

WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA

Sunday 7th June 2026

Instructions to Umpires and Marshals

There are 2 radio 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 free start close to the Skiff Club. The course runs in buoyed lanes.

REGISTRATION

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.

CONTROL COMMISSION (CC) (channel 1)

Based at the boating area at Walton RC. Undertake safety checks of boats, life-jackets and any weights carried by coxes. 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.

LANDING STAGE MARSHALS (channel 8/16)

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.

The J13 Octopules and J12 Quad must be accompanied to the start by a marshal in a launch. Do not allow these boats to leave the landing stage unaccompanied.

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 free start close to the Skiff Club. The course runs in buoyed lanes.

ACCOMPANYING MARSHAL (channel 8/16 & 1)

Call sign: “**Accompanying Marshal**”. In a launch upstream of the start. Responsible for pairing up crews on the correct station. Crews arriving should be directed to turn above the pier and the warning sign and await further instructions. Allow early arrivers to warm up. Only feed matched pairs to the start. An unmatched crew which has five minutes or less before their race time should be directed to wait within your hailing distance. All octuples must be accompanied from the navigation lane to the start owing to the probable inexperience of the cox.

START MARSHAL (channel 8/16 & 1)

Call sign: “**Start Marshal**”. Your job is to call crews down to the start, these being passed to you from the floating Accompanying Marshal. Aim to have one pair of race competitors positioned waiting just above the start ready to move down. The role of the Start Marshal is to aid the Starter, handle radio traffic, update race information and inform Finish which is about to start.

STARTER (channel 1)

Call sign: “**Starter**”. Align and start races. Races may be taken out of order. Liaise with the Accompanying Marshal to let him/her know when you would like crews to come down to position themselves at the start. Please check the course is clear of wildfowl before starting a race and that Umpire 1 has handed over to Umpire 2.

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

UMPIRE 1 (channel 1): Stationed 150m downstream of the start. You will be handed races soon after the start from the Starter and will have jurisdiction until handing over to Umpire 2. 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 2 (channel 1): You will be stationed on the bank upstream of the steps to the recreation ground. You will pass the race over to the Co-ordinating Umpire at the finish. Between races, please pay attention to crews in the navigation channel

and to general river traffic.

COURSE 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 by saying “XX from Y, handing over Race Z, and state any warnings given or if clean in your sector).
- When warning junior crews, ideally use the terms ‘XXX move towards/away from the towpath’ or ‘XXX harder with left/right blade.
- There are large numbers of swans on the Walton Reach, particularly close to The Anglers. 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 morning and afternoon sessions, please return it to Race Control.

CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE & UMPIRE 3 (channel 1)

Stationed in the finish tent on Miskins’ Wharf. You will receive races from Umpire 2 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” and that the result can be released, 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 at the Finish. Liaise with

Registration for any changes to the race programme from scratchings, boat clashes, etc. Issuing race updates. Managing safety issues and communicating with Safety

CHAIR OF THE RACE COMMITTEE (channel 1): The Chair of the Race Committee in the morning is Diane Graham and in the afternoon is Rosemary Thom. They will be based at the Finish.

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SAFETY LAUNCHES & MEDICS (channel 1)

To be on station 30 minutes before racing starts. One launch actively patrolling above the start in the marshalling area and one close to the finish. Call signs '**Safety Start**' and '**Safety Finish**'. Medic stationed close to the 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", "near the Marina"
- 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