

WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA

21st May 2016

Safety Rules, Procedures and Instructions to Competitors

ALL CREW MEMBERS, COACHES AND ROWING MASTERS 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 Circulation Maps and adhered to at all times

1. Arrival and Parking

Trailers may be brought down to the bottom of Sunbury Lane and parked along the lane extension around the corner next to Walton RC. Access to this lane is limited to the following hours:

FRIDAY 20th June 16.00-19.00; SATURDAY 21st May 07.00-20.00

This is not a secure area and the Committee cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to equipment. The lane **MUST** be vacated by 20.00 on Saturday.

ONLY TRAILERS may be left in this area; towing vehicles **MUST** unhitch and park elsewhere. Please make full use of Felix Road Recreation Ground (KT12 2JZ) and the Elmbridge Leisure Centre at Waterside Drive. Drivers of trailer towing vehicles must exercise due caution when manoeuvring into and out of the lane using a second person to guide them safely when reversing.

2. Regatta Control

Competitors **must** report to Regatta Control downstairs in Walton RC *at least* 1 hour before their first race.

Regatta Control 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 to any official on request. Coxswains must provide their own dead weight, if required, which must something specific, describable and recognisable. Dead weights containing liquid or sand must be sealed and certified by CC. 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 a valid Racing Licences. Such crews are liable to disqualification unless the missing information is produced to the Committee within 3 days of the Regatta.
- **Equipment Check.** The British Rowing Rules of Racing places a clear obligation on **Competitors** to ensure their boats are safe and comply with the British Rowing Water Safety Code (rule 2-3-8). Regatta Control may conduct 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.
- **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.

3. 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) **WHEN COURSE IS CLEAR OF RACING CREWS, proceed across to the far side of the river.**
- 3) **ENSURE THAT YOU PASS DOWNSTREAM OF THE LARGE RED BUOY OPPOSITE WALTON BOATHOUSE and into the Navigation Channel.**
- 4) **ONCE IN THE NAVIGATION LANE CREWS MUST STAY CLOSE TO THE BANK AT ALL TIMES**

THESE ARE ESSENTIAL SAFETY MATTERS AND ANY CREWS FAILING WILL BE PENALISED.

4. Proceeding to the start

Regatta Jurisdiction: 'Walton Bridge' and the 'Regatta Warning' signs above Sunbury Weir mark the boundaries of Walton and Weybridge 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 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 in the navigation channel are STRICTLY FORBIDDEN, but are allowed above the start having due regard for other river traffic. Crews arriving at the Start must proceed past it, keeping to the Middlesex bank, until they are above the Regatta Warning Sign. Then, after careful scrutiny and when safe to do so, cross the river to the Surrey side and wait by the Walton Marina pontoons until called forward by the Start Marshal.

5. Racing

The Start: The start will be a 'stern on' stake-boat start, which will be staggered to take into account the stream, which can favour the Surrey station, and the slight bend which favours 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.

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 before 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 putting out 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.

BR Rules have now changed so that 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

Please note: 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. 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.