

# WARRINGTON RC: HEAD OF THE MERSEY

Sunday 9<sup>TH</sup> February 2020

## **SAFETY PLAN**

***The priority at all times is SAFETY.***

This safety plan outlines the procedures to be adopted by the organisers and competitors to limit the accident/ injury risk during the running of the rowing event.

Contravention of these safety rules will result in disqualification.

The Head of the Mersey is run over two legs each of 1800m, the first is upstream, the second downstream. There are six divisions - the first starts at 9.00am and the last at 3.00pm. More details can be found on WRC website.

The Risk Assessment associated with this event is detailed in document:

*Head Risk Assessment\_WRC\_Regatta\_2020.xlsx*

### **Organising Committee**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Matt Harle</b>	<b>0781 317 8557</b>
<b>Club Captain</b>	<b>Ian Smith</b>	<b>0782 436 4853</b>
<b>Responsible Umpire</b>	<b>Judith Rimmer</b>	<b>0779 600 5767</b>
<b>Event Coordinator</b>	<b>Sharon Tarpey</b>	<b>0752 656 9403</b>
<b>Safety Adviser</b>	<b>Mike Selway</b>	<b>0771 258 8718</b>
<b>Welfare Adviser</b>	<b>Allison Wright</b>	<b>0798 464 0931</b>
<b>First Aid</b>	<b>Adrian Cunliffe</b>	<b>0755 734 3713</b>

**Race Control** will be located in front of the clubhouse throughout the event.

### **A. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

The head course is subject to the effects of wind, stream and, occasionally, tide. Visibility on occasions can be affected by mist. Growth of weeds 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 Head Race 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.

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 **RowSafe** 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 beyond the black & white footbridge downstream of the boathouse.**
- 2) At all times follow the event Circulation Pattern.**

## **C. EVENT MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

*Prior To The Event:* Responsibility for the planning and set up of the event lies with the Organising Committee who can be contacted via [warrington\\_regatta@hotmail.com](mailto:warrington_regatta@hotmail.com).

*During The Event:* Responsibility for the running of the rowing event lies with the Race Committee who can be contacted on the day through Registration which is located near the clubhouse or alternatively, through any race official via the radio network.

For Safety or Welfare issues, see the phone numbers provided in the Contacts section below.

Responsibility for the management of the trailer park is with the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee will provide a trailer park co-ordinator to oversee the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

## **D. CIRCULATION PATTERN (Refer to Plan of Course – Available in the clubhouse and on website)**

**All crews must boat upstream.**

**When going up to the Start:** all crews must boat under the control of the bank-side marshal and proceed upstream along the clubhouse side of the river. Crews should remain on the clubhouse side of the river while continuing to the marshalling area at Paddington Meadows.

**When going to the practice area:** Crews must pass upstream under the left-hand arch of the Kingsway Bridge, then promptly turn their boat around the buoys beyond the bridge and proceed downstream through the left-hand arch of the bridge. Practice should continue on that side of the river opposite the boathouse. **In no circumstances should you proceed beyond the black & white footbridge, as there is a weir just beyond it.** Eventually turning the boat and proceed upstream on the boathouse side of the river, being aware of any boats embarking from the landing stage. Pass through the left-hand arch of the bridge and proceed to the marshalling area.

**At the Finish:** Crews must continue rowing downstream on the left-hand side of the river, passing through the left-hand arch of Kingsway Bridge. Crews should be aware, in certain conditions, waves can develop under the bridge and extend downstream. Once beyond the orange buoys, spin the boat, and returning to the landing stage, disembark as promptly as possible.

**Boats must not be manhandled over the heads of spectators.**

## E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Prior Announcement** was made to Mersey Docks & Harbour Co, and also to local businesses & neighbouring households.
2. **Safety Guidance** together with a map of the course will be provided to all umpires and launch drivers in advance of the event.
3. **Officials' Briefing.** This will be held at the start of the event in the clubhouse, to reiterate the safety guidance and to cover weather conditions, any updates, identify any "at risk" crews and to introduce colleagues.
4. **Race Briefing** will be held for the competitors, prior to each division, in the clubhouse.
5. **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 Section 2.3 of Row Safe – In the event of an emergency, radio communication should only be undertaken by those directly involved in response and its management. The PAN PAN prefix should be used if appropriate.)**

6. **Megaphones** These will be in use by race officials and safety launches as required.
7. **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**.
8. **Public Telephone.** The nearest telephone kiosk to the start is at the end of Howley Lane, furthest from the boathouse.
9. **Emergency Telephone Numbers.** Lists are on the notice board, in the clubhouse and a copy is also held at Race Control. Details are attached at the end of this document.

## F. INCIDENTS, MEDICAL, & FIRST AID

1. Any **Safety Incident** occurring during the competition must be reported immediately to the safety adviser. Full details of the incident will be recorded in the British Rowing Incident Reporting System (<https://incidentreporting.britishrowing.org> ) and reviewed by the organising committee following the event.
2. **First Aid** cover will be provided by qualified first aiders. The first aiders will be located in front of the clubhouse.
3. **Accidents and Emergencies** will be taken to Warrington General Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington, WA5 1QG

## G. SAFETY LAUNCHES

Lifejackets will be worn by all launch crew and passengers. Each safety launch will comprise of two crew. Launches and bank umpires will be positioned along the head course, as shown on the course map. The launch drivers will be over 18 and hold a minimum of RYA Level II

certification. A complete rescue kit comprising of 2 throw lines and thermal blankets competition radio 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. Warn officials and crews of any dangers that arise during the race.
3. 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 at Paddington Meadows and ensure that crews are presented to the start in order.
3. **Race Committee.** May be contacted via any official.

## 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 unsafe equipment. Boats will be inspected and excluded if they fail to meet the standard required for bow balls, heel restraints and mechanical condition.
2. **Equipment** The forward port and starboard rigger on all boats, other than single sculls, should be protected by a backstay.
3. **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.
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 RowSafe 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. **Any garments with hoodies or open pockets are prohibited.**
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.
9. **Competitors with Long Hair.** Competitors are advised to tie up hair such that it does not pose a hazard of snagging.

## J. RACE RULES

1. The Race Committee is accountable for the appropriate running of the event on the day.
2. The Race Committee reserves the right to amend the order of the race programme if found necessary.
3. 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.
4. All crews must carry their number plainly visible on the back of the bowman.
5. Crews should boat in good time for their division, at least **15 minutes** before their scheduled time.
6. 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.
7. Competitors must be at the start at least two **2 minutes** before the scheduled time, stated in the program. Crews failing to do so may be disqualified. No PA announcements will be made!
8. Crews wishing to practice may do so downstream of Kingsway Bridge beyond the turning buoy. Under no circumstances will crews be allowed to practice in the Marshalling area by Paddington Meadows.
9. Coxes will be responsible for meeting the minimum weight for their class of race. Checks will be made when registering and during the day.
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.
12. The forward port and starboard rigger on all boats, other than single sculls, should be protected by a backstay.
13. Competitors exhibiting foul or abusive language during the event will be disqualified.

## **Appendix 1 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 (Ref Row Safe 7.7). Launches will be positioned along the head course. The start marshal's launch will also be available to support as required. The only access point to the river is the landing stage, which will be cleared by the Stage Marshalls.
2. **Decisions.** The official/marshall on scene will make any decisions to suspend racing and will coordinate the response, unless another official/marshall is considered to be better placed. In this case the responsibility will be passed to them. However, if it is the last crew or if incident is well off racing line, it may be safer for other competitors to continue the event. The prefix Pan, Pan will be used to initiate the response, unless there is an immediate threat to life, in which case, Mayday Mayday will be used.
3. **Radio Use.** The official/marshall will briefly summarise the incident and detail any assistance they require to resolve it. All other radio users will maintain radio silence unless their message is pertinent to the incident, and until the official/marshall coordinating the response declares that the incident is over, e.g. "Pan Pan, Pan Pan. Double capsized at Umpire Position 4. Safety Boat 2 - please attend to recover casualties. Starter - please hold crews at start. Out." [In this example, the official may pass responsibility to the safety launch once they are on scene].
4. **Resumption.** Following an incident, Race Control will determine the actions required to restart racing as quickly as possible (to minimise the time other crews are exposed to cold weather) without compromising safety.
5. **Emergencies.** In an emergency, the safety launches will have priority over all other traffic. Any division in progress will be immediately stopped and will be re-rowed at a time determined by the Race Committee.
6. **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 (signposted) under the direction of Club members. Club members will ensure the access road is clear for emergency vehicles. Crews on the water will muster upstream of Kingsway Bridge and await clearance before proceeding to disembark at the landing stage.
7. **Accidents on land.** Most spectators, competitors and supporters congregate around the landing stage and clubhouse area. This area will be monitored by the Stage Marshalls. First aid will be available in the clubhouse. Any further help can be summoned via Race Control.
8. **Lightning. In the event of a thunderstorm,** the British Rowing 30/30 guidance for water evacuation (and seeking shelter) must be followed.

# 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 Adviser :**                    **Mike Selway    0771 2588718**

**WRC Chairman:**                         **Matt Harle 07813178557**

**WRC Club Welfare Officer:**         **Alison Wright    07984 640 931**

**Responsible Umpire :**                   **Judith Rimmer 07796 005 767**

### Emergency- FIRE

- AMBULANCE                            999 or 112  
- POLICE

Boat House location is at the end of Howley Lane, Warrington, next to Kingsway Bridge **WA1 2DN Grid Reference: SJ623880**

Warrington Police Station Non-emergency	0845 458 0000 101
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111 (24hr)
NHS Direct (Dr.)	111
Warrington General Hospital (WGH) Lovely Lane, Warrington	01925 635911
United Utilities (water supply)	0345 672 3733
Scottish Power – Manweb (electricity)	0800 0015400
Environment Agency (river pollution) Incidents Hotline	0800 80 70 60 0300 123 1239
Floodline (flood risk information)	0345 988 1188