

Chiswick Amateur Regatta 2024 – Safety Plan

ACCIDENTS

ON WATER, STAY WITH YOUR BOAT AND WAIT FOR THE SAFETY LAUNCH

During a Race:

- Crews must stop racing immediately if instructed to do so by the Umpire
- The Umpire's first duty will be to the competitors or persons in difficulty
- The Umpire will summon the Safety Launch and inform Race Control
- Racing will be suspended until the course is cleared
- Race Control will alert the land based First Aid Post if advised to do so by the Safety Launch
- All non-essential radio conversation will cease until the Safety Launch stands down

Outside a Race:

- The nearest Radio Contact (Umpire, Marshal, Spotter) will summon the Safety Launch and inform Race Control
- If necessary, the nearest Umpire's or Marshal's launch will provide immediate assistance
- All non-essential radio conversation will cease until the Safety Launch stands-down
- If the incident is on the course, racing will be suspended until the course is cleared

In both situations above:

- Race Control will alert the land based First Aid Post
- Race Control may summon the RNLI Lifeboat by initiating a 999 to 'Coastguard' should the incident require assistance beyond the scope of the resources which are available on the Regatta site

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ON LAND, CONTACT THE NEAREST OFFICIAL

- The nearest official will inform Race Control
- Race Control will alert the land based First Aid Post
- The land based First Aid Post will assess what further action is needed
- Race Control may initiate a 999 call should the incident require assistance beyond the scope of the resources which are available on the Regatta site

KEY PERSONNEL

- Regatta Secretary: Rebekah Edgar 07793532372
- Chairman of the Race Committee: Luke Howells 07773 849505
- Safety Adviser: Adrian Ballardie 07710 799886
- Entries Secretary: Malcolm Cook
- Regatta HQ/Race Control is situated downstream of the Quintin Boat Club in the Gym.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- First Aid: A paramedic ambulance is situated in the carpark between Quintin Boathouse and Regatta HQ
- Safety Launch cover will be provided during racing. The Safety Launch will be situated on the course
- The RNLi lifeboat station at Chiswick has been informed of the event
- Hospitals: Charing Cross Hospital is the nearest hospital
- The Port of London Authority (PLA) has been informed of the event

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COMMUNICATIONS

- All waterborne Officials, the Safety Launch & Marshals are in radio contact with Regatta HQ
- All key regatta officials have mobile telephones

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Regatta Committee will endeavour to provide a safe racing environment. This does not replace an individual's responsibility to themselves, fellow competitors, spectators, and other river users to conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner throughout the event.

- Equipment:** All boats must comply with the British Rowing Rules of Racing and Row Safe. If your boat does not comply with the safety rules you will not be allowed to boat until the fault is rectified. If your boat cannot be made safe you will not be allowed to compete
- Competitors:** The foreshore in the boating area can have **sharp objects** on it. Thus walking over it without shoes or boots can lead to injury.
- Coxswains, bow steers and scullers:** Please read and make yourself familiar with the Information for Competitors and the Course Maps
- Lifejackets:** It is accepted national practice that rowers do not wear lifejackets/buoyancy aids unless individual club safety advisors have specifically identified a need. This practice is in line with BR 'Row Safe' published guidance. Individual crewmembers will have satisfied their club membership requirement regarding their swimming ability. All race officials, i.e., umpires, marshals and drivers will be wearing lifejackets/buoyancy aids. Officials will provide a line-of-sight coverage along whole course and any alarm will be raised by them or another member of the crew, e.g., the driver
- Coxswains:** are required to wear life jackets/buoyancy aids, which will be reviewed by control commission. As a reminder all coxswains of bow loaded fours **must** only wear manually operated lifejackets

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- **Start Marshal/Start Manager:** The Start Marshal/Start Manager will be at the start of the course. Please obey their instructions
- **Other River Users:** The Regatta is being held on a Bank Holiday weekend and the river may be busy. Competitors should understand that the river will be open to other traffic and that private motor boats/launches may not take appropriate action to reduce their speed. Competitors should make due allowance for this.
- **PLA:** The PLA has ultimate authority over navigation. If the PLA Harbourmaster's Boat gives instructions to competitors, please listen, and obey them.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of poor/worsening weather, please listen to announcements from Race Control, who will advise whether racing will be temporarily suspended.

In the event of lightning all competitors and officials are to come ashore as soon as practicable and take shelter in the Boathouses.

Note: You should be sure that your crew is competent to cope with the prevailing conditions before you allow them to boat.

PLA RED FLAG.

If the PLA "Red Flag" the Tideway, racing will not be allowed on the ebb tide, and it will only be allowed on the flood tide at the discretion of the Safety Advisor and Chief Umpire.

PLA YELLOW FLAG.

Should the PLA fluvial flag be yellow on the day of the regatta the regatta will still run and no competitors will be excluded. However, when risk assessing their own crews' ability to marshal and compete, coaches should consider the PLA's yellow flag advice, which is:

"The Port of London Authority advise man-powered vessel, in particular; Beginners, Novices, Younger Junior (J15's and younger), or Any weaker crews, and those that do not usually navigate on the tidal section of the river Thames not to go afloat on the Ebb Tide. All river users of man-powered vessels should navigate with extreme caution and consider whether it is safe for them to go afloat on the Ebb Tide."

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If, at the time of making the draw, it looks likely that the regatta will run on a yellow flag the organising committee will use their best endeavours to schedule Beginner/J15/J14 events to take place on the flood tide thus mitigating the effect of the yellow flag on the youngest and least experienced competitors. If it is not possible to schedule all of these events in their entirety on the flood tide the organising committee will flag this directly to the club(s) affected. Beginner/J15/J14 crews that are in events scheduled to take place on the ebb tide that are scratched by 9pm on the Thursday before the regatta due to an anticipated yellow flag will receive a [full/partial] refund.

The Chiswick Regatta committee recommends a cautious attitude to risk-assessment for the Tideway: please do not boat crews for the regatta if you have any doubts as to their ability to cope with the conditions.

THE CHISWICK REGATTA COMMITTEE WISHES COMPETITORS SAFE AND ENJOYABLE RACING