



**Attention: All umpires, officials, coaches, coxes, and competitors must be aware of the contents of the attached documents and how to react in all circumstances.**

## **Maidenhead Rowing Club**

**Maidenhead Regatta on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

# **Maidenhead Rowing Club Regatta Safety Briefing & Safety Plan**

The primary objective of the Maidenhead Regatta is to enable both experienced and inexperienced oarsmen/women to safely compete over a 500m and 250m upstream river course.

Maidenhead Rowing Club operates according to its approved Safety Management Plan and in compliance with both the British Rowing Water Safety Code - Row Safe and the British Rowing Rules of Racing. In order to minimise the risks to the safety of regatta competitors, officials, spectators and other river users, the following safety precautions will be in operation on Regatta Day:

### **1. Trailer and car parking**

- all boat trailers are to be parked in Bridge Gardens, which is located immediately upstream of the road bridge, on the Berkshire bank and can be accessed from the roundabout.
- all cars including tow vehicles are to be parked in the Taplow United car park, Berry Hill, SL6 0DA.
- the Maidenhead Rowing Club park is fully reserved parking for permit holders only, including First Aid/Emergency service vehicles, Lifeguard vehicle/trailer, and Regatta umpires. To minimise congestion, please do not drive into River Road (which passes the Clubhouse) since this road has parking for residents only.

### **2. Boating arrangements**

- boating will be either from the boating rafts, which are located on the Berkshire bank adjacent to Bridge Gardens, or from rafts at Maidenhead Rowing Club. All activity on and around the boating raft area will be under the full control of the Raft Marshals.
- boats at Bridge Gardens will be launched from the downstream side of the boating raft and all crews will be required immediately to manoeuvre their boat to get parallel with the bank and ready to proceed in a downstream direction through the designated arch of the road bridge.
- boats will be landed at the upstream side of the landing raft at Bridge Gardens. This is approached by passing under the designated arch of the road bridge and then turning on to the upstream boating raft from the upstream side. Care must be taken to avoid the river depth post, which is located on the upstream side of the raft, approximately 5 metres from both the Berkshire bank and the landing stage.
- boats at Maidenhead Rowing Club will be launched upstream off the boating rafts and will join the navigation pattern as per the Circulation Plan, and turn below the road bridge under control of the Raft Marshall located at Maidenhead Rowing Club.

- a Safety Marshall will be positioned on the Clubhouse balcony to oversee river traffic moving between the railway bridge and the road bridge area.
- no boats are allowed to proceed more than 100 metres upstream of the road bridge at any time during the Regatta.

### **3. Boat Circulation Plan**

- all participating clubs will be issued with a Regatta Boating and Circulation Plan, which clearly illustrates the boat circulation route in the Regatta course area, highlighting the location of hazardous areas of the river and defining the upstream/downstream limits of the course. This information will also be posted on notice boards at the landing rafts and in the spectator area.
- all crews are required to stay within the defined upstream and downstream limits of the Regatta course area.
- the navigation channel adjacent to the Regatta Course is likely to remain busy throughout the day with non-regatta pleasure boat traffic, travelling in both directions. Extra care must be taken at all times to avoid boating accidents.
- practice starts are not permitted in the Navigation Channel.
- Crews must be considerate and give priority to other river users when paddling to the start.
- Crews boating from MRC will give priority to crews and other river users moving either upstream or downstream through the road bridge.
- Between the bridges crews will follow Environment Agency rules of steering, i.e. downstream to Berks and upstream to Bucks side of the river.
- For the 250m sprints crews will follow the same circulation plan as for the 500m course and turn below the 500m start.
- Crews returning to the start after a race will travel upstream and turn below the A4 road bridge adjacent to Maidenhead Rowing Club giving priority to all other river traffic travelling through the bridge

### **4. Regatta course channel**

- the 500m regatta course will be buoyed and meet requirements of the Environment Agency.
- this allows for a Navigation Channel on the Berkshire bank. Non-regatta river craft and racing crews moving to the start will be directed to this channel by:
  - signs positioned at either end of the course directing craft to the navigation channel
  - Marshals located on the course
- all crews who are on-water between the regatta start line and the downstream limit of the course will be under the control of the Start Marshals, who will be supported by an additional Marshal who will be patrolling this area.
- all crews must remain within calling distance of the Start Marshals. Instructions given by the Start Marshals must be complied with at all times. Failure to do so may result in the offending crew receiving an official warning.
- Racing practice such as starts is not allowed in the navigation channel, they may only be carried out below the Start marshal in clear water conditions.

### **5. Safety Plan**

The Regatta is being run in full compliance with the British Rowing Water Safety Code and the Maidenhead Rowing Club Safety Management Plan, reinforced by the following additional measures:

- all crews are required to stay between the defined upstream and downstream limits of the Regatta course area.
- there will be two functional safety boats. One hired and one club-owned. The club launch is the designated reserve to be brought into play if the main launch is occupied. The club boat will be fully functional and manned throughout
- all race officials and safety boat crews are in constant open channel radio contact throughout the Regatta. The umpires and both safety boats must be on the same radio channel. Everyone else should be on the other one which includes first aid and marshalling
- the appointed Lifeguard Safety Boat will provide on-water Regatta course safety cover. They will be positioned near the mid-point on the course.
- the Club's safety launch will also be available in an operational state to provide on-water safety cover for the stretch of river between the finish of the Regatta course and upstream of the boating areas as in the Circulation Plan.
- a Marshal's boat will patrol the river area between the Start Marshal and the downstream limit of navigation as shown in the Circulation Plan.
- all crews are required to comply fully with the Regatta's safety/racing rules and instructions given by Regatta officials.

All officials understand that, in the event of an accident, racing will be stopped until such time that the crew has been attended and the course returned to a clear state.

In the event of a capsized boat, boating accident or other on-water incident, the safety boats will provide an immediate rescue response to the affected crews. If there is a capsized boat on the course or adjacent to the course, all racing will be held up until the incident is cleared.

In the event of all serious incidents the Safety Advisor (Colin Hendry) and/or Regatta Chairman (Keith Abbott) must be kept informed. If necessary, they will take control. All key officials will have radios and as a back up they can be contacted on the following mobile telephone numbers:

**Safety Advisor** – Colin Hendry - 07849 658112

**Duty Doctor** - Nicola Mole - 07711 885674

**Regatta Chairman** – Keith Abbott – 07795 246539

## **6. First Aid**

- the local British Red Cross (or equivalent) will provide first aid cover and they will be based at Bridge Gardens, together with a first aid station located in the spectator area.
- a Medical Officer will be in attendance at the Regatta and he will be contactable through Regatta Control, which is located at the Regatta course finish line.
- key safety and first aid information will also be published in the Regatta programme.

## 7. Child Welfare

Maidenhead Regatta is committed to making the welfare of children paramount and is committed to following the principles and policies detailed in the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy document.

In line with British Rowing guidelines a Competition Welfare Officer (John Truswell) has been appointed. He will be responsible for dealing with all child welfare issues. His contact details are given below and will also be displayed in various areas around the club house and regatta areas.

**Competition Welfare Officer** – John Truswell 07738 786138

## 8. Emergency Plan

An emergency situation is a serious incident resulting in personal injury, requiring immediate medical attention.

Should an emergency situation rise, the following action will be taken:

- In the event of an emergency, call the safety boat immediately on channel 4; call signal "**SAFETY SAFETY SAFETY**" give location of incident and description.
- Overall control and responsibility for an emergency incident will be at Regatta Control at the Finish Tent for all incidents downstream of the railway bridge
- Advise the relevant control location as soon as possible using channel 4.
- If medical assistance is needed, call the event ambulance/first aid service on channel 4, call sign "**MEDIC MEDIC MEDIC**"
- Go to give interim assistance but let the professional safety crew do the job
- Inflate your life jacket if there is any possibility that you may lean over the side of your boat or enter the water
- An Incident Manager will be despatched to co-ordinate the rescue, or you may be designated that responsibility by Regatta Control.
- The Incident Manager will advise when the emergency is over and only he/she can stand down the safety crews.
- If an emergency happens out of your area, reposition your boat to provide cover for crews still on the water
- The Race Committee will be advised by Regatta Control when the incident is over and will announce the re-start of the regatta

The nearest BT telephone from which emergency '999' calls can be made is located at the Maidenhead Rowing Club Clubhouse either just inside the 2nd bay boat house door on the right hand wall or in the kitchen area on the first floor.

The Ordnance Survey grid reference for the Maidenhead Rowing Club Clubhouse is 902813.

## **9. Abandonment of racing**

In the days leading up to the regatta weather conditions will be monitored. River flow conditions of amber status or above as measured on the Maidenhead Rowing Club website or forecasts of high winds of 30mph or higher will give cause for either an alternative suitable venue to be found if available or for the regatta to be cancelled.

In the event of any thunder or lightening racing will be suspended during the period of the storm.

If at any time the Race Committee (Regatta Chairman, Chairman of the Race Committee, and Safety Officer) decides that is if unsafe to continue racing, then the following procedure will be followed.

1. Radio messages will be sent to all officials, saying that racing is to be abandoned, and to await further instructions.
2. No further crews will be allowed to boat, and all rafts cleared to receive crews.
3. All safety boats to remain where they are to monitor / assist crews returning to pontoons.
4. Crews already at the start will return (at a paddle) using the main racing lanes, to the pontoons.
5. Crews in the circulation lanes near the start will continue with the normal circulation pattern and turn at the start and return in the racing lanes to their boating area. Remaining crews in the circulation lanes to turn with care across the buoys and return using the racing lanes under control from the Marshal and return to the boating area, taking care to avoid crews returning from the start by giving way.
6. Safety boats, will follow last crews, (or any in trouble) back to pontoons.

**Attached:** Appendix 1 Maidenhead Rowing Club Regatta Boating and Circulation Plan