

Regatta Covid-19 Mitigation Plan – 2021

The following information defines the Regatta plan to ensure the event is Covid-19 Secure, the guidelines must be fully adhered to by all regatta crews, officials and volunteers.

It is a condition of racing that for both MRC and visiting crews ALL coaches must go through this briefing with all their crews.

This plan reflects the changes in both the government guidance and British Rowing advice, in place as of 19th July 2021 onwards. The regatta will be run according to the guidance Managing Covid-19 from British Rowing, version 14 at this time.

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/210720-Managing-COVID-19-v14.pdf>

Entry for 2021 regatta will be online via BROE & open to Clubs until maximum capacity is reached.

Maidenhead Annual Regatta Club Covid Declaration is required to be completed by

- Each Club attending the Regatta
- Any individual attending the Regatta, if not part of a Club
- Any Umpire / Official attending the Regatta

The Covid Declaration Form (google form) is required to be completed at least 24 hrs prior to event and can be found at this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLdg-Mz2_B4mLfG8Msc9y_v9ndSPJceH947f5Dn8vxMuvWtg/viewform

This information is required by the MRC Covid Officer for NHS Test & Trace, if needed due to notifiable Covid-19 incidents.

GDPR rules will be observed, and the information kept by MRC Covid Officer for 2 weeks following the event & then deleted.

Visitors/spectators (not included in list above) are not expected to completed the Covid-19 declaration form but are encouraged to check in with the NHS Test & Trace app via the QR code which will be displayed at various points around the Regatta site.

Entry acceptance is dependent on each Club providing a named nominated Covid Club Officer. The Covid Club Officer has the following responsibilities for their Club entrants:

1. To be the primary contact with MRC event organisers / Covid Officer and NHS test and trace, in case of notifiable Covid-19 incidents (2 weeks pre and post event)
2. To make themselves known to MRC prior to the event as the visiting Club Covid Officer and link with the MRC Covid Officer, Chris Sneller via the Covid Declaration google form.
3. To collect and maintain (21 days post event) information regarding attendees to the event required for NHS Test and Trace should a notifiable Covid-19 incident occur
4. To ensure entrants, participants, volunteers, officials undertake own risk assessment to consider if travel to and attending the Regatta considering their own age, health conditions and vulnerabilities

To ensure entrants, participants, volunteers, officials self-assess if they, or anyone they live with, are displaying one or more CV19 symptoms, even if mild (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste) before travelling to the Regatta and if so, should not attend the event & follow guidance on testing and self-isolation. (Crew substitutions acceptable on the day)

Encourage club members make use of testing available i.e. lateral flow testing prior to the event, but not mandated.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

5. To ensure entrants, participants, volunteers, officials do not attend if they need to self-isolate by either NHS Test & Trace or required to self-isolate after travel.
6. To attend the event for its full duration to ensure their entrants and supporters read the Competitors Instructions and follow the event Covid-19 protocols. (i.e. they or deputy should be present)
7. To ensure entrants participants, volunteers, officials adhere to social distancing and good hand hygiene wherever possible to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.
8. To ensure that each visiting club has undertaken its own risk assessment to manage their attendance at the Regatta including unloading of trailers, rigging of boats, boat sharing etc
9. To ensure that equipment (including necessary sanitising products and face masks (for Covid reasons) is available for their club entrants use.
10. To liaise with the event Covid officer in relation to any questions or breaches that may arise during the course of the day

Covid Pinch points and mitigations:

NHS Test and Trace / Use of QR Code – A Covid-19 declaration sent out to participating clubs / is required to be completed within 24hours prior to the regatta. This will enable us to have contactable information about entrants, participants, volunteers and officials attending the event via the visiting Club Covid Officer. QR code posters / signage will be available across the site for other visitors who wish to check in and support NHS Test & Trace.

Face Coverings - Covid risk-mitigation measures require the wearing of face-coverings/masks inside the club house building if not exercising, eating or drinking and for coxes in stern-loaders.

Registration –On the day of event each club should nominate a single person to perform registration activities & approach registration desk in order to reduce numbers. Race numbers will be collected by one member on registration for all crews of each club.

Results board – The results board will be available at the finish tent however please avoid gathering and maintain social distancing in this area. Results will also be made available online / Twitter on the MRC Club website.

Prize giving – Prize giving will be limited to one crew member – at the registration desk after the event has completed.

Boating – Crews should boat 30 minutes before scheduled race time. Supporters to the event are not allowed in the competition area, towpath or pontoons.

All competitors, coaches and helpers need to wherever possible adhere to social distancing wherever possible whilst on land in the competition area.

Boats will not be checked / no hands on checks to reduce so Clubs are required to check their own boats. We will not be checking competitors' boats this year so as to reduce unnecessary social contact. Clubs will be expected to ensure that their boats are in good and safe condition. Particular attention should be paid to the condition and length of heel restraints and the condition of bow balls.

Ensure when crews go afloat all shoes, blades and any kit is picked up quickly and removed (nothing is to be left on towpath or pontoon area at any time).

When returning to the pontoons following racing again adhere to social distancing and land at pontoon when instructed to do so by Marshals to avoid pinch pints and congestion.

Club House Facilities –The club house will not be open to visiting entrants, competitors, volunteers or officials, except for registration, coxes weighing, notification of substitutions/scratches, collection of race numbers, prize receiving or in the event of capsizes or emergency.

Numbers are restricted inside club house to maintain social distancing and as sufficient ventilation cannot be guaranteed.

Visiting competitors should arrive in their rowing kit as there is no access to changing rooms. Maidenhead Club (inc CCS) members are also asked to arrive in their rowing kit but may access toilets/changing rooms (restricted to maximum of 6 at any one time) and adhering to one way system. Showers are not to be used unless in the event of a capsize or emergency.

Portaloos will be made available on Bridge gardens, at MRC car park and on the regatta lawn for visiting Clubs.

Taps for water – There is a tap outside the boathouse, for drinking water refill's as well as cleaning. Sanitiser/Anti-bacterial spray will be made available.

Crew rescue / capsize – MRC RS CAT launches are equipped with appropriate facemasks/personal protective equipment (PPE) in a Launch Safety Bag, containing gloves, aprons, face masks & bottle hand sanitizing gel as per MRC Launch Covid Protocol.

Coxes - BR guidance outlines those coxes may wish to wear a face covering & eye protection if sitting in stern loader as in close proximity to stroke, and wear face covering if sitting in a bow loader. Visiting crews to adhere to own covid secure safety protocols during the event.

Boat / equipment sharing – All Clubs undertake cleaning of boats and blades before and following races to reduce transmission of the virus by touch surfaces. Visiting Clubs are responsible for bringing their own clearly identifiable cleaning materials and cloths to reduce the risk of transmission by accidental sharing.

If sharing of equipment between clubs is required, please contact MRC Covid officer, Chris Sneller to discuss further covid risk mitigation procedures.

Radios / Loud hailers & other Shared Equipment – the sharing of equipment will be limited as far as possible. Where it is necessary to share equipment (for example a loud hailer/radio/commentator microphone when volunteers swap shifts) the person taking on the use of the equipment will be responsible for sanitising it. Sanitisation products will be made available.

Hand Hygiene – all entrants, participants, volunteers, officials are to adhere to good hygiene. Where hand washing facilities are not available use of alcohol based hand sanitizer regularly will be required. Hand sanitizer will be available for use at designated hygiene stations but visiting crews are expected to bring their own.

Refreshments - This year there will be refreshments available outside on the Regatta Lawn. Competitors, Officials and visitors are advised to bring their own drinking bottles.

Spectators – Will be allowed to attend on the Regatta Lawn, they will be advised to adhere to social distancing wherever possible.

Car parking – There will be visiting Club trailer parking only at Bridge Gardens. Adaptive trailer parking permitted at MRC car park. There will be no organised official car parking for supporters.

Competition Umpires / officials – Need to adhere to BR guidance at the time of the regatta, regards social distancing wherever possible.