



Safety Plan – Evesham Head Rowing Events

Introduction

This safety plan has been compiled to complement the normal British Rowing requirements of a head event, and not to either replace or rewrite them. The safety plan explains local safety measures that have been introduced as a result of the event risk assessment and specific details linked to BR requirements.

Communications

Competitors, umpires, marshals and organisers will be made aware of the safety arrangements before the event and to enable incidents to be dealt with efficiently during it.

Course maps and emergency procedures will be posted on the Evesham Rowing Club website (<http://erc.club/rowing-events/>), displayed at the boathouse and distributed to officials during the day. They are also available to all competitors on request

A safety briefing will be given by the organisers before the event, and before boating starts, to the Umpires and representatives of the Safety Boat and First Aid teams. Marshals will be selected based on their experience and a safety briefing will be provide if required.

Radios and loudhailers will be issued to all umpires and marshals on the course, safety launches, the starter and finisher.

Radio Channels

Channel 1: Umpires, Race Control, Start, Finish, Marshals, Safety Officer

Chanel 2: Is available for non-essential messages such as between umpire assistants.

Note the use of the radio must be clear and precise especially in the event of an incident or emergency.

Boating and circulation arrangements

Boating and circulation patterns for on and off the water have been designed to minimise congestion and collisions.

Crews and boats will pass through boat checking at control commission before proceeding to the landing stage between the fence and the tennis courts. All boats must pass through control commission for each race and or division before being allowed to proceed to the landing stage.

Crews will boat using all the landing stage as directed by the landing stage marshals.

After racing all crews and boats will return using all the landing stage and return to the meadow trailer park using the footpath beside the river. This area has members of the public and care must be taken when moving all boats.

On the water crews will row downstream observing normal rules of the river, keeping right (boathouse side heading downriver) when passing other vessels moving in the opposite direction, and then wait at their allocated place as directed by the start marshals. No race-pace rowing shall take place on the way to the start. Course plans are provided to mark the start and finish and all key points on the course.

Safety boats

Water Safety will be provided by the club utilising trained resources specialising in boat handling and rescue techniques and provided by SARA.

The locations of these safety boats will be at areas of most risk of collision, and at positions to maintain the best possible line of site to allow for rapid casualty extraction from the water if required. These points are highlighted on the course maps.

The club will also provide additional cover using the club's own launches. All launch drivers will be qualified to Powerboat level 2 as a minimum. The club's own launches are there to support the safety boats operated by SARA and any other support in the running of the regatta / head.

Umpires and Race Marshals

Umpires and race marshals will be located all the way down the course to provide visual surveillance for safety and racing infringements. All instructions given by these people must be acted upon, otherwise the offending crew may receive penalties.

Umpires and race marshals will be issued with radios and loudhailers at the start of each division. They will be encouraged to leave their mobile phone numbers with control in case the radios system fails. Spare batteries are available in the clubhouse if required.

Each Umpire and race marshal will have additional responsibilities, but their general role will be to ensure a safe and fair event.

Accident and emergency procedures

Where an accident occurs on the water the following procedure will be adopted:

1. Racing will be stopped, and crews prevented from boating immediately to allow safety boats to respond without causing unnecessary hazards.
 2. Representatives of the safety boat (SARA) will be informed by radio of the position of the incident and the nearest safety boat (and any other assistance) will be sent to the incident by SARA.
 3. The safety boat's priority will be to retrieve the people from the water and if injured, return them to nearest the emergency evacuation point or to the landing stage depending on the severity of the incident.
 4. The subsequent action will depend on the severity of the incident and will be decided upon by the safety team.
 5. The second priority is to retrieve the boat.
 6. Race marshals and launch drivers will give way to safety boats and stay clear of accident area unless directed by SARA.
 7. First Aiders and Water Safety Officer should be informed.
 8. Racing will only recommence when authorised by the coordinating umpire who will liaise with the Water Safety Officer.
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Weather and river conditions

There will be some weather and river conditions that may require the event to be changed, suspended or even cancelled to avoid unnecessary risk to competitors and officials, the decision on these actions will be taken as early as possible by the event committee including Water Safety Officer and Club Captain. Although it is not possible to set exact rules for these decisions due to the number of variables that exist, a set of guidelines have been set out below:

| Conditions | Possible control measures. |
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| Lightning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspend racing and stop boating until storm blows over. |
| Flooding (fast current and/or debris in water or on bridges) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancel event• Limit entries to senior rowers• Increase safety boat cover• Shorten course |
| Heavy rain | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure appropriate clothing is worn at boat inspection point• Limit entries to senior rowers. |
| Strong Wind | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancel event• Limit entries to senior rowers• Increase safety boat cover• Shorten course |
| High Temperatures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure appropriate clothing is worn• Ensure competitors have sufficient liquids• Limit entries to senior rowers• Increase safety boat cover |
| Snow/ice/very low temperatures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure appropriate clothing is worn at boat inspection point• Limit entries to senior rowers• Increase safety boat cover• Arrange for salt to be spread round boating area |
| Failure of safety arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event of the loss of safety boat cover, Umpire support, First aid cover or communications breakdown (radios), racing should be cancelled or shortened to reduce risks, unless appropriate cover can be arranged |
| Slips and trips | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The boating areas should be kept free from blades, shoes, trestles, etc. that will cause a trip hazard. The marshals working in these areas will monitor these and arrange for equipment to be removed. Blades can be temporarily stored against the fencing by the path.• Spectators will not be permitted to sit on steps or slope leading to river when boats are moving around.• No cars will be permitted on Club Car Park which is currently gravel other than SARA vehicles. The tarmacked area may have invited official cars parked but must maintain a clear roadway to allow the free movement of safety vehicles such as SARA vehicles, ambulances and fire brigade vehicles.• Incidents should be reported to the first aid provided by SARA. SARA will provide a summary of incidents to the water safety officer at the end of the racing. |

APPENDIX

Local Event Rules for the Evesham Head of the Avon

In general, the race will be conducted in accordance with the BR Rules of Racing, in particular Sect 6.

Whilst Racing is taking place other traffic will be requested not proceed along the course until there is a break in racing or between divisions.

During racing if the river user insists on proceeding, the coordinating umpire and safety office must be informed by radio and racing will be stopped if there is a potential risk to crews. If the river user does not respond to any request, then racing will be stopped. All officials are empowered to stop racing should they feel that the presence or behaviour of the river user causes a danger to competitors or anyone else.

Whilst racing is not taking place traffic should be encouraged to proceed down the course with a view to clearing the course before the next division or race starts.

Please request that they do so dead slow and abide by the normal navigation safety information issued by Avon Navigational Trust "Keep to the right of the channel". This is Boathouse side heading down river and Waterside heading upriver.

Advise all points of their presence and progress. Advise / warn crews as necessary. Racing will be stopped.

Please be polite and advise the river user of the nature of the event and therefore he/she should employ extreme caution whilst proceeding

Any deliberately dangerous or incompetent behaviour on the part of other river users should be reported to the Co-ordinating Umpire and the Water Safety Officer.

The boat number and / or name of the offending vessel must be recorded

Competitor Rules

Capsized crews should stay with their boat until the Safety Boat arrives unless instructed otherwise.

No number will be issued until full payment has been received and therefore a crew will not be allowed to boat.

All boats must have a CLEARLY VISIBLE BOAT ID NUMBER. ERC will be issuing empacher style numbers at this year's event for use by competing crews. The empacher boat numbers will be collected by someone from ERC from each crew as you leave the landing stage after each race. If the number fails to be collected, can you please ensure the number is returned to registration

Crews must report to the BOAT MARSHALLING AREA, for safety checks, IN GOOD TIME. Time Penalties will be given to crews who are late to boat marshalling. The Crew must ensure that their boat and life jackets comply with the Rules of Racing and Row Safe Guide.

The ringing of a bell usually to signify the end of the race but may be rung at any point on the course during racing. If a competitor hears a bell ringing, they must stop racing.

Evesham Rowing Club Head Welfare Plan

Policy Statement

The organizing Committee of Evesham Rowing Club believes that the welfare and well-being of all is paramount. All children, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, religion or ability, have equal rights to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded swiftly and in an appropriate manner.

A Welfare Officer will be appointed for the event, who will act as the point of contact for any concerns or allegations and can be contacted via Race Control located in the clubhouse. The event will be run in accordance with the event welfare plan.

The first point of contact during the event will be the Welfare Officer. Any event reported will be discussed forthwith by the Welfare Officer and Club Captain. If, after due consideration, they decide that the police should be informed, the Welfare Officer will report the matter to West Mercia Police.

The Club Captain and Welfare Officer will then decide whether the Welfare Officer will report the matter to the British Rowing Child Protection Officer.

The event organizers ask any individual who is aware of any inappropriate behaviour to report it to the Welfare Officer, Club Captain, Club Vice Captains or any other race official who will ensure the information is passed to the Welfare Officer.

If the event includes junior competitors, it would be expected they are usually under the care of a parent or coach. A name and mobile telephone number is requested by the Event Secretary for each club entering junior crews.

The list of contacts is held at Registration and Race Control and are available on the club notice board in the corridor by the squash courts so that the responsible adult can be contacted easily in case of incident.

No personal contact details for children are held.

Medical Provision

First Aid is provided by SARA who will be stationed in the car park of Evesham Rowing Club. The medical staff are advised of the Welfare Plan in advance of the race and will pass on any welfare issues to the individuals listed above.

Richard Sumner

Evesham Rowing Club Water Safety Officer

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