesday that is not such a legal holiday, at seven o'clock in the afternoon, unless a different hour is fixed by the Directors or the President and stated in the notice of the meeting. In the event an annual meeting has not been held on the date fixed herein, a special meeting in lieu of an annual meeting may be held with all the force and effect of an annual meeting.
- 4.6. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Directors may be held without call or notice at such place and at such times as the Directors may from time to time determine.
- 4.7. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Directors may be held at any time and at any place when called by the President, the Treasurer, or one or more Directors.
- 4.8. Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time and place of each meeting of the Directors shall be given to each Director five (5) business days before the meeting in person or by telephone, or by mail, telegram, fax, or electronic mail addressed to the Director at the Director's usual or last known place of business or residence address. Whenever notice of a meeting is required, such notice need not be given to any

Director if a written waiver of notice, executed by the Director (or by the Director's attorney there unto authorized) before or after the meeting, is filed with the records of the meeting, or to any Director who attends the meeting without protesting prior thereto or at its commencement the lack of notice to said Director. Neither such notice nor waiver of notice need specify the purposes of the meeting, unless otherwise required by law, the Articles of Organization or these By-laws.

- 4.9. Attendance at Meetings. Directors and Officers of the board will receive a list of meeting dates for the upcoming calendar year no later than one week before the annual meeting. Directors and Officers must attend at least half of these meetings in order to maintain their position on the board. If a Director or Officer misses more than half the meetings or misses enough meetings so as to make it impossible to attend half of the yearly scheduled meetings, they may be removed from the board pursuant to Article 6.2.
- 4.10. Quorum. A majority of the number of Directors constituting the full Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for a meeting but a lesser number may by majority vote adjourn the meeting from time to time and the meeting may be held as adjourned without further notice.
- 4.11. Action By Vote. When a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of the Directors present and voting shall decide any question, including election of officers, unless otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Organization, or these By-laws.
- 4.12. Action By Writing. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Directors may be taken without a meeting if all the Directors consent to the action in writing and the written consents are filed with the records of the meetings of the Directors. Such consents shall be treated for all purposes as a vote at a meeting.
- 4.13. Presence Through Communication Equipment. Unless otherwise provided by law or the Articles Of Organization, members of the Board of Directors may participate in a meeting of such Board by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

## **Article V. OFFICERS AND AGENTS**

- 5.1. Numbers and Qualifications. The Officers of the corporation shall be a President, Clerk, Treasurer, Secretary, and Outreach Coordinator and such other Officers, if any, as the Directors may determine. The Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for connecting and communicating with participant and prospective programs to provide support and information regarding regulations within the MPSRA. An Officer may but need not be a director. The Clerk shall be a resident of Massachusetts unless the corporation has a resident agent duly appointed for the purpose of service of process. A person may hold more than one office at the same time.
- 5.2. Election. The President, Treasurer, Clerk, Secretary, and any other Officer shall be elected annually by the Directors at their first meeting following the annual meeting. Other Officers, if any, may be elected by the Directors at any time.
- 5.3. Tenure. The President, Treasurer, Clerk and Secretary shall each hold office until the first meeting of the Directors following the next annual meeting of the Directors and until said Officer's successor is chosen

and qualified, unless a shorter period shall have been specified by the terms of said Officer's election or appointment, or in each case until said Officer sooner dies, resigns, is removed or becomes disqualified.

- 5.4. President. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and subject to the control of the Directors, shall have general charge and supervision of the affairs of the corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Directors, except as the Directors otherwise determine.
- 5.5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer of the corporation, and shall be in charge of its financial affairs, funds, securities, and valuable papers, and shall keep full and accurate records thereof. The Treasurer shall also be in charge of its books of accounts and accounting records, and of its accounting procedures. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to prepare or oversee all filings required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Internal Revenue Service, and other federal or state agencies. The Treasurer shall have such other duties and powers as designated by the Directors or the President.
- 5.6. Clerk. The Clerk shall maintain an electronic record of all proceedings of the Directors and of the Annual Meeting in an online archive kept for that purpose, which shall be made accessible to the public through the corporation's web site. Such shall also contain records of all meetings of incorporators and the original, or attested copies, of the Articles of Organization and By-laws and names of all Directors and the email address of each. If the Clerk is absent from any meeting of Directors, a temporary clerk chosen at the meeting shall exercise the duties of the Clerk at the meeting. Records described herein will be made available within one week of their recording. This shall take effect as of January 22, 2017.
- 5.7. Secretary. The Secretary shall provide administrative assistance to the President, Treasurer and Clerk and shall assist the Clerk in recording and maintaining records of all proceedings of the Directors.

#### **Article VI. RESIGNATIONS, REMOVALS AND VACANCIES**

- 6.1. Resignations. Any Director or Officer may resign at any time by delivering a resignation in writing to the President or the Clerk or to the corporation at its principal office. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt unless specified to be effective at some other time.
- 6.2. Removals. A Director or Officer may be removed with or without cause by the vote of a majority of the Directors then in office.
- 6.3. No Right to Compensation. No Director or Officer resigning, and no Director or Officer removed, shall have any right to any compensation as such Director or Officer for any period following said resignation or removal, or any right to damages on account of such removal.
- 6.4. Vacancies. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors, including a vacancy resulting from the enlargement of the Board, may be filled by the Directors by a vote of the plurality of the Directors then in office. The Directors shall elect a successor if the office of the President, Treasurer, Clerk or Secretary becomes vacant and may elect a successor if any other office becomes vacant. Each such successor shall hold office for the unexpired term and in the case of the President, Treasurer, Clerk or Secretary until a successor is chosen and qualified, or in each case until the President, Treasurer, Clerk or Secretary sooner dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes disqualified. The Directors shall have and may exercise all their powers notwithstanding the existence of one or more vacancies in their number.

## **Article VII. EXECUTION OF PAPERS**

- 7.1. Except as the Directors may generally or in particular cases authorize the execution thereof in some other manner, all deeds, leases, transfers, contracts, bonds, notes, checks, drafts and other obligations made, accepted or endorsed by the corporation shall be signed by the President or by the Treasurer.
- 7.2. Any recordable instrument purporting to affect an interest in real estate, executed in the name of the corporation by the President or a Vice-President and the Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer, who may be one and the same person, shall be binding on the corporation in favor of a purchaser or other person relying in good faith on such instrument notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of the Articles of Organization, By-laws, resolutions, or votes of the corporation.

## **Article VIII. PERSONAL LIABILITY**

- 8.1. No Personal Liability. The Directors and Officers of the corporation shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the corporation. All persons, corporations, or other entities extending credit to contracting with, or having any claim against, the corporation, may look only to the funds and property of the corporation for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the corporation.

## **Article IX. PROCEDURAL RULES**

- 9.1. The conduct and regulation of affairs of the Association shall be subject to the following Procedural Rules.
- 9.2. Eligibility of Participant Athletes.
  - 9.2.1. Every athlete participating in any Championship event, as defined in Section 9.5, and organized by MPSRA:
    - a. Shall be eligible under the criteria set by her/his respective public high school.
      - i. Public high school shall hereinafter be defined as a senior public high school representing grades nine (9) through twelve (12), or
      - ii. Whereas a member high school includes middle school grades seven (7) and eight (8), and whereas the student athletes are under the direct "jurisdiction" and "supervision" of the high school principal, a middle school student is eligible to represent a public high school.
        1. Jurisdiction shall be defined as the principal must have the authority to discipline or suspend that student from class.
        2. Supervision shall be defined as having control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement.
      - iii. Whereas a public middle school is under the same superintendent of a member high school but has a different principal, and the middle school principal, vice principal, or athletic director with "jurisdiction" and "supervision" can supply a signed roster to satisfy rules 9.7.1.a and 9.6.1.a for race registration, a middle school student is eligible.
      - iv. Whereas a member high school may have a policy in place which permits charter school, home educated or vocational school students who live in that member high school district to participate in its interscholastic athletics, only on a team for a sport that is not offered at the charter or vocational school and whereas a charter, home

educated or vocational school student is eligible to represent a member public high school if the following conditions are met:

1. The member high school or local school committee approves and/or has adopted a policy regarding athletic participation of the charter, home educated or vocational school students on the middle and high school teams.
2. The student:
  - a. is formally enrolled in a charter or vocational school that serves middle or high school students and is living with his/her parents or legal guardian(s) in the member high school district family residence; or
  - b. has an educational middle school or high school level plan approved by the public-school Superintendent, principal or his/her designee, and is living with his/her parents or legal guardian(s) in the member high school district family residence.
3. The charter or vocational high school principal certifies and is satisfied that the charter or vocational school student meets the standards for athletic participation required for students as defined under its current policies. This includes, but is not limited to, those rules governing academic eligibility, age requirements, and the number of consecutive seasons of athletic ability beyond grade eight.
4. The charter or vocational school principal shall communicate with and fully cooperate to provide all requirements to the member high school for eligibility.
5. The member high school principal is satisfied that the charter, home educated, or vocational school student meets the standards for athletic participation required for students as defined under its current policies. This includes, but is not limited to, those rules governing academic eligibility, age requirements, and the number of consecutive seasons of athletic ability beyond grade eight.
6. If the member high school principal determines that all eligibility standards detailed above have been met, the member high school principal may declare the charter, home educated or vocational school student eligible to participate in MPSRA competition and must certify requirements relative to participating charter, home educated or vocational school students at the same times that all other district student athletes are to be certified as eligible.
7. The rights, privileges and responsibilities associated with all other student athletes attending MPSRA member schools will apply to charter, home educated or vocational school students who have satisfied the requirements above.
8. The charter school, vocational school or home educating family will not be a member or Participant Program of the MPSRA as defined in Section 9.3. The charter school, vocational school or home educating family has no voting rights, will not independently field any MPSRA teams, shall have secured all necessary internal approvals to operate in accordance with these policies and shall be approved by the member high school for such participation.

- v. Charter school, home educated, and vocational school students are eligible for participation upon meeting the requirements of 9.2.1, above, and will be accepted upon the Participant Program's written submission of the athlete's name, residence and charter, home educated or vocational affiliation to the MPSRA Board Secretary prior to commencement of the first season in which the athlete will compete for the Participant Program.
- b. Be a "Junior" as defined by "a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school (grades 9-12) as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A competitor thus ceases to be a Junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12<sup>th</sup> grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student, whichever is later."
- c. Compete only for his/her designated MPSRA Participant Program team during the season of the Championship race and for no other high school or junior teams or clubs whether affiliated or unaffiliated with said MPSRA team. Coxswains may compete for non-junior programs during this time.
- d. Athletes are permitted to race as their chosen gender.

9.2.2. Novice rowers and coxswains are athletes from 7<sup>th</sup> grade up through freshmen year (regardless of experience), or in their first year of rowing. Coxswains may switch to rowers and race for one year as a novice rower and vice-versa. Novice status ends after one calendar year or a consecutive period of one Fall and one Spring season of high school rowing (either Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall).

9.2.3. Sculling events may be entered by crews not affiliated with a Participant Program, subject to the following conditions:

- a. All participants within the entry meet the stipulations of 9.2.1.a and 9.2.1.b.
- b. All participants are members of the same school system.
- c. No current MPSRA team serves said school system during the season in question.
- d. All participant crews abide by Participant Program rules stated in 9.3 including submission of signed roster and any organizational memberships required by the regatta's insurance. Such membership requirements will be provided by the deadlines set by the Regatta Director.
- e. Any sculler/sculling boat not affiliated with an MPSRA school must enter under the name of their school. Such boats will be eligible for medals, but be ineligible for team points.

9.2.4. The Fall and Spring regattas will include two separate events for the purpose of allowing middle school athletes the chance to compete at the Fall and Spring Championships. The boys' and girls' middle school coxed quad (4x+) categories will be available to athletes for as long as they remain a student in a middle school (grades 6-8).

### 9.3. Eligibility of Participant Programs.

9.3.1. Participant Programs must abide by MPSRA team guidelines (see Section 3 below) for all racing throughout the season, but the MPSRA will place no further restrictions on which teams Participant Programs may compete against, nor which other regattas Participant Programs choose to compete in.

9.3.2. Each Participant Program, Full and Provisional, must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be in accord with the purpose of the MPSRA.
- b. All student-athletes must be eligible to row (see 9.2: Eligibility of Athletes).

- c. Be from a defined area subject to the following:
  - i. The team is defined at time of application and will be reviewed for compliance by the Board.
  - ii. A team may draw from a single school. The name must reflect the school.
  - iii. On approval of the board, a team may be made up of multiple schools in one school district, or two single schools in different school districts. The name must reflect all schools.
  - iv. There can only be one team per school. If there is an MPSRA team representing a school district, an individual school may have its own team in that district as well; students from that individual school would be only eligible to compete for the school team, not the district team.
  - v. In case of conflict, the Board will look to the local school to make a preference known.
  - vi. Each Participant Program must be a bona fide team, with a full racing and practice schedule. While a public high school rowing program can institutionally be a subset of a larger club, note that the public program must have its own organizational memberships (as specified in 9.2.3.d), and no student-athletes from the program's sphere are allowed to compete as members of the larger club during the relevant championship season.
  - vii. A team must be recognized by the school(s) it serves, though this recognition does not require that the team hold varsity status at the school nor that the school participate in running the team. An individual school may recognize only one MPSRA program as its official team. At the time of application for participation, each team must submit a letter from the school's principal(s) or athletic director(s) stating that the program is recognized by the school, and must resubmit a new letter at any time if so requested by the board.
- d. Be a member of any organization required by the regatta's insurance.
- e. All Participant Programs must send a representative from the coaching staff to the annual general meeting. Any program failing to do so for two consecutive years may have its participation revoked for one year.

- 9.3.3. A program will be eligible for Full Participation status once it has satisfied the following conditions:
- a. the program has competed in at least three events at a single "Championship Regatta," at least one of which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity level.
  - b. the program has completed at least two consecutive years of Provisional Participation.
  - c. the Board has deemed the program compliant with the guidelines of Article III, 9.3.2.

- 9.3.4. A Program is eligible for Provisional Participation upon meeting the requirements of 9.3.3 and will be accepted by the following process:
- a. The Program will submit a written petition to the Board by December 15 for the spring season (application posted on web site). The petition will include:
    - i. The definition of the area covered by the Program.
    - ii. The contact information for the Head Coach or Program Director.
    - iii. A description of the program, its goals, affiliations, and funding.
  - b. New programs must meet with the board to discuss the rules and organization of their public high school team prior to submission of petition.
  - c. The Board will review the petition for compliance. If the Program meets all criteria outlined under the Eligibility of Programs, it becomes a Provisional Participant.



- d. In the event that a petition is submitted late, a Program may be allowed participation in the current season's regatta if approved by majority vote of the Board. The Board may not approve participation after the registration deadline for the regatta.
- e. Provisional Participation approved by the Board after the general meeting will allow the team to race in that season's regatta but may not count towards the two years of Provisional Participation requisite for becoming a Full Participant Program.
- f. If there is a conflict with a pre-existing MPSRA program, the Board may recommend a solution, subject to 9.3.2.c guidelines. Conflicts must be resolved before the season is underway.

9.4. Team Management. As a governing league, the MPSRA encourages its Participant Programs to work with the schools to ensure adequate academic preparation time for the student-athletes and to work with the athletes to build discipline and time management skills to aid their development as students as well as competitors. The MPSRA poses no additional limitations on internal team structure (beyond the eligibility criteria described in this document), training, length of season, or coach supervision hours.

9.5. Championship Regattas.

9.5.1. The MPSRA will support one Championship Regatta during each of the spring and fall seasons. The Spring regatta will be held the Sunday after the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in May. The Fall regatta will be held the Sunday of the last weekend in October.

9.5.2. USRowing Rules of Rowing will apply for both regattas unless specified otherwise in these Procedural Rules. All changes to USRowing Rules of Rowing can be over-ruled by the referees officiating at the regatta.

9.6. Spring Championship Regatta.

9.6.1. Registration for the Spring Regatta closes on the Wednesday prior to the Regatta date. At this time, all entries are due online in RegattaCentral. In the event that only one team is entered into an event other than a Middle School event, that event may be cancelled by the Regatta Director at the close of registration. This cancellation is regardless of the number of boats entered by that team. The Regatta Director shall make every effort to move entries from canceled events into open lanes in heats of other events with entries of comparable speed. Late entries will only be accepted at the Regatta Director's discretion up to the Friday prior to the Regatta date and only if they do not affect the number of heats. Additional materials will have the following due dates:

- a. Team Rosters: All teams must submit a roster or rosters stating that all competitors are currently enrolled at that team's school(s). This roster must be signed by a school principal, vice principal, or athletic director. Each school principal, vice principal, or athletic director will only sign the roster for the school they directly oversee. This roster will be due on the Friday prior to the Regatta date. Late rosters will not be accepted. Teams without rosters will not be permitted to compete. Teams found in violation of these rules will be disqualified for the current regatta. Once an official decision has been made, no more boats from the team will be allowed to compete.
- b. Payments: Payment or proof of payment must be received no later than the coaches' & coxswains' meeting on race day. If payment or proof of payment is not received by this time, the team will not be allowed to participate. For those teams submitting proof of payment, the

balance must be paid before the team is permitted to compete in the next Championship regatta.

- c. Waivers: Lineups and waivers must be submitted online through RegattaCentral for all entries and competitors no later than the day before the regatta. All lineups must be correct and may be checked for accuracy on race day.
- d. Trophies: All trophies earned from the previous year's regatta must be returned to the registration desk no later than the start of racing for the current regatta. If a trophy is not returned, that team will not be permitted to race in that event for the current year.
- e. Coaches & Coxswains' meeting: Attendance will be taken at the Coaches' & Coxswains' meeting on the morning of racing. Teams without a representative in attendance will receive a warning (as defined by the USRowing Rules of Rowing) for each of their entries.

#### 9.6.2. Sculling and Small Boats.

- a. Small boats: A small boat is defined exclusively as a straight pair (2-). The pair event will be rowed within the Sculling Program (9.6.2.b.), however, the pair will not be included in the sculling team points. A rower in the pair, time permitting, may row again in another sweep event (double row).
- b. Sculling Program & order of events:
  - Boys & Girls Octuples (8x+)
  - Boys & Girls Quads (4x)
  - Boys & Girls Doubles (2x)
  - Boys & Girls Pairs (2-)
  - Boys & Girls Singles (1x)
- c. In an event where there are more than 6 entries, the event will be run as a head race. Any head races will be seeded according to 9.7.5.
- d. Sculling Points will be awarded as follows:
  - 5 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - 3 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup> placeIf there are only 2 entries, only first place points awarded.  
If there are only 3 entries, only first and second place points awarded.

9.6.3. A Participant Program may not enter a lower boat (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc) for an event unless it has also entered the next-highest level in the same category. (i.e., to enter a 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity 8+, a 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity 8+ must also be entered) The only exception is for a Provisional Participant Program, which will be allowed, but not required, to boat exclusively 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity and lower boats during its first year of Provisional participation.

- a. No competitor may row or cox in more than one event, with the exception of small boats and sculling events.
- b. Teams may not enter more than one entry in any one event, with the exception of small boat and sculling events.

9.6.4. Medals will be awarded as follows relative to the number of crews registered the morning of the event. These numbers do not include scratched entries.

- a. 2 or 3 boats = 1 medal
- b. 4 boats = 2 medals
- c. 5+ boats = 3 medals

The medals ceremony will be held 45 minutes after the conclusion of the final race.

- 9.6.5. Points for the Spring Championship Regatta are included in Appendix B.
- 9.6.6. Petite finals will be run in 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity events only.
- 9.6.7. Seeding for the Spring Championship will be determined by a seeding committee of at least four coaches chosen at the annual meeting.
  - a. Seeding will be based off results submitted to the seeding committee no later than one week prior to the Regatta.
  - b. It will be the responsibility of the Participant Programs to submit their own seeding results. Each Participant Program will be required to submit (3) separate seeding race results from competition against (3) separate MPSRA teams to qualify for any 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity 8+ or 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity 4+ event at the Spring Championship.
  - c. Each Program will be required to submit at least (2) seeding race results against (3) separate MPSRA teams to qualify for all other events.
  - d. Seeding Races must meet the following criteria:
    - i. Only crews racing under the program name recognized by the MPSRA will fulfill the seeding requirement.
    - ii. Only races involving (2) or more MPSRA Participant Programs (Full or Provisional) will be considered Seeding Races.
    - iii. Crews may not contain athletes from outside a program's recognized schools during the seeding race (or any season race).
    - iv. Seeding races must be completed in the same boat class the crew plans to race at the MPSRA Championship.

9.7. Fall Championship Regatta.

- 9.7.1. Registration for the Fall Regatta closes on the Wednesday prior to the Regatta date. At this time, all entries are due online in RegattaCentral. Late entries will only be accepted at the Regatta Director's discretion up to the Friday prior to the Regatta date. Additional materials will have the following due dates:
  - a. Team Rosters: All teams must submit a roster or rosters stating that all competitors are currently enrolled at that team's school(s). This roster must be signed by a school principal, vice principal, or athletic director. Each school principal, vice principal, or athletic director will only sign the roster for the school they directly oversee. This roster will be due on the Friday prior to the Regatta date. Late rosters will not be accepted. Teams without rosters will not be permitted to compete. Teams found in violation of these rules will be disqualified for the current regatta. Once an official decision has been made, no more boats from the team will be allowed to compete.
  - b. Payments: Payment or proof of payment must be received no later than the coaches' & coxswains' meeting on race day. If payment or proof of payment is not received by this time, the team will not be allowed to participate. For those teams submitting proof of payment, the balance must be paid before the team is permitted to compete in the next Championship regatta.
  - c. Waivers: Lineups and waivers must be submitted online through RegattaCentral for all entries and competitors no later than the day before the regatta. All lineups must be correct and may be checked for accuracy on race day.

- d. Trophies: All trophies earned from the previous year's regatta must be returned to the registration desk no later than the start of racing for the current regatta. If a trophy is not returned, that team will not be permitted to race in that event for the current year.
- e. Coaches & Coxswains' meeting: Attendance will be taken at the Coaches' & Coxswains' meeting on the morning of racing. Teams without a representative in attendance will receive a warning (as defined by the USRowing Rules of Rowing) for each of their entries.

9.7.2. A Participant Program may not enter a lower boat (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc) for an event unless it has also entered the next-highest level in the same category (i.e., to enter a 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity 8+, a 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity 8+ must also be entered). The only exception is for a Provisional Participant Program, which will be allowed, but not required, to boat exclusively 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity and lower boats during its first year of Provisional Participation.

- a. No competitor may row or cox in more than one event, with the exception of the following:
  - i. A rower or coxswain entered into an 8+ or a 4+ may also compete in small boat and sculling events.
  - ii. For safety reasons, a varsity coxswain may also compete (as a coxswain) in a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> novice 8+ or in a 2<sup>nd</sup> novice 4+.
- b. Teams may not enter more than one entry in any one event, with the exception of small boat and sculling events.

9.7.3. Medals will be awarded as follows relative to the number of crews registered the morning of the event. These numbers do not include scratched entries.

- a. 2 or 3 boats = 1 medal
- b. 4 boats = 2 medals
- c. 5+ boats = 3 medals

The medals ceremony will be held 45 minutes after the conclusion of the final race.

9.7.4. Points for the Fall Championship Regatta are included in Appendix B.

9.7.5. Seeding for the Fall Championship Regatta will be based upon the following:

- a. For all events, the top boat from each team will be seeded before any team's B boat, B boats will be seeded above C boats, and so on, regardless of last year's results.
- b. For all Varsity 4+ and Varsity 8+ events, seeding will be based off last year's results, with a random draw for additional crews.
- c. For Novice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Varsity, and Sculling events with at least 50% of the same teams participating, seeding will be based off last year's results followed by a random draw for additional crews.
- d. For any events with less than 50% of the same crews competing, seeding will be entirely by random draw without reference to last year's results.

## 9.8. Hosting a Championship Regatta.

9.8.1. Petitions for hosting a Championship Regatta must be submitted to the Board by January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Spring Championship and Fall Championship.

9.8.2. The Regatta Host will be determined by majority vote of the Board at the January Board meeting for the Spring Championship and for the Fall Championship.

- 9.8.3. A Petition must include the following information:
- a. Venue information: course description, launch site(s), trailer parking, spectator facilities.
  - b. Budget for the regatta: includes all projected costs and potential revenue sources (i.e. parking, gate fees).
- 9.8.4. Regatta Budget
- a. Regatta fees will be set to cover the regatta's operational costs as defined by:
    - i. The budget submitted by the Host and approved by the Board at the time of application, plus
    - ii. A \$600 flat-fee for organizer compensation (see 9.8.4.b.viii.), plus
    - iii. Cushion equal to 10% of the projected regatta cost.
  - b. The MPSRA will be responsible for the following regatta costs:
    - i. Referee fees & referee housing
    - ii. Port-o-potties
    - iii. Safety launch gas
    - iv. Walkie-talkies
    - v. Safety personnel
    - vi. Permits
    - vii. Medals
    - viii. Organizer compensation: flat fee of \$600 to hosts to distribute as appropriate
  - c. MPSRA will be responsible for additional regatta costs only if approved by the Board.
  - d. All regatta fees will go directly to the MPSRA to cover operational costs for the regatta.
  - e. Additional revenues are defined as all profits outside of regatta fees and will include (but not be limited to):
    - i. T-Shirt/Concession Sales
    - ii. Parking/Gate Fees
    - iii. Vendor Fees
  - f. Additional revenues will be handled in the following manner:
    - i. The Regatta Host will submit to the MPSRA:
      1. Income from all Sales and/or Fees
      2. Invoices for all Regatta Sales
      3. Leftover Inventory
    - ii. The MPSRA Treasurer will distribute the profits with 75% going to the Regatta Host and 25% to the MPSRA.
- 9.8.5. Hosts and Board Members will be responsible for execution of the tasks delegated to each by the MPSRA Hosting Responsibilities document.

## **Article X. AMENDMENTS**

- 10.1. These By-laws may be altered, amended or repealed in whole or in part at any meeting by vote of a majority of the Directors then in office, except with respect to any provision thereof which by law, the Articles of Organization or these By-laws requires a super majority vote.

## APPENDIX A

### **Full Participant Programs**

Arlington-Belmont Crew  
Boston Latin School  
Bromfield-Acton-Boxborough Rowing  
Brookline High School  
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School  
Duxbury Bay Maritime School  
Everett High School  
Haverhill High School  
Hingham High School  
Lowell High School  
Malden High School  
Medford High School  
Mystic Valley Regional Charter School  
Row Boston  
Shrewsbury High School  
Somerville High School  
Wayland-Weston Crew  
Worcester Public Schools

### **Provisional Programs**

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical  
New Bedford High School

## APPENDIX B

The following team point trophies shall be awarded at both the Fall and Spring Championship Regattas:

- Girls' 4+s team trophy
- Boys' 4+s team trophy
- Girls' 8+s team trophy
- Boys' 8+s team trophy
- Overall team trophy (boys & girls, 4+s & 8+s, does not include sculling)
- Sculling team trophy
- Middle school team trophy

For both the Fall and Spring Championship Regattas, points will be awarded based on the following calculations.

### Sweep Team Trophies

Points will be calculated from the given formula for sweep boats:

$$\text{Factor} \times \text{Number of Beaten Boats in Event} \times \text{Number of Seats in Boat}^* = \text{Points Earned}$$

**Table A (Sweep Factors)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Varsity	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Varsity	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> Varsity/1 <sup>st</sup> Novice	2
4 <sup>th</sup> Varsity**	1

**For example**, in the Girls' or Boys' 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity 8+, with 8 entries:

Finishing Position	Factor	Boats Beaten	Number of seats	Total Points
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	4	7	9	252
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	4	6	9	216
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4	5	9	180
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	4	4	9	144
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	4	3	9	108
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	4	2	9	72
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	4	1	9	36
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	4	0	9	0

\* Coxswains included

\*\* 4<sup>th</sup> Varsity 4+s only, based on the principle that a 4<sup>th</sup> Varsity 4+ is of equivalent level to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity 8+

In the event of a tie for any of the sweep-oared trophies, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that placed highest in the first varsity event of that category (1st 8+ or 1st 4+, respectively).

In the event of a tie for the overall team trophy, sculling team trophy, or middle school team trophy, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that achieved their point total with the fewest entries (efficiency).



### Sculling Team Trophy

Points will be calculated from the given formula for sculling boats:

$$\text{Factor} \times \text{Number of Beaten Boats in Event} = \text{Points Earned}$$

**Table B (Sculling Factors)**

8x+	20
4x	20
2x	10
1x	5

For example, in the girls' or boys' 4x, with 8 entries:

Finishing Position	Factor	Boats Beaten	Total Points
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	20	7	140
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	20	6	120
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	20	5	100
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	4	80
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	3	60
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	2	40
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	1	20
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	0	0

In the event of a tie for any of the sweep-oared trophies, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that placed highest in the first varsity event of that category (1st 8+ or 1st 4+, respectively).

In the event of a tie for the overall team trophy, sculling team trophy, or middle school team trophy, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that achieved their point total with the fewest entries (efficiency).

### Middle School Team Trophy

Points will be calculated from the given formula for middle school boats:

$$\text{Factor} \times \text{Number of Boats Beaten in Event} = \text{Points Earned}$$

**Table C (Middle School Factors)**

1st 8+	20
1st 4x	20
2nd 8+	10
2nd 4x	10

For example, in the boys' or girls' middle school 2nd 4x, with 8 entries:

Finishing Position	Factor	Boats Beaten	Total Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	10	7	70
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10	6	60
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10	5	50
4 <sup>th</sup>	10	4	40
5 <sup>th</sup>	10	3	30
6 <sup>th</sup>	10	2	20
7 <sup>th</sup>	10	1	10
8 <sup>th</sup>	10	0	0

In the event of a tie for any of the sweep-oared trophies, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that placed highest in the first varsity event of that category (1st 8+ or 1st 4+, respectively).

In the event of a tie for the overall team trophy, sculling team trophy, or middle school team trophy, the trophy shall be awarded to the drawn team that achieved their point total with the fewest entries (efficiency).

## APPENDIX C

### **Sportsmanship**

Relative to the Purpose of the MPSRA as outlined in Article II, all Participant Programs are expected to support the growth of the sport throughout the state. The coaches, as educators, should model and encourage appropriate behavior for the youth participating in the league. The MPSRA considers competition to be a venue for development of young athletes' characters, and expects the Participant Programs to follow the guidelines below with the intention of promoting the aims and spirit of the league.

- I. Promotion of Public Programs: Each individual program as well as its parent club/organization will respect the integrity of competing MPSRA programs' teams.
- II. Boating's
  - a. A coach's obligation is to provide for fair racing. We consider that a fair race is one in which each program matches its top athletes to the top athletes from each competitor's program and so on down the line, not necessarily a race in which all participant crews are of similar speed.
  - b. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure that the 1<sup>st</sup> boat is the program's fastest possible boat, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> boat is the second-fastest boat, 3<sup>rd</sup> boat is the third-fastest boat, etc. Boating's should be created with the priority of making the higher-level boat as fast as possible.
  - c. In cases where a coach cannot decide which athletes make the boat go fastest, he/she is expected to show a good faith effort to do so in racing throughout the season.
- III. Conduct of Athletes
  - a. Competitors should treat one another with respect. This excludes the following behaviors:
    - i. Harassing, belittling or purposely distracting other crews.
    - ii. Badmouthing rivals.
    - iii. Prolonged vigorous or noisy celebration on the finish line.
  - b. Competitors should treat race officials, volunteers and regatta directors with respect.
  - c. All athletes will treat the venue with respect.
    - i. Vandalism or destruction of any kind will not be tolerated.
    - ii. There will be no urination on the course.
    - iii. All team areas will be left clean and free of debris at the end of the races.
- IV. Conduct of Coaches
  - a. Coaches are expected to facilitate fair racing for all crews.
  - b. Coaches should make every effort to model appropriate behavior to their crews in all circumstances.
- V. Conduct of Spectators
  - a. Spectators should follow the same guidelines as athletes with regard to cheering and use of the regatta space.
  - b. Grievances should be submitted to the regatta organizer only by the coaches. At no time is it appropriate for a spectator to approach a race official or regatta organizer with a grievance before, during or after the race day.
  - c. Spectators must be respectful of other teams' spaces; conflict over space should be resolved with maturity and courtesy.