

WEYBRIDGE HEAD - SAFETY PLAN

The risk of any serious incidents occurring will be reduced by the adherence to these instructions of all competitors and officials. Additional instructions for the running of the Head are issued separately to marshals and competitors. The Organising Committee will seek the advice of the EA 24 hours before the event to establish if the probable water conditions make it safe to proceed.

Safety Information

A map of the course is printed overleaf; this details the positioning of crews at the start, the course to be steered, the circulation of finishing crews and positions of Marshals, Safety Launch and Ambulance. It should be noted that NORMAL NAVIGATIONAL RULES APPLY during the event.

Accident And Emergency Procedures

A Marshal or Monitor seeing an incident must deal with it as his/her first priority and the Chief Umpire must be informed by radio. All parts of the course are under observation by at least one Marshal or Monitor.

- The nature of the incident and the assistance required must be stated.
- The safety of the crew becomes the main concern until such time as the reporting Marshal/Monitor is satisfied that the crew is not in danger.
- It should be quickly ascertained if possible and reported whether all crew members' feet are free of the boat.
- Approaching crews must be warned to take avoiding action.
- The crew should be assisted if possible to tow their boat to the bank.
- It should be considered whether further assistance should be summoned by radio, including medical assistance if required.

A Rescue Launch will be stationed at Walton Bridge (approximately half way up the course). If the launch crew see an incident they should deal with it as a priority, keeping the Chief Umpire informed. The rescue launch attending an incident should be aware of the effect excessive wash can have on other crews. There are several locations where casualties can be brought ashore with ambulance access:

- Walton Rowing Club (Start)
- The Anglers Wharf
- Cowey Sale
- Elmbridge Canoe Club (Finish)
- Weybridge Ladies Rowing Club

If more than one incident occurs simultaneously, the Chief Umpire should consider suspending the race.

Competitors should pay due regard to the condition of their boats and equipment which may cause delay or disqualification from the event if found to infringe the Water Safety Code.

Communications

Radios will be located with:

- All marshals in the Start area
- Marshal at Shepperton Marina
- Marshal at the bottom of the Desborough Cut
- Safety/Rescue launch at Walton Bridge
- All Monitors
- Finish timekeeper

In the event that the radio system fails and the emergency services are required, there are **telephones** in The Anglers pub (01932 223996), Thames Valley Skiff Club (01932 224215), Walton Rowing Club (01932 224557) and Elmbridge Canoe Club (01932 856839).