

WARRINGTON ROWING CLUB

HEAD SAFETY PLAN



THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The main members of the committee are the Club Chairman, Club Captain, Event Co-ordinator, Safety Adviser and Race Committee Chairman.

In the weeks prior to the event, the Organising Committee will –

- Appoint a Responsible Umpire, First Aid Co-ordinator and other the key personnel who help run the event.
- Notify Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, Warrington & Stockport Anglers, Police, Fire & Ambulance Services, local businesses & neighbouring households.
- Reserve a 4th safety launch, additional radios and megaphones.

A week before the event –

- The weather forecast will be consulted.
- The availability of umpires, marshals and key personnel will be confirmed.
- Qualifications of launch drivers to drive will be checked.
- Condition of launches to be used on the day will be checked.
- The contents of the Safety Bags to be used in the launches will be checked.
- The contents of First Aid Boxes will be checked.
- Competitors will be emailed with the provisional draw and safety messages.
- Buoys will be positioned in the river to demarcate the Circulation Pattern.
- The course will be patrolled for any major debris or overhanging trees that need removing.
- Likewise, the umpiring positions will be checked for hazards and cleared.
- All of the club's site will be checked for hazards, and the grass will be mowed.

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A few days before the event, the Organising Committee will confirm that it can be run safely. If there is doubt, then alternative arrangements will be considered. These could include changes to the course, cancelling some categories or cancelling the whole event. Once this decision has been made, all potential participants will be contacted as soon as possible.

ON THE DAY PRIOR TO RACING STARTED

The Race Committee, which consists of umpires and whose duties are detailed in **BR Rules of Racing 6-1-4 & 6-1-5**, will now take over full control.

A check will be made of the water temperature.

The Race Committee will then confirm that it is still safe to run the event; if not, see above for alternative options.

THE DAY OF THE HEAD

A meeting will be held of all umpires and marshals to allocate tasks, report any unusual circumstances or activities, and issue megaphones and mobile radios. Also, the radio protocols (**RowSafe 2.3**) to be used in an emergency will be re-iterated. A list of all umpires' and marshals' mobile phones will be compiled to act as a back-up.

Race Control will be set up in front of the Clubhouse and umpires & marshals will be despatched to their assigned locations. Once in position a radio check should be carried out from all locations.

A race briefing will be held for all competitors prior to each division.

LAUNCH ACTIVITIES

Lifejackets will be worn by all safety launch crewmembers and passengers. Each safety launch will comprise of two crew. As launches travel to their race location, they should keep a lookout for any recent debris or obstructing branches. During the event, any significant changes in river or weather conditions should be reported to Race Control.

STAGE MARSHALS

Stage marshals' main function is to facilitate the launching and landing of competitors' boats in a safe and orderly manner. However, prior to boating they carry out safety inspections of the boats, in particular 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. In addition, they need to ensure that all crew members are wearing appropriate clothing and essential safety equipment. Any garments with hoodies or open pockets are prohibited. The proximity of supporters and spectators to the landing stage should also be monitored and controlled to minimise the risk of collisions with boats being carried.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Any collision or capsizing during the event should be immediately reported to Race Control, and a recommendation made as to whether to stop racing and/or the event. The nearest launch should attend the scene, and if considered sufficiently severe, radio communication should only be initiated by those directly involved in response and its management, in line with radio protocol (**Row Safe 2.3**). Ill or injured rowers will be transported by launch back to the landing stage. Umpires and marshals shall direct all crews to stop rowing and move to the sides of the river to allow the launch unrestricted access back to the boathouse.

First aid cover is provided by trained first aiders in front of the clubhouse, co-ordinated by Adrian Cunliffe (0755 734 3713). Any safety incidents should be reported as soon as possible to the Club Safety Adviser, Mike Selway (0771 258 8718), who will enter the details on the BR Incident Report System.

Mike Selway
Club Safety Adviser