



# Maidenhead Junior Regatta

Maidenhead Rowing Club, River Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0AT

## A Spectator's and Parent's Guide to Maidenhead Junior Regatta

Your child's coach is responsible for telling them when and where they need to be, what to bring with them, and going through the Safety Briefing with them.

### Getting there

The regatta takes place just downstream from Brunel's historic Sounding Arch, on the Taplow side of the River Thames in Maidenhead.

#### Directions.

Car parking for the event will be clearly signed. Please do not drive into or park on the roads near the club (River Road and Ellington Road) these will be for access for residents only as use of these roads on Regatta day causes blockages and this upsets our neighbours. Also please do not park in the 'Roux at Skindles' restaurant car park across the road from the club as this is for diners only. This is a residential area. If the dedicated parking areas are full please use the car parks in the town - Hines Meadow is the closest or you can park in residential roads which offer free parking on a Sunday in the area behind Dominoes Pizza, however please do not block residents drives.

Beware of boats being manoeuvred on land and please keep close watch on younger children at all times.

Please take a look at the Boating and Circulation plan in the [Safety Briefing](#) which will show you the relevant facility locations as well as the course layout

Competitors will probably meet their crew mates and coaches in the club car park which serves as parking for trailers and safety vehicles only.

Spectators should continue on along the river road (about 5 mins), through the Sounding Arch, to the grassy bank which is the best place to watch the racing. The grass may well be damp if it's been raining, but is very well drained.

There is no shelter available for spectators; you may need umbrellas, water and wind proofs, or sun lotion and sunglasses. If it's warm enough you might want to bring a ground sheet or camping chair to sit on, the day can feel quite long.

There will be toilets at the bridge end of this grass area. All other facilities are to be found on the first floor of the clubhouse - accessed through the front door.

### Safety

We take safety very seriously. Our safety plans and risk assessments have to be approved by British Rowing before the Regatta is allowed to take place.

We have a Medical Officer and an ambulance in attendance, plus Lifeguards on the water. These are in addition to our own marshals and safety boats.

It is a condition of racing that all coaches must go through the published Safety Briefing with every crew - and especially their coxes - before boating.

All drinks sold at the club must be in plastic containers to avoid the risk of broken glass, particularly outside the boathouse close to the pontoons.

### Refreshments

There will be lots of cakes, sandwiches (rolls) and drinks for sale from early on in the main room on the first floor of the clubhouse.

There will also be burgers and hotdogs available from about 12 noon at the barbeque on the grassy bank near the Finish tent.

We encourage spectators and competitors to bring their own reusable cups for hot drinks and water bottles.

The club bar will be open from 12.00pm.

## Toilets

Portable loos in the spectators' area.

Competitors may use the toilets in the changing rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the clubhouse.

## Disabled Access

Just inside the front door of the club you will find a lift for use by those who need it to access 1<sup>st</sup> floor facilities.

The disabled loo is near the lift door on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the clubhouse.

## Registration & Results

In Maidenhead Rowing Club boathouse (ground floor).

All enquiries dealt with here. Safety and rescue between the road bridge and the railway bridge coordinated here.

Crews boating are monitored and any delays are radioed to the start umpires and Race Committee. Race results are forwarded here from the finish and logged. The draw sheets posted outside and the race program are updated.

**Delays or problems with racing crews** should be notified to Registration & Results as early as possible.

## Race Committee

The Race Committee and the umpires are based in the tent at the finish line. Safety and rescue on the regatta course and areas downstream of the railway bridge are coordinated here.

The draw sheets posted outside will be regularly updated with results.

## The Races Explained

This is a Regatta for beginners and inexperienced crews. Although keen to promote best practice we can accommodate lower standards in terms of dress code, skill and time keeping than you might see at an ordinary event. We do everything we can think of to ensure these young athletes have a positive first/early experience of racing and are encouraged to continue.

Juniors who have not attained 11,12,13,14,15,16,17 or 18 years of age by 00:00 on 1<sup>st</sup> September preceding the competition are classified as being in the following age bands J11, J12,J13,J14,J15,J16,J17,J18 respectively. The age bands J11 to J18 are equivalent to the state school year groups 6 to 13 respectively.

'Beginner A' and 'Beginner B' classes are unique to Maidenhead Junior Regatta. In order that crews are as closely matched as possible coaches are requested to enter according to the following criteria:

'Beginner A': Is for crews who have rowed for less than 2 years, have some racing experience, but with limited or no success.

'Beginner B': Is for crews who are in their first year of rowing.

We only have quad racing and are keen that all who want to race have an opportunity. The entry secretary helps those athletes who do not make up a complete crew to form scratch composites with those from other clubs in a similar position. There have been winning composite crews in the Regatta each year.

The program of racing is complicated by the 'repechage' system. There are two crews in each race. Instead of a straightforward knockout, after the first round of each event both winner and loser go on to compete a second time. This ensures that each crew goes on to race again. From there on the event is a knockout competition. Crews may have between 2 and 5 races over the day depending on the number of entries in their category.

The exception is if there are just 2 entries in a category, which can only lead to a straight final.

Unfortunately, withdrawal of another crew may also mean that a crew only gets one opportunity to race.

This system, combined with the fact that most crews will be sharing a boat with at least one other crew, means that the program cannot accommodate athletes competing as scullers in more than one crew. Coxes may be in more than one crew, or may be scullers as well. They may also have to be substituted if they find they should be in more than one race at the same time. We do it this way to try to give as many athletes as possible opportunity to compete.

## The Start

Umpires are in charge of the racing. The start is a 'free' start so there are no stake boats. The crews will be lined up and then started. Two crews race at a time, one on the Bucks station (i.e. the Buckinghamshire side nearest the spectators), and the other on the Berks station (the Berkshire or Maidenhead side). As the navigation channel is on the Berks side the Berks station is actually in the centre of the river where the stream is flowing fastest. The umpires will make the racing fairer by staggering the start, if necessary, to compensate for the strength of the stream.

## The finish

The finish umpire is in the race committee tent directly aligned with the finish post on the opposite bank. If it's a close race other umpires will also keep close watch. If the racing is very close, the race may be declared a dead heat and the crews will return to the start to race again straight away.

You may hear the announcer talk about a 'canvas' length between boats, this is the distance from the bow ball to the front of the cockpit where the crew sit (covered in canvas in traditional boats).

Racing may be suspended in the event of an accident on the water, or of adverse weather or water conditions jeopardising safety.

## Competitors Instructions from the Umpires – Race Procedure

See the information provided to competitors if you want information on the way Umpires start and supervise each race.

All officials and helpers are volunteers, committing to spend up to 12 hours of the day to make the event a success. A vast army of club members kindly help with catering and as marshals. Please treat them well – their support is indispensable.

Umpires are highly trained and qualified – their word is law, the ultimate authority is the Race Committee Chairman

Marshals are well briefed and many have additional safety and coaching qualifications.

## Results and prizes

Results will be announced over the PA system and displayed at Registration & Results (boathouse) and outside the Finish tent.

All finals are run at the end of the program.

When all the races have finished **the prizes** – nice pots (tankards) will be presented to the winners by a guest presenter – often a GB athlete.

## First Aid/Emergencies

There is an ambulance based at the clubhouse.

In the event that you need specific urgent help of any kind during the regatta please speak to the nearest official, all those on duty will have radios to contact each other, the Finish Tent and Registration & Results.

## Financials/Fundraising

It is our aim that the entry fees should cover the cost of running the event. That is primarily equipment hire (toilets, radios etc), lifeguards and first aid people and prizes (the main expense).

All other personnel are club members or British Rowing officials. They are all much appreciated volunteers

Sales of food and drink provide a fundraising opportunity for the benefit of the whole club.

## Results

Full results will be on the Regatta website.