



Maidenhead Rowing Club Regatta 2023

Safety Plan, Safety Rules & Emergency Response Plan

Saturday 5th August 2023

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.

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

Maidenhead Rowing Club operates according to its approved Safety Management Plan and in full compliance with the BR Managing Covid-19, the British Rowing Row Safe (2021) guidance 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. 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. Adaptive boats will launch from the pontoon immediately in front of the Boathouse. 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.

2. 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.
- 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

3. 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.

4. Safety Plan

The Regatta is being run in full compliance with the British Rowing RowSafe (2021) and the Maidenhead Rowing Club Safety Management Plan.

- All crews are responsible to comply with British Rowing Rules of Racing (coxswains lifejackets/PFDs, bow balls, hatch covers, heel restraints – noting the amendment requiring each heel to be restrained to prevent it from rising higher than 7cm, as measured at right angles from the footplate). Control Commission may carry out spot checks.
- Additional Safety Rules will be defined for Adaptive events; specifically addressing the risks associated with each individual rower's disabilities. This will be done in consultation with Adaptive coaches and the Chief Umpire. As a minimum this will define race scheduling (at the end of a division), boating area/s and procedures, and include an additional safety launch during races.
- For Adaptive races – additional launch cover will be provided – see adaptive safety notes
- All crews are required to stay between the defined upstream and downstream limits of the Regatta course area.
- There will be two designated safety boats (hired) and will be positioned near the mid-point on the course. Backup safety cover will be provided by one of the club RS-Cat16 which can effect a rescue (with limited capacity)
- 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 channel, which includes first aid and marshalling.
- Location naming convention to be used for all communications: **Registration; Finish Tent; Start**
- 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 capsize, boating accident or other on-water incident, the safety boats will provide an immediate rescue response to the affected crews. If there is a capsize 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 Regatta Safety Adviser (David Harrand) and/or Regatta Chairman (Neil Campbell) 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:

Regatta Safety Adviser -David Harrand

Regatta Chairman –Neil Cambell

5. First Aid

A private medical company will be hired to provide first aid cover and they will be based in the Maidenhead Rowing Club carpark, together with a first aid station located in the spectator area. They will be assigned a radio and be briefed on protocol.

Key safety and first aid information will also be published in the Regatta information.

6. 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 (Dawn Davis) has been appointed. She will be responsible for dealing with all child welfare issues. Her contact details are given below and will also be displayed in various areas around the clubhouse and regatta areas.

Competition Welfare Officer – Dawn Davis 07793232963

7. Emergency Response 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 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.

- If medical assistance is needed, call the event ambulance/first aid service call sign **“MEDIC MEDIC MEDIC”**. Umpire calls Safety Boat; Control calls anyone else on different channel.
- Go to give interim assistance but let the professional safety crew do their job
- Consider Inflating 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 co-ordinating umpire will determine when the course is clear
- If an emergency happens out of your area, reposition your boat to provide cover for crews still on the water

An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is permanently located in the reception area of the Clubhouse (wall-mounted), as are two First Aid kits (one at the back of the 1st bay, one in the 1st floor kitchen).

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.

8. 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 the Chairman of the Race Committee, Regatta Chairman and Safety Adviser decide that it is 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.