

WEYBRIDGE WINTER HEAD - SAFETY PLAN

The risk of any serious incidents occurring will be reduced by the adherence to these instructions by all competitors and officials. The Organising Committee will seek the advice of the EA 24 hours before the event and will decide if the probable water conditions make it safe to proceed.

Safety Information

Maps of the course are enclosed which give details of the positioning of crews at the start, the course to be steered, the circulation of finishing crews and positions of Marshals, Umpires, Safety Launches and First Aiders. It should be noted that NORMAL NAVIGATIONAL RULES APPLY during the event, except in the Desborough Channel which is closed to other river users.

Accident And Emergency Procedures

A Marshal or Umpire seeing an incident will 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. **NOTE: a capsized does not necessarily warrant a radio call of "Emergency" unless there is a clear need for immediate help from a Safety Launch.**

- The nature and location 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, this usually being co-ordinated by the St John Ambulance personnel at the scene.
- All Umpires are to have throw lines.

Stopping the Race

- In the event of a serious incident on the course making it unsafe to continue racing, any Umpire (or the Starter) may stop the race by verbally instructing crews to "STOP RACING".
- Each Umpires' first responsibility is to the crews in their reach of the course; having ensured those crews have understood and reacted to the instruction to stop racing, they will then contact the Chief Umpire by radio (or phone) with a brief report that they have stopped the race, and why they have stopped it.
- The Chief Umpire will relay the message to all other Umpires (and the Starter), who will then immediately stop the race in their reaches using the command "STOP RACING". The Chief Umpire will use the following message: "ALL STATIONS, ALL STATIONS. RACE CONTROL. STOP THE RACE. I REPEAT. STOP THE RACE. ALL STATIONS ACKNOWLEDGE. OVER". Acknowledgements should begin with the Starter and work up the course.
- Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, crews will be instructed to return to their boating areas, following normal navigation rules.

Rescue, First Aid and Assistance

Two St John Ambulance safety launches will be stationed along the course, one at Walton Bridge and one at the finish. The crew in the Walton Safety launch (tin fish) will act as the primary safety craft in the marshalling area. If a launch crew sees an incident they should deal with it as a priority, keeping the Chief Umpire informed. A rescue launch attending an incident should be aware of the effect excessive wash can have on other crews.

First Aiders will also be in attendance at Elmbridge Canoe Club.

Ambulance access is possible for casualties being brought ashore at: Walton Rowing Club (Start), The Anglers Wharf, Cowey Sale, Elmbridge Canoe Club (Finish) and Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club.

Swans & Other Wildfowl: There are a large number 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 an official as soon as practicable.

Man Overboard and Capsize

If a crew member falls overboard the crew must stop straight away. The ensuing actions are then the same as for a capsized: other crews must steer clear and those in the water should stay with their boat. While the nearest marshal or Umpire summons assistance, the crew should attempt to get themselves and their boat to the nearest bank.

Communications

Radios will be located with all marshals in the start area, marshal at Shepperton Marina, marshal afloat at the bottom of the Desborough Channel, in safety launches, with all Umpires, the finish timekeeper and at the First Aid post.

Umpires are to have mobile phones turned on, numbers being made known to the Chief Umpire before the start of each division.

Telephones are located at Elmbridge Canoe Club (01932 856839), The Anglers pub (01932 223996), Thames Valley Skiff Club (01932 224215) and Walton RC (01932 224557).