

# WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## 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 finalised, 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 5th June** to Walton RC. Please contact Graham Pointer on 07887 561251 or email [grahampointer@me.com](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> June.

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

### Competitor Parking

All competitors and supporters can park in the **Waterside (Dudley Road) Recreation Ground**, entrance at What3Words ///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 the back of the boat bays, 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 wrist bands and weight certificates: green band to confirm cox meets minimum weight requirement, red band if cox needs to carry weights together with a

certificate describing the amount and type of weight to be carried. Coxswains must keep these certificates with them when going afloat and produce them to any official on request. Coxswains must provide their own dead weight, if required, which must be something specific, describable and recognizable. Dead weights containing liquid or sand must be sealed and certified by Regatta Registration. Coxswains may be re-weighed after races. Dead weights must be carried as near to the cox as possible, but not on them, and must not impede their exit from the boat. (Rule 7-2-7e)

- Cox-boxes or similar are NOT counted as part of the coxswain's weight (Rule 7-2-7g)
- 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.
- Competitors, or the responsible adult in charge of juniors, must notify Regatta Registration of any medical conditions that could 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 and safety on a strictly 'need to know' basis.
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### **Control Commission / Landing Stage Marshals**

Will be responsible for:

- Administering British Rowing Rules of Racing which place a clear obligation on Competitors to ensure boats are compliant with the British Rowing Water Safety Code (rule 2-3-8).
- Conducting **random checks** on boats going afloat. Any deficiency must be rectified away from the landing stage and crews must accept the consequences of late arrival at the start.
- General safety checks: these include keeping the landing stage clear to limit trip hazards.

### **Boating**

- All boating from the landing stage in front of Walton Rowing Club and St George's College Boat Club.
- Co-operation with Raft Marshals is mandatory owing to limited space. Belongings must not be left on the landing stage when going afloat.
- Competitors must provide their own trestles and ensure all blades and equipment are placed neatly at the landing stage prior to bringing the boat for launching
- Allow at least **20 minutes** to get from the landing stage to the start. It is the individual's responsibility to arrive on time but please advise Control Commission if you are unavoidably delayed.

### **Important Safety Point:**

1. **Boat with bows pointing upstream**
2. **Check the course is CLEAR of racing crews before crossing the river**
3. **In the Navigation Channel stay close to the bank at ALL TIMES**
4. **No cycling is allowed through the boating area.**

### **Proceeding to the Start**

#### **Regatta Jurisdiction:**

The area between the warning signs below Walton Bridge and above Sunbury Weir will be monitored by umpires, marshals and rescue launch teams to ensure safety.

There is sufficient space for adequate warming up and cooling down above and below the race course. Crews wishing 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:**

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.

All crews must keep to the starboard (bow) side and paddle slowly with no stopping or overtaking.

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

There is a small weir (Tumbling Bay) just upstream of Walton Rowing Club and your attention is drawn to it as a potential hazard. Keep paddling past the weir after crossing the river. Keep a look out for racing crews approaching the finish.

### The Start

- Crews arriving at the Start must keep to the Middlesex bank, until they are upstream of the Regatta Warning Sign. 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 'stern on' stakeboat start will be staggered to take account of the stream and slight bend. 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 stakeboats, will start crews and 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 will use **Free Starts as follows:**
  - Marshals will pair off crews 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, from just below Walton Marina to Miskins Wharf, approximately 100 metres upstream of Walton Rowing Club. There is a slight bend at The Anglers Hotel.
- Umpires are positioned along the bank and at the Finish. They will give instructions using a loud hailer. Crews must obey umpire instructions or risk disqualification.
- Three lines of buoys mark (1) separation from the navigation channel  
(2) each racing lane  
(3) specific hazards along the Surrey bank

Crews **MUST** stay on their station and **lines of buoys MUST NOT be crossed**

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.

### The Finish

- A bell or hooter will sound as each crew crosses the finish line.
- After finishing crews must wind down quickly and paddle down past the landing stages, looking out for crews leaving the stages, then turn and approach upstream, in single file. Crews returning to clubs upstream must cross to the Middlesex side and proceed with care along the navigation channel. All crews must keep a look out for other competitors and other river users at all times and follow the instructions of umpires, marshals, and safety crews.
- Dead heats will be re-rowed immediately from the original start. No delays will be permitted.

### SAFETY LAUNCHES AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

Safety launches will be on the water, in the start and finish areas, 30 minutes before racing starts. **No crews**

**are to go afloat before safety crews are on the water and without permission of the boating marshals.** Any race official may summon Safety.

A land based medical team with an ambulance will be positioned close to the Finish.

#### **Wildfowl**

Crews must take all practical steps to avoid collisions with wildfowl, especially swans. **A race will be stopped if it looks likely that there will be a collision with a swan.** Any crew colliding with swans **must inform a regatta official** as soon as possible. If attacked by a swan, paddle away and seek assistance. **DO NOT** leave your boat.

#### **Refreshments**

Refreshments will be available from the refreshment marquee close to the Finish.