

WARRINGTON ROWING CLUB REGATTA

Saturday 2nd August 2014

SAFETY PLAN

The priority at all times is SAFETY.

This safety plan identifies the risks involved in the Regatta and outlines the procedures to be adopted by the organisers and competitors to limit those risks. Contravention of these safety rules will result in disqualification.

A. WEATHER and RIVER CONDITIONS.

The regatta course is subject to the effects of wind, stream and, occasionally, tide. Visibility on occasions can be affected by mist. Growth of weed in the river is now also a factor. Conditions on the day will be assessed by the Race Committee, in consultation with the Safety Adviser, who will determine any appropriate action:

- 1) To run the regatta in full
- 2) To cancel specific categories (Novice, Junior, etc.)
- 3) To alter the course by shortening or moving
- 4) To cancel the whole event

Should any cancellations be made, competitors will be notified as soon as practicable. Race numbers of crews affected will not be issued and Stage Marshals will prevent embarkation.

Should thunder and lightening occur, the BR 30/30 guidance for clearing the water and seeking shelter will be applied

Any key race official may halt racing if safety or fairness are compromised (Rule of Racing 2-2-2)

B. RULES APPLYING TO THE EVENT.

The event is run under the **British Rowing Rules** and **Row Safe** guidance.

A full copy of the **Local River Rules** is displayed on the Safety Notice Board in the clubhouse, along with the waterway plan. The main points are:

- 1) **Do not row downstream of the black & white footbridge below the start.**
- 2) **At all times follow the event Circulation Pattern.**

C. CIRCULATION PATTERN

Due to the presence of river weed growing on the north clubhouse side bank, the regatta course may be adjusted and aligned closer to the south bank. The course will therefore consist of a minor bend as shown in the course plan. When racing, crews are strongly advised to follow the line of the buoys and not the river bank which curves.

All crews must boat downstream.

When going down to the Start: all crews must boat under the control of the bank-side marshal and proceed downstream alongside the north clubhouse side of the river. Crews must take care to proceed with caution due to the presence of river weed close to the surface. The club will take all possible steps to minimise the presence of this weed. Crews should proceed down past the start on the clubhouse side of the river. **See Plan of Course.**

When going to the warm-up area: Crews must wait within the landing stage buoyed area and then, under the control of the bank-side marshal when no race is in progress, promptly turn your boat and proceed immediately through the right-hand arch of Kingsway Bridge and upstream of the yellow buoys marking the turning point for crew that have raced. Crews must cross the regatta course promptly, do not loiter and clear the course as quickly as is safe to do so. Crews then proceeding downstream to the start from the warm-up area must return through the left-hand arch. They must row cautiously past the landing area and on down along north clubhouse side of the river to the start.

At the Finish: Crews must promptly row through the right hand arch of Kingsway Bridge and beyond the yellow buoy before spinning, and returning through the left-hand arch to the landing area. Do not obstruct the finish. Do not cross the race lane buoy lines. Disembark promptly.

Boats must not be manhandled over the heads of spectators.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mobile Radios

Radio communication will be between Race Control, Race Umpires, Starter, Start Marshals and the Stage Marshals who will be assigned a specific call sign. Where necessary, radios may be supplemented by the use of mobile phones.

(NOTE: Radio Protocol – In the event of an emergency, radio communication should only be undertaken by those directly involved in response and its management.)

2. Megaphones

These will be in use by race officials and safety launches as required.

3. Telephones.

A telephone, (incoming and 999 calls only), situated in the clubroom, is available for Race Control to summon Emergency Services if required. The telephone number for the clubhouse is **01925 242631**.

4. Public Telephone.

The nearest telephone kiosk to the boathouse is outside the 'Late Shop', approximately 200 yards over Kingsway Bridge on the right-hand side. The nearest telephone kiosk to the start is at the end of Howley Lane, furthest from the boathouse.

5. Emergency Telephone Numbers.

Lists are on the notice board, near the club telephone and a copy is also held at Race Control. Details are attached at the end of this document.

E. INCIDENTS, MEDICAL, & FIRST AID

1. The **Safety Adviser** for the event is **Alec Glover (07739 301 237)**
2. Any **Safety Incident** occurring during the competition must be reported immediately to the safety advisor. Full details of the incident will be recorded in the red incident file (on shelf outside gym), and reviewed by the organising committee following the event.
3. **First Aid** cover will be provided by three qualified first aiders. Mobile phone contact details are provided at first aid station (club house) and included in this plan.
4. **Accidents and Emergencies** will be taken to Warrington General Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington, WA5 1QG

F. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS.

1. **Accidents on the water.** In the event of a competitor being injured, capsizing or becoming ill whilst rowing, the quickest means of rescue and access to the emergency services will be achieved by safety launch. One launch will be positioned just above the black and white footbridge and one near to the clubhouse. The only access point to the river is the landing stage, which will be cleared by the Stage Marshals.
2. **Emergencies.** In an emergency, the safety launches will have priority over all other traffic. Any race in progress will be immediately stopped and will be re-rowed at a time determined by the Race Committee.
3. **Evacuation Procedure.** In the event of the Regatta area being evacuated due to fire or other major incident, all competitors, spectators and members will make their way to the Assembly Point near the Ambulance Station under the direction of Club members. Club members will ensure the access road is clear for emergency vehicles. Crews on the water will muster at the Start and await clearance before proceeding upstream to disembark at the landing stage.
4. **Accidents on land.** Most spectators, competitors and supporters congregate around the landing stage and clubhouse area. This area will be monitored by the Stage Marshals. First aid will be available in the clubhouse. Any further help can be summoned via Race Control.
5. **Accidents in the Start Marshalling Area.** In the event of an incident in the Start Marshalling Area all recovery must be achieved above the black and white footbridge.
Any equipment swept below the black and white footbridge must be abandoned.

G. SAFETY LAUNCHES

Lifejackets will be worn by all safety launch crew members and passengers. One launch will be positioned at the Start Marshalling Area (just above the black and white footbridge), and one near the Finish Line (next to the culvert). The launch drivers will hold a minimum of RYA Level II certificates. A complete rescue kit comprising of 2 throw lines and thermal blankets will be carried in each launch. The launches will carry out the following duties:

1. Patrol river prior to racing to clear debris and look out for unforeseen hazards.
2. Prevent any crew from proceeding beyond the black and white footbridge below the Start Marshalling area.
3. Warn officials and crews of any dangers that arise during the race.
4. Carry out rescue in the case of competitors getting into difficulty.

H. MARSHALS

1. **Stage Marshals** will be on duty to control the embarkation and landing of competitors boats. They will also carry out a safety inspection of the equipment of embarking crews, looking at heel restraints, bow balls, buoyancy compartments, canvasses, rudder lines and general fixings. Boats that are unsafe or improperly equipped will not be allowed to race. Stage marshals will also ensure that all coxes are wearing lifejackets or buoyancy aids and carrying cox's weights if applicable. Coxswains in bow loading boats must only

wear buoyancy aids or manually inflatable life jackets. The proximity of supporters and spectators to the landing stage should also be monitored and controlled.

2. **Start Marshals** will control the crews mustering below the start and ensure that crews are paired up and presented to the start in order. The marshalling area is between the start and the footbridge. **Under no circumstances are boats allowed to go downstream of the black and white footbridge, as there is a dangerous weir.**
3. **Bankside Marshals** will control any crews crossing the regatta course to proceed up through the right hand arch of Kingsway bridge and on up to the warming up area.

I. COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Equipment.** All clubs must ensure that the equipment used by their club is safe and satisfies British Rowing Rules. The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse the use of unsafe equipment. All boats will be inspected and excluded if they fail to meet the standard required for bow balls, heel restraints and mechanical condition.
2. **All coxswains** must wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid when afloat. Coxswains in bow loading boats must only wear buoyancy aids or manually inflatable life jackets.
3. **Ability to swim.** Clubs must ensure that its rowing members are able to swim at least 50 metres clothed.
4. **Fitness for competition.** It is the responsibility of the Captain or person making the entry to ensure that the competitors are competent to complete the course without putting themselves at risk. Any competitor with known medical conditions limiting their rowing abilities should make their situation known to race officials. The Race Committee reserve the right to refuse to allow any competitor to race if they feel that the competitor is not competent or insufficiently fit.
5. **Capsize.** Clubs should ensure that their competitors, including coxes are able to swim 50 metres in light clothing and have trained in capsize drill. In the event of capsize they must hold onto their boat and wait for assistance. The banks are steep and very few places allow easy egress to dry land.
6. **British Rowing Rules of Racing & Local Rules.** All competitors must make themselves aware of, and abide by, the British Rowing Row Safe guidance and the Local Rules issued by Warrington Rowing Club. A full plan of the river is on display in the boathouse.
7. **Suitable Clothing.** All competitors must wear clothing appropriate for the weather conditions on the day of event.
8. **Communication.** A representative of racing crews must make the officials aware of any communication problems that may occur during the event. This might be a foreign language issue or it may take the form of a physical/mental disability.

J. RACE RULES

1. The Race Committee reserve the right to amend the order of the race programme if found necessary.
2. Under NO circumstances should crews venture further downstream than the black and white footbridge (Howley Suspension Footbridge) as this is the limit of our permitted water and there is a weir downstream.
3. All crews must carry their number plainly visible on the back of the bowman. The lower numbered crew will race on the Club House station.
4. Crews should boat in good time for their race, at least **15 minutes** before their scheduled time. Do not leave the stage without notifying your opposition.
5. At all times the Circulation Pattern must be followed. Any changes to the circulation pattern due to unforeseen circumstances will be clearly briefed by race officials at the coxes / scullers briefing.
6. Competitors must be at the start at least two **2 minutes** before the scheduled race time, stated in the program. Crews failing to do so may be disqualified. No PA announcements will be made!
7. Crews wishing to practice may do so upstream of Kingsway Bridge beyond the turning buoy. Under no circumstances will crews be allowed to practice on the course or in the Start Marshalling area.
8. Coxes will be responsible for meeting the minimum weight for their class of race. Checks will be made when registering and during the day.
9. A bell will sound at the finish of each race and the results announced over the PA system.
10. Coxes must wear an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid, properly fitted and adjusted.
11. Any crew found to be contravening these safety rules may be awarded an official warning or disqualification by a Race Umpire.

Warrington Rowing Club

Regatta Emergency Telephone Numbers

The telephone in the club house is for outgoing emergency 999 or 112 calls only.
Incoming calls can be received, the number is (01925) 242631

WRC safety advisor for event: Alec Glover 07739301237

First Aiders: Lisa Lee 07816918980

Joanne Curran 07737526104

Julie Greenhalgh 07721600282

Emergency- FIRE

- AMBULANCE

999 or 112

- POLICE

Warrington Police Station 0845 458 0000
Non-emergency 101

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111 (24hr)

NHS Direct (Dr.) 111

Warrington General Hospital (WGH) 01925 635911
Lovely Lane, Warrington

United Utilities (water supply) 0845 746 2200

Scottish Power – Manweb (electricity) 0845 272 24 24

Environmental Agency (river pollution) 0800 80 70 60 (24hr)

Mersey Docks & Harbour Co. 0151 949 6000
Peel Ports – Safety & Env. Mgr 0151 949 6054

Warrington Borough Council (WBC) 01925 443322
Environmental Health

Floodline (flood risk information) 0845 602 6340

Boat House location is at the end of Howley Lane, Warrington, next to
Kingsway Bridge **WA1 2DN**