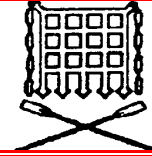


Wallingford Head Safety Plan 2007



SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS

This paper is distributed to competitors, coaches, organisers, marshals, and safety personnel. This must be read by every person taking part, in association with the Competitors' Instructions and the ARA Water Safety Code.

Race Safety:

- Wallingford Winter Head is run under the ARA Rules of Racing.
- **It cannot be emphasised too strongly, that it is the responsibility of Clubs, their athletes and coaches to ensure that their equipment complies with the Water Safety Code requirements, and that athletes are dressed appropriately for changeable conditions.**
- The primary duty of every Race Official is to care for the safety of competitors and others.
- Race officials will inspect boats chosen at random. Boats that fail to comply with the Water Safety Code will be excluded from the event. Athletes that are inadequately clothed may be excluded from racing, esp Juniors.
- All crews attending the Head must comply fully with the Wallingford Head rules as laid out in the Instructions to Competitors. Specific attention is drawn to competitors and coaches that boats designed to have watertight hatches and / or bungs must have these in place and fitted correctly.
- Competitors who have any potential health problems that might put themselves or other competitors at risk, eg epilepsy, must advise the race officials of their condition prior to going afloat. The race committee retains the sanction to not allow a competitor to go afloat if the condition in their opinion constitutes an unacceptable risk.

Conditions:

- The Race Committee and Safety Advisor will decide if weather conditions are too dangerous to permit racing to start or continue.

Emergency Procedure:

- If there is an emergency, the nearest marshal should take charge and determine the nature of the emergency.
- If it is a life-threatening incident requiring the emergency services dial 999, or ensure someone else is calling 999, before contacting Race Control. Do not wait for a launch / first aiders / medical officers to arrive.
- Remember that a conventional ambulance will probably not get close to the riverbank – you may need to ask for the Air Ambulance – suitable landing points are shown on the map. If a conventional ambulance is sent, and needs advice on how to get to the nearest access point, and you can't advise them, then get them to ring Dave Hancock on 07720 898714.
- Contact Race Control on the radio network, or get the nearest marshal to do so. State "EMERGENCY", and then state what the incident is – eg "rower in the water", "coach fallen off bike" – and where it is (ideally give the marshal's number where the incident is), and what is needed. Usually the nearest launch should attend – but for a capsized 8 or 4, you may need more than one launch.
- All the marshals and launches are on the same radio net, so the nearest safety launch will hear the transmission, should proceed (promptly, but not causing risk to other competitors) to wherever the incident is, stating on the radio that it is doing so.
- There should be no other radio traffic during the emergency - unless it is directly relevant to it. Race Control will declare when radio traffic can resume.

Suspending/Stopping the Race:

- It may be necessary to stop the race should conditions alter significantly through the course of the race or a major event occurs (e.g. multiple collisions). Racing will be postponed if the Safety Advisor and/or a Race Umpire decide that conditions are unsafe. The Safety Advisor and/or Race Umpire making the decision to suspend the race shall immediately inform all marshals and Umpires using the radio network.

- Marshals, mainly experienced umpires or club members with knowledge of the river, will immediately instruct racing boats to stop by shouting “**STOP RACING**” on megaphones and guiding boats into the most sheltered part of the river adjacent to one of the banks. If conditions are equal on each bank, preference should be given to bringing crews in to the towpath bank where assistance can be given easily.
- Launches are to stay in position so as to give cover over all of the course and drivers are to be vigilant and respond to any request for help from Marshals. All launches are equipped with Safety boxes which include emergency foil blankets which should be used to ensure competitors remain warm.
- The Safety Advisor and the Race Control (Chairman of the Race Committee) shall decide on terminating the event, or re-starting if conditions improve.

On the Water:

- All launches will carry radios and safety equipment as specified by the WSC. 2 specialist launches will also be on the water to deal specifically with incidents of immersion. Vehicles will be placed at Cholsey Ferry, the bypass bridge & Oxford Brookes Boathouse to allow fast removal of participants should an incident occur.
- Safety cover will be provided for the reach bounded by the old Wallingford Bridge and the marshalling position of the last boat in each division.
- Cover will commence 90 minutes before the start of each division, with limited cover provided by safety boats initially. Full cover will be in place 45 minutes before the start of each division.
- Bank marshals will be in place to provide line of sight cover for the whole course from 45 minutes prior to the start of the division, until the last boat in that division has cleared the area for which that marshal is responsible.
- A safety launch will follow the last crew in each division. On the water safety cover will terminate for each division as the last crew arrives at the rafts.
- First aid kits are located at Wallingford Rowing Club, with the catering facility in the boating area and on board all launches.

- A radio system will be in operation. The radio system covers the bank marshals along the course, the start, the safety boats along the course and the finish. This is supplemented by use of officials' mobile phones as a backup in the event of radio failure.
- In the event of an on the water incident, competitors should firstly ensure their own safety, then ensure a race official is aware of the problem and offer assistance if required.
- If any persons suffer any injuries, the nearest race official will determine whether these are minor and are treatable by the event's first aid staff, or whether they are serious enough to require the emergency services via a 999 call.
- Persons suffering minor injuries will be taken by a safety launch to Wallingford Rowing Club or the nearest landing stage, notifying race control by radio or by phone. Race Control will then organise appropriate medical support.
- In the event of a person being injured on land, Race Control should be informed. Qualified first aiders or the duty medical staff will be called to assist. Further medical assistance may be summoned through race control.
- All accidents, collisions or capsize must be reported to Race Control and an ARA incident report form filled in prior to leaving the event. Copies of Incident Forms will be held at Race Control.
- Crews boating from boathouses downstream of the Finish will not be allowed onto the course but should proceed through the Town Bridge towards Benson Lock. Crews must take great care when returning through the Town Bridge.

REMEMBER

In a Serious Incident Call the Emergency Services on 999.

Do Not Wait For First Aiders / Medical Officers To Arrive.

Remember that a conventional Ambulance Will Probably Not Get Close To the Riverbank – You May Need To Ask for the Air Ambulance.