

WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA

7th June 2025

Instructions to Competitors

ALL CREW MEMBERS AND COACHES MUST READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND ENSURE CREWS ACT ACCORDINGLY

The primary consideration of the Walton and Weybridge Regatta is the safety of all competitors, officials, spectators and other river users

These instructions should be read in conjunction with the Course Map and the Safety Plan and adhered to at all times

Arrival and Parking

Trailers

Once the Draw has been finalized, clubs will be notified where they should park their trailers.

Trailer parking will be mainly in Sunbury Lane, KT12 2JA, with some in the **Sunbury Lane extension road** and some in the **Refinery** opposite Walton RC. Any above the permitted number in these areas will be asked to park at the riverside end of **Waterside Drive** opposite the entrance to the Xcel Leisure Centre (the single yellow line restrictions do not apply over weekends). Note that there is a ~150m walk along the towpath from Waterside Drive to Walton RC. Waterside Drive is also the place to park for those carrying a boat on their car.

Clubs allocated to both parking areas in Sunbury Lane **MUST** bring their trailers on **Friday 6th June** to Walton RC. Please contact Graham Pointer on 07887 561251 or email grahampointer@me.com to confirm receipt of your allocated trailer parking place and to arrange a time of arrival. Please note that the club will not be manned all day on Friday and there are barriers to prevent entry into the parking areas.

We advise clubs to bring sufficient supporting teams to help carry bigger boats. If you wish to arrive **before 7am on the day of the regatta**, please park trailers on the left-hand side of Waterside Drive.

Any club allocated to the Refinery **MUST** leave on Saturday evening as the facility will not be open on Sunday morning. Clubs wishing to leave trailers in Sunbury Lane extension road overnight on Saturday evening can do so at their own risk but must leave by 10.30 on Sunday 8th June.

Boats can be left on trestles in the vicinity of the club as directed by marshals on race day.

Parking

All competitors and supporters can park in the **Waterside (Dudley Road) Recreation Ground**, entrance at What3Words [///ropes.slave.punt](https://www.what3words.com/ropes.slave.punt). Clubs are invited to set up a **club gazebo** along the river-facing railings in the Rec from which racing can be viewed. Note that BBQs are not allowed. Parking will cost £3; a programme will be included in this price. **Please bring £3 cash to avoid delays.**

Competitors arriving by car on Saturday **must not** be dropped off in Sunbury Lane. If the Waterside (Dudley Road) Rec is full, then parking will be along Waterside Drive next to the Xcel Leisure Centre.

Regatta Registration

Competitors must report to Regatta Registration downstairs in the Walton RC gym at least one hour before their first race.

Regatta Registration will be responsible for:

- Issuing Numbers: to be worn on the back by a single sculler or bow oarsman/woman.
- Weighing coxswains and issuing weight certificates: coxswains must keep these with them at all times and produce them to any official on request. Coxswains must provide their own dead weight, if required, which must be something specific, describable and recognisable. Dead weights containing liquid or sand must be sealed and certified by Regatta Registration. Coxswains may be re-weighed after races.
- Cox-boxes or similar are NOT counted as part of the coxswain's weight (Rule 2.3.7e)
- Checking BR Racing Licences. Random checks will be made as crews collect their numbers. No prize will be awarded to a crew that fails to provide valid Racing Licences. Such crews are liable to disqualification unless the missing information is produced to the Committee within three days of the regatta.

Control Commission

Control Commission will be responsible for:

- Administering British Rowing Rules of Racing which place a clear obligation on Competitors to ensure their boats are safe and comply with the British Rowing Water Safety Code (rule 2-3-8).
- Conducting **random checks** on boats going afloat. If any deficiency is identified, the crew will be sent away from the landing stage to rectify it and that crew must accept the consequences of late arrival at the start, which may be disqualification.
- General safety checks: these include monitoring the state of the landing stages and their approach to limit avoidable trip hazards such as abandoned trestles.
- **Medical Conditions:** as the operation of a safe event is the Organising Committee's absolute priority, competitors, or the responsible adult in charge of juniors, are advised to notify Regatta Control of any medical conditions that may necessitate a particular course of action in the case of an accident or emergency, e.g. asthma or epilepsy. The information will only be made known to officials on a strictly 'need to know' basis.

Boating Area

All crews must boat and disembark from the landing stage in front of Walton Rowing Club and St George's College Boat Club. You will need to provide your own trestles. Space for boats is limited in this area so please co-operate with the Raft Marshals. It is the competitor's own responsibility to boat in sufficient time and it is recommended that at least **20 minutes** is allowed to get from the landing stage to the start. Please ensure your blades and equipment are ready at the landing stage before carrying your boat there for launching.

Three Important Safety Matters

- 1) Boat with bows pointing upstream.
- 2) Check the course is CLEAR of racing crews before proceeding across to the far side of the river.
- 3) Once in the Navigation Channel crews must stay close to the bank at ALL TIMES.

Proceeding to the Start

Regatta Jurisdiction:

'Regatta Warning' signs positioned in the river below Walton Bridge and above Sunbury Weir mark the boundaries of the regatta. Within this area umpires, marshals and rescue launch teams will be exercising their skills to minimise risk to all crews and maximise safety. There is sufficient space for adequate warming up and cooling down. Crews that feel they need to paddle above Walton Bridge to warm up must clearly understand that they do so entirely **at their own risk** and that in so doing they are leaving the Regatta Area and the associated safety benefits.

Navigation Channel:

Crews paddling to the start are to keep to the starboard (bow) side of the Navigation Channel, proceeding slowly but without stopping or overtaking. The Environment Agency insist that river traffic using the navigation channel must not be unduly impeded; any crew seen to violate these instructions will be given an official warning.

There is a small weir (Tumbling Bay) just upstream of Walton Rowing Club and your attention is drawn to it as a potential hazard.

Practice starts (and firm/race pace paddling) in the navigation channel are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** but are allowed above the start having due regard to other river traffic.

The Start

- Crews arriving at the Start must proceed past it, keeping to the Middlesex bank, until they are upstream of the Regatta Warning Sign. After careful scrutiny and when safe to do so, cross the river to the Surrey side and wait upstream of the Walton Marina pontoons until called forward by the Floating Marshal (in an orange launch.)
- The start will be a 'stern on' stake-boat start, which will be staggered to take the stream and the slight bend into account, which can favour the Middlesex station. The first named crew in the racing timetable will take the Middlesex station (furthest from towpath). The Start Umpire situated on the launch moored behind the stake-boats will start crews. This Umpire will also umpire the first section of the race.
- If weather and/or stream conditions make it difficult to start races in a timely manner due to difficulties of attaching to the stakeboats, the Race Committee may change to **Free Starts**. The following procedure will be followed:
 - Crews will be paired off by the start area marshals as for stakeboat starts.
 - The Launch Marshal will call crews to proceed to a position just downstream of the stakeboats.
 - An umpire will be assigned as Aligner and will position crews with the same stagger as the stakeboats.

- When crews are aligned, the Aligner will raise a flag and shout “Aligned”.
- The Starter in the Start Launch will start the race.

The Course

- The course is ~1,000m long with a slight bend at The Anglers Wharf. The course is umpired from the bank by four umpires based (1) at the start, (2) on the Environment Agency pier at Anglers Wharf, (3) on the bank at Thames Valley Skiff Club and, (4) at the finish.
- There are three lines of buoys on the course: one to separate the course from the navigation channel, another to mark the centre of the course, and a third intermittent line along the Surrey bank, marking particular hazards. Crews **MUST** stay on their station and **lines of buoys MUST NOT be crossed**.

The Finish

- The finish is at Miskin’s Wharf, 100m upstream of Walton Rowing Club. A bell will sound as the first crew crosses the line. **Dead heats** will be re-rowed immediately from the original start. No delays will be permitted.
- Crews wishing to wind down after racing must be aware of crews boating from the landing stage, but thereafter may paddle downstream, turning by the floating Regatta Warning Sign. On returning to disembark, crews must wait patiently in single file and must not obstruct racing crews winding down or any other river traffic.

Conduct during the race

Unaided voice assistance from the bank is now permitted. Crews must, however, be absolutely clear that the Umpire’s word is final whatever is advised from the bank.

Wildlife

There are large numbers of swans on the Walton Reach, particularly close to the Anglers Hotel. Crews must take all reasonable steps to avoid collision or interference with swans or any wildfowl.

A race will be stopped if it looks likely that there will be a collision with a swan.

Any crew colliding with wildfowl **must inform a regatta official** as soon as practicable. In the event of a competitor being attacked by an aggressive swan, they are advised not to leave their boat, particularly not to jump overboard, but to paddle away as quickly as possible. They should consider heading for the bank or to where there are people able to offer assistance.