

RUNCORN ROWING CLUB

Event Safety Plan

Introduction

- Runcorn Rowing Club arranges several rowing events on the River Weaver Navigation during the year. These events involve up to 500 oarsmen and scullers of all ages from all over the North of England and, with the addition of their supporters and the public, 1000 to 1500 people can be present at an event.
- The maximum number of people afloat on the water at any one time is unlikely to be more than 250.
- The event is normally organised from the Club boathouse at the lower end of Cholmondley Road, Clifton in Runcorn. Car and trailer parking is in the lower part of Cholmondley Road, and in the Ineos-Chlor Contractors' car park. Marshals control parking and ensure that access is always available along Cow Hey Lane (between the A557 roundabout and Ineos-Chlor Liquids' Filling Gate) for HGVs and emergency vehicles.
- Safety on the water is regulated in accordance with the Amateur Rowing Association's Water Safety Code and is enforced by a team of Officials and Umpires.
- Safety Launches are positioned at key points on the course, manned by RYA licensed drivers carrying mobile radios and basic rescue equipment.
- The Starter, officials along the course, and the Finish Judge all have electronic loudhailers and are in radio communication with the Co-ordinating Umpire and Race Control.
- In the event of a major incident at Ineos-Chlor, the Race Committee will co-operate with Ineos-Chlor's Off-site Plan. Race Control will broadcast instructions to competitors and spectators via loud hailers or the public address system. In the event of a major incident, competitors and spectators must not attempt to leave the Club unless instructed by Race Control, as this would impede access to the works by the emergency services.
- In the event of an incident on the M56 that creates a hazard to competitors or spectators, Race Control will issue instructions via loud hailers or the public address system.
- First Aiders and the Medical Officer are available at the Clubhouse. The public emergency services can be summoned as necessary by Race Control or by the Starter, both of whom have mobile telephones. In the event of casualties needing to be evacuated, they will be brought by a safety launch to the Clubhouse at Cholmondley Road, to the road access under the M56 viaduct (far side of river) or to Sutton Weaver A56 swing bridge, where road access is available.
- The Competitors' supporters and the general public gather predominantly at the Clubhouse and the Officials and First Aiders in this area would deal with any incident involving them.
- Activities on the water are pre-planned and carefully controlled by Race Monitors or Umpires under the overall control of Race Control. Safety of competitors and spectators is under the overall control of the Chairman of the Race Committee and the Safety Advisor. If there is bad weather or dangerous conditions on the course, activities on the water may be curtailed or suspended, depending on the hazard. All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs and have to certify that they are able to swim at least 100 metres while wearing racing clothing. Coxswains and people in the safety launches wear lifejackets or personal buoyancy aids while afloat.

Appendices

Duties of the Organizing Committee & the Race Committee Chairman
Information for the Safety Advisor, Medical Officer and Co-ordinating Umpire
Information for Competitors at Head Races

A map of the Head Race Courses is on our website at <http://runcornrowing.com> or available on paper on race day.

RUNCORN ROWING CLUB

Event Safety Plan

Duties of the Organising Committee and the Race Committee Chairman. Information for the Safety Advisor, Medical Officer and Race Monitors

The Organising Committee is formed from within the Club running the event, co-opting any external members if necessary. It appoints :-

The Race Committee and its Chairman (in accordance with the A. R. A. Rules of Racing), Safety Advisor and Medical Officer

It publicises the event and takes entries from competitors.

It liaises with the Local Authority, the British Waterways Board, the Police and the Emergency services prior to the event, as necessary.

It arranges the provision of communication equipment. It arranges the provision of Safety equipment. e.g. launches, etc. Through the Medical Officer it arranges First Aid cover at the event and liaises as necessary with the public ambulance service.

It arranges car parking and control.

It arranges catering. It liaises with other local firms and organisations, whose operation may have an effect on the event, or who may be affected by the event, in particular with Ineos-Chlor.

The Race Committee Chairman has overall control and responsibility for activities and safety on the water.

This control is exercised through the Co-ordinating Umpire, the course Umpires and Race Monitors who have the activities on the water within their sight and are in radio communication.

In collaboration with the Organising Committee, he approves the appointment of all officials.

He publishes any Local Rules.

He ensures that Competitors and equipment are checked for compliance with the Safety Code by the Control Commission, who inspect them each time they embark.

He takes all decisions concerning racing and the application of the ARA Rules of Racing and the ARA Water Safety Code.

He takes note of any concerns of the Safety Advisor and takes appropriate action via Race Control or the Co-ordinating Umpire. The racing courses are not subject to tide and only slightly by stream but are occasionally affected by wind.

The Safety Advisor and the Race Committee Chairman together will monitor the weather and the conditions on the course and decide jointly on the appropriate action to be taken in the event of adverse or dangerous conditions. This may be to cancel specific categories, to alter the course by shortening or moving, to cancel the event, or other appropriate action.

They will advise competitors as soon as possible of their decision via the public address system or loudhailers and will control embarkation and racing through the Marshals and Umpires.

In the event of an incident on the course, Race Control and the Co-ordinating Umpire will be advised by radio of the incident by the Umpire covering that part of the course. Race Control will call for the nearest Safety Boat(s) to attend the incident and at a Regatta, will normally suspend racing until after the incident has been dealt with and the course is safe for use again.

The Medical Officer will arrange for First Aid cover to deal with any minor casualties. If external assistance is needed, or casualties require hospital treatment, the Medical Officer will arrange or oversee the evacuation to the nearest A&E hospital, which is **Warrington General Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington.**

All Umpires, Race Monitors, Starters and Timekeepers are in communication on a radio link with the Co-ordinating Umpire, Race Control and with each other. Safety launches are present at intervals along the course. They will be in radio contact with each other and with Race Control which will be situated at the finish during racing. Before and after the race, officials will be positioned in safety launches above the start and below the finish, to aid in marshalling crews.

Race Monitors are responsible for the correct adherence to the Rules of Racing in the section of river under their jurisdiction. **In addition they are responsible for the safety of competitors in this area.**

In the event of **any** official seeing, or being advised of an incident that requires immediate assistance they will immediately call on the radio "**EMERGENCY, EMERGENCY**". *All other radio users except Race Control will observe radio silence and follow the instructions of that Official.* The Safety launches will be alerted by Race Control, who will co-ordinate any action which is required and who will call for external help as needed.

If Race Monitors can do so, they should help at an incident directly, abandoning the supervision of racing while assisting.

Race Monitors or Umpires will use loudhailers to warn any passing crews of any new hazards or problems on the course.

RUNCORN ROWING CLUB

Event Safety Plan

Appendix IV – Information for Head Race Competitors

PLEASE NOTE

- The event is run under the ARA Rules of Racing, and the ARA Water Safety Code. Local rules are detailed in this Safety Plan.
- Please park your cars or buses in the car park at the top of the road down to the Club, or if space is available, on the road down to the Club.
- **Boat trailers must be brought down the road to the Club, turned round and parked on the left of the approach road facing uphill, as close to the boating area as possible, space permitting.**
- **At all times an access way must be available on the roadway for emergency and other vehicles.**

- **DO NOT assemble your boats on the roadway.**
- You will boat from the Club stages. Your boat will be checked by Control Commission for compliance with the safety requirements, and your identities may be compared with the entry list.
- After boating under the control of the Stage Marshals, move upstream to the Start, where the Start Marshals will guide you to your starting position. and control you for the start of the race.
- After the race, continue paddling on beyond both the white (A56) swing bridge and the railway bridge before stopping, (to make space for other finishers). Make your way to the club landing stages, where the Stage Marshals will control your disembarkation.
- The river is classed as a commercial waterway and may be used by ships, large commercial or pleasure craft. The Race Committee will ascertain any shipping or commercial boat movements on the day of the event and advise competitors accordingly. There is a deep channel in the river which these large boats must use or face the danger of running aground. When one of these boats passes, the water level will drop as it does so, often by 10-15 inches. If you are stopped, it is important not to be resting oars on the bank. The ideal place to be is about 3 feet out from the bank, clear of any underwater obstacles and with the bows pointing slightly towards the ship. As the ship passes, the rowing/sculling boat crew should start off and continue. Do NOT make any sudden changes of direction immediately in front of a ship as the Pilot may think there is a possibility of collision and deliberately run his boat aground to stop it. Racing will be suspended during the passage of these craft.
- If a ship is encountered, keep to the starboard side (sculler's left hand side) of the river, but away from the outside of any bends.
- If you are involved in an incident on the water, or require assistance, draw the attention of the nearest Umpire to the problem if they are not already aware of it.
- In the event of a dangerous incident during racing, racing may be suspended, and safety launches will move to the scene of the incident at high speed. Watch out for their wash. medical support and emergency phones are available at the landing stage, from where outside assistance can be summoned. A public telephone is available in the upper stretch of the road leading down to the Club.

COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Equipment. All Clubs must ensure that the equipment used by their members is safe.
- Ability to swim. Clubs must ensure that its rowing members are able to swim at least 100m clothed.
- Bad weather. **Clubs must ensure that their competing members are adequately clothed for the weather conditions, especially in the colder months of the year.**
- Fitness for competition. It is the responsibility of the Captain or person making the entry for the event to ensure that the competitors are competent to compete over the course without putting themselves at risk. The Race Committee reserve the right to refuse to allow any competitor to race if they feel that competitor is not competent.
- Capsize drill. Clubs should ensure that their members are trained in capsized drill and that, in the event of a capsized, they should hold onto their boat and wait for assistance. If safe to do so, crews should attempt to reach the bank.
- ARA Rules of Racing and local rules. All competitors must make themselves aware of the ARA Rules of Racing and the local rules issued to all Clubs in this document