

**WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA**  
**Saturday, 6th June 2026**  
**Instructions for Umpires and Marshals**

**RADIOS**

There are 2 channels:

- **(Channel 1)** Umpires and Safety
- **(Channel 8/16, Repeater Channel: Fully Clockwise)** Marshals, race updates and announcing any delayed crews.

Racing is downstream, from a stakeboat start at Walton Marina. The course runs in buoyed lanes.

**REGISTRATION (in Walton RC)**

Based at the back of the boat bay at Walton RC. Andrew Ruddle will be in charge of crew registration, issuing numbers, weighing in of coxes (with support from CC), and issuing winners slips. He will alert Race Control of any scratched crews or requests for alterations to the race programme.

**LANDING STAGE MARSHALS**

Ensure safe practice in the boating area, particularly on the landing stage. No shoes/water bottles etc to be left on the stages.

Do not allow crews to boat if a race is nearing or just clearing the finish.

Advise crews to paddle to the start on the Middlesex (closest to the bank) side of the navigation channel.

Check that bow is wearing the correct race number and that it is visible.

Crews are instructed to boat at least 20 minutes before their race time. Please check against the Race timetable and advise the Control Commission umpire of late arrivals or no shows.

Direct winning crews back to the start for their next race. They must not disembark (unless for a medical reason) as this will hold up racing. If a crew does need to disembark, please notify CC as this may impact the race time.

Crews returning to the rafts must first paddle about 50 metres downstream, turn around a buoy and paddle back up along the Surrey bank, in single file. No crew may return directly from the Finish to the landing stage, unless on medical grounds.

Racing is downstream, from a stakeboat start at Walton Marina. The course runs in buoyed lanes.

**CONTROL COMMISSION (CC) (channel 1)**

Based at the boating area at Walton RC. Undertake random safety checks of boats, life-jackets and check weights carried by coxes. Coxes will carry a green

wrist band if they meet the minimum weight requirement, a red wrist band if they need to carry additional weights, together with a weight certificate describing the amount and type of weight. Assist with boating if needed. Report any delayed/no show crews to Race Control, firstly checking with registration that a crew has checked in if advised by the marshal that they have not appeared for their allotted race.

### **BRIDGE MARSHAL (channel 8/16)**

Call sign: “**Bridge Marshal**”. Standing on the bank below Walton Bridge. Pair up crews on their correct stations. Crews arriving should be directed to turn between the bridge and the warning sign and await your further instructions. Allow early arrivers to warm up above the bridge but warn them that they do so at their own risk as this is beyond the jurisdiction and safety cover of the regatta. Only feed matched pairs to the Whaly Marshal. An unmatched crew which has five minutes or less before their race time should be directed to wait within your hailing distance.

### **WHALY MARSHAL (channel 8/16)**

Call sign: “**Whaly Marshal**”. You will be in the WLT Whaly moored just upstream of the warning dinghy. You are responsible for checking crews are paired up, preferably in race order, and on the correct station. However, it is more important to keep feeding crews through to the start rather than wait for crews to be in the correct race order. Please note that crews are advised in their written instructions that they can paddle above Walton Bridge, but they do so at their own risk as this is beyond the jurisdiction and safety cover of the regatta. You should liaise with the Start Marshal to call crews forward to the start.

### **START UMPIRES (in launch)**

**Please bring a life jacket or advise if you wish to borrow one.**

There are 2 umpires in the Starter’s Launch (plus trainee where indicated). Please rotate positions as you see fit. Umpires will be transported by boat from close to the finish area to the start launch.

### **ASSISTANT STARTER (channel 8/16)**

Call sign: “**Start Launch**”. Your job is to call crews down to the start; these being passed to you from the Whaley Marshal (afloat). As you pass crews to the Starter you should call the next pair to wait just above the start launch. If crews are finding it difficult to hold position, and risk drifting on to the start, use your judgement in asking them to wait further back.

### **STARTER (channel 1)**

Call sign: “**Starter**”. You should umpire the first short section of the race

before handing over to Umpire 2. Races may be taken out of order. Please be clear which race you are handing over as this will alert the Finish to which race has started. You will have a tripod-mounted megaphone. Ensure that Umpire 2 is ready to receive a race before starting it. Please check the course is clear of wildfowl before starting a race.

The Whaly and Launch Marshals may draw your attention to infringements during marshalling or to late arrivals and you should deal with crews robustly, using Official Warnings at your discretion, whilst also being aware that many crews are young juniors who may need some sympathetic guidance.

**UMPIRE 2 (channel 1):** Stationed on the EA Pier just upstream of Anglers Wharf. You will be handed races by the Starter and will have jurisdiction until handing over to Umpire 3. Between races, please pay attention to crews in the navigation channel and to general river traffic, particularly any coming out from the Surrey jetties above or below The Anglers.

**UMPIRE 3 (channel 1):** Stationed on the bank close to Thames Valley Skiff Club. Receive races from Umpire 2 and, I hand them to the Co-ordinating Umpire. Between races, please pay attention to crews in the navigation channel and to general river traffic.

**UMPIRES: A few general points:**

- The point at which races are handed over, is a matter of judgment. Please agree a suitable geographical point with your colleagues.
- When handing over races do not expect a reply. Hand over clearly and succinctly, e.g. "3-3 from 2, Race 20, "clean" or state warnings given.
- When warning crews, the terms 'move towards/away from the towpath' or referencing bow side/stroke side is recommended.
- There are large numbers of swans on the Walton Reach, particularly close to The Anglers Hotel, near the start. Crews and officials must take all reasonable steps to avoid any collisions with them and must report any that occur to Race Control. If a crew is at risk of hitting a swan, please stop the race and restart from your position if this can be done fairly, otherwise return crews to the start.

**You should be relieved 'in post'; please pass all equipment on to your successor. At the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, please return all equipment to Race Control.**

**CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE & UMPIRE 4 (channel 1)**

Stationed in the Finish tent on Miskins' Wharf. You will receive races from Umpire 3 and have jurisdiction until the race crosses the finish line. In order to issue audible warnings, you have a microphone patched through to a speaker positioned 100m upstream. You should signal verbally to the Chief Judge if the race finishing is "in order" or carry out any necessary investigation, as per Rules of Racing 6-1-4(a), before advising the Chief Judge of the outcome.

Please watch crews as they move beyond the finish line and warn of any potential collision with crews going afloat. Please pay attention to crews in the navigation channel, particularly passing the weir, and warn if necessary.

### **CHIEF JUDGE (channel 1)**

Ring a bell or sound a horn as crews cross the line. Ensure you receive clearance from the Co-ordinating Umpire before declaring the result. Complete a 'Results Slip' for every race, removing full sheets from the folder and passing them to the results recorder (Spike).

**JUDGE:** Please operate the Finish Laptop. Assist Chief Judge as required.

**RACE CONTROL: (channels 1 and 8/16)** Based in the Finish Tent. Liaising with Registration for any changes to racing from scratchings, boat clashes, etc. Issuing race updates. Managing safety issues and communicating with Safety.

**CHAIR OF RACE COMMITTEE (channel 1):** Elaine Green based in the Finish Tent.

### **SAFETY LAUNCHES & MEDIC (channel 1)**

You should be on station 30 minutes before racing starts, one launch actively patrolling in the navigation channel between the start and The Anglers and one between The Anglers and the finish. You will be referred to as '**Safety Start**' and '**Safety Finish**'.

### **SAFETY MATTERS**

In the event of a safety incident on the water, umpires should communicate directly with Safety. Marshals should contact Race Control who will communicate with Safety.

### **When reporting an incident, please advise:**

- Who is reporting the incident (e.g. "Safety, Safety, from Start Marshal" & await their response before continuing)
- Nature of the incident eg. "Capsized sculler";
- Location, e.g. "in front of Umpire 3", "at the finish", "upstream of....."
- Status, eg "Stable" – sculler conscious and with boat, or "Urgent

assistance required” – e.g. sculler in distress/ unconscious/ not surfaced;  
to enable safety to determine whether to proceed “at speed” or keep  
wash low.

- End message with “Over” and await response.

Race Control will take over communication with the safety team. All radio  
traffic must cease, other than those dealing with the incident. Race Control will  
confirm when it is safe to recommence racing

**PLEASE KEEP RADIO TRAFFIC TO A MINIMUM AT ALL TIMES**