

VASRA Regatta Roles and Responsibilities

It takes the efforts of many people to achieve a successful regatta program each year and a number of organizations and individuals have important roles to play.

Why parents are important

Parent volunteers are absolutely critical to the success of each regatta because they staff a variety of essential positions needed to run the regatta. For example, parent volunteers are needed as launch drivers, finish line timers, fee collectors, starting line personnel, dock traffic controllers, and food concession personnel. Without parents, the regattas simply would not happen.

Responsibility for planning and implementing the parent volunteer process is shared among several entities. Below is a list of these groups and individuals and a brief description of their responsibilities as they relate to running the regattas.

The Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA)

The VASRA is the membership organization of local high school rowing clubs that sponsors the regattas in which the high school teams compete. VASRA provides regatta officials, facilities, equipment, and manages the regattas. VASRA coordinates with a variety of organizations and individuals to ensure regattas are sanctioned and supported.

The Crew Council

It is the responsibility of the Crew Council to oversee the VASRA regatta program and to establish rules and procedures that ensure that competition is safe. Each year the council issues a "Rule Book," the VASRA Supplement to the USRowing Rules of Rowing, which governs regatta conduct and procedures.

VASRA Regatta Director

At each VASRA sponsored regatta, the Regatta Director is the senior staff member in charge and is responsible for the management of the regatta. The Regatta Director has discretionary authority to reassign the duties of parent volunteers as needed and make adjustments in the operation of the regatta to ensure that it is safe and fair. The Regatta Director is required to coordinate these efforts with the Chief Referee.

Chief Referee

The Chief Referee has primary responsibility for the conduct of the regatta with respect to athletic rules and safe rowing conditions. The Chief Referee can adjust the regatta schedule if, in his or her judgment, the prevailing conditions require it. The Chief Referee also handles protests from participating competitors.

Regatta Staff

The Regatta Director is assisted by a core staff (also called permanent staff) of volunteers who provide the consistency and expertise necessary for a properly functioning regatta. These volunteers not only work key positions each week during the regatta but also lead the work that must occur before and after regattas. These positions include race course managers, launch dock managers, dockmasters, concessions managers, and communications managers. Each school is expected, and has an obligation, to contribute at least one person to this permanent staff. This person is identified by the February VASRA meeting to allow adequate time for necessary training. The same person is expected to perform this function throughout the season to provide the consistency and expertise needed. Larger programs should provide one core staff person for each 50 athletes.

VASRA Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is one of a number of VASRA standing committees and is composed of several members of the VASRA Board of Directors. It is responsible for the process by which member clubs provide weekly parent volunteers to assist in operating the regattas. The Committee allocates these duties among the participating booster organizations according to the percentage of athletes each has at the regatta. It also monitors volunteer compliance.

Booster Volunteer Coordinator

The Club Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for finding parents to fill assigned volunteer positions at each regatta and to see that the club participates in the VASRA work days. The Volunteer Coordinator should be in regular communication with the Chair of the VASRA Personnel Committee and his or her Booster Representative on the VASRA Board of Directors. The Booster Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for submitting the names of volunteers at the required times and seeing that the volunteers report on time.

Parent Volunteers

Within each booster organization, parents sign up for the positions that have been allocated to the booster organization before each regatta. A parent who has volunteered for a position should understand the duties of the position, report on time to the regatta, and be willing to be reassigned if asked by the Regatta Director.