



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.

The event will be ran in line with Government and British Rowing guidance in relation to running COVID 19 secure events and safety precautions. A separate Risk Assessment and guidance has been prepared to ensure that all involved in the event and members of the public are protected from the risk of infection during the event.

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.

1. Course maps and emergency procedures will be sent to competitors, posted on the website, displayed at the boathouse and distributed to officials during the day.
2. A safety briefing will be given by the organisers before the event, and before boating starts, to the Race Controller, all marshals, and representatives of the Safety Boat and First Aid teams.
3. Radios and loudhailers will be issued to all Marshals on the course, safety launches, the starter and finisher.

Radio Channels

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

Channel 2: Umpire Assistants, Commentary, Secretary, Evesham RC,

Boating and circulation arrangements

Boating and circulation patterns for on and off the water have been designed to minimise congestion and collisions. Crews will boat using all the landing stage, passing through boat checking and down the slipway. They will return using all the stages again, and pass behind the boathouse as well as up the main steps, to the meadow car park. Crews will row upstream observing normal rules of the river and then wait at their allocated place on the river. No race-pace rowing shall take place once the marshalling area is entered. Plans of the river will be sent to competitors, posted on the web site and displayed by the boathouse.

Safety boats

Water Safety will be provided by the club utilising trained resources specialising in boat handling and rescue techniques will provide three safety boats.

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;

Race Marshals, Monitors and Umpires

Race Marshals, Monitors and Umpires (RMMU) 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.

RMMUs will be issued with radios (with spare battery) 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.

Each RMMU will have responsibilities, but will generally 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. The nearest safety boat (and any other assistance) will be sent to the incident by the Race Controller.
 3. The safety boat's priority will be to retrieve the people from the water and if injured, return them to the boating area where the First Aiders will take over.
The second priority is to retrieve the boat.
 4. Water marshals and monitors will give way to rescue launches and stay clear of accident area unless directed by them.
 5. First Aiders, Medical Adviser and Safety Adviser should be informed.
 6. The Race Controller will co-ordinate incident response and decide when hazards have been adequately removed so racing can commence.
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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 Safety Advisor, Race Controller, Club Captain and the lead Umpire. 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.

Lightning

- 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
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, Medical 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 stored on grassed area or on large steps • 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, other than the First Aid and SARA vehicles • Incidents should be reported to the safety adviser for entry into the club accident book

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

During racing if the river user insists on proceeding please request that they do so dead slow and on the Waterside / Roadside of the river (Left side downstream , Right side upstream). Advise all points of their presence and progress. Advise / warn crews as necessary

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 starts.

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.

The boat number and 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 and therefore a crew will not be allowed to boat until full payment has been received.

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.

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.

Reporting Structure

The Event Secretary, Martyn Sutton has overall responsibility for decisions and disciplinary procedures, and will take advice from the organising committee.

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 Event Secretary. If, after due consideration, they decide that the police should be informed, the Welfare Officer will report the matter to West Mercia Police.

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

Medical Provision

First Aid is provided by SARA and, stationed in the car park of Evesham Rowing Club. The medical staff are given a copy of the Welfare Plan in advance of the race.

Security

The event organizers brief all helpers on the Welfare Plan, and ask them to report any inappropriate behaviour to race headquarters.

The event attracts junior competitors, who would usually be 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 so that the responsible adult can be contacted easily in case of incident.

No personal contact details for children are held.

Andy Woodward

Evesham Rowing Club Water Safety Officer

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