

Briefing for Crew Captains and Officials

Crew Captains' Meeting (extract from the Rules)

Before the start of the competition, a meeting shall be convened by the Organising Committee at which all team managers, coxes and crew captains must participate. At this meeting, the Race Committee Chairman and Event Safety Adviser will explain and provide to all participants all information reasonably required for the safe running of the event (including local maritime rules, tidal movements, currents, specific topography, known dangers and safety rules). If deemed necessary, the coxes, and the crew captains, may be invited to view the course from a motor launch of the Organising Committee.

On the Water

- All race craft are required to follow the International Rules for Prevention of collision at sea and the local marine traffic regulations
- All race craft will be inspected prior to racing
- Crew competence and awareness is paramount. Special care should be taken to watch out for swimmers especially at the start and finish of the race, and close to the near-shore turns
- Be aware that there might also be other water users (paddle-boarders, kayaks, jet skis etc.,) as well as stationary navigational buoys
- Boats being overtaken must not obstruct the overtaking boat. Take particular care at turning points.
- Competitors should be prepared to stop and assist other boats, especially if there are no rescue craft in sight.
- Take care not to be swept or blown onto the groynes on the beach. Crews will be marshalled accordingly.
- No on water warming up or cooling down is permitted during racing
- Circulation patterns detailing training and racing zones are displayed on the notice board, and included in the information already sent to participants.
- No-go zones and sea marks included in the event traffic pattern and will be displayed on the notice board
- Water and beach traffic patterns are displayed on the notice board and included in the information already sent to participants.
- Clearing the zone is shown in the Finish Traffic Pattern. Extra trained volunteers may be used to support.
- Local marine agencies have been informed of racing area.
- Any official can stop racing if conditions deteriorate such that they become unsafe. Individual crews can be returned to the shore if they appear not to be able to cope with the conditions.
- Umpires will issue penalties for crews that are considered 'out of control' during the start and finish. Each crew has 2 boat handlers, this may be increased to support crews either in the start or finish 'arrival' zones.
- If conditions dictate then additional boat handlers will be allowed to support crews leaving and returning to the beach. A floating start and finishes can be run. Crews may be held ashore or behind the break for smaller sets of waves before leaving or returning.
- Race officials are aware of sunset time and will ensure that all rowing boats are ashore half an hour before sunset. There will be no rowing in the dark.

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- The finish 'arrival zone' has a coordinating official. Rules and instructions to participants about how to clear the zone will be provided

On Land

- Take care handling boats on land to avoid contact with other crews, spectators, etc. Boat zones will be zoned off and marshals will be present to alert spectators that move too close to potential areas of risk.
- Beach traffic patterns are displayed on the notice board and included in the information already sent to participants. Areas for spectators will be marked off.
- Missing children should be taken to race control from which announcements to their parents or caregivers will be made.
- Clubs should take care of their Junior members and any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Event Welfare Officer on 07818 576149 who can also be contacted via race control.

General

Participants and officials who have a medical condition should take appropriate prophylactic medicine (e.g. asthma rescue inhaler) and carry it at all times.

Protect yourself against high or low temperatures as applicable (use sunscreen, wear appropriate clothes, etc.)

Crew Captain's obligations (as specified in the Event Rules)

According to international maritime law, all sea-going vessels must have one person responsible for safety and navigation. In offshore rowing, this will be one member of the crew who will be designated the "Crew Captain".

The Crew Captain shall be responsible for:

Before every outing:

- taking responsibility for assessing the risks and the ability of the crew to cope with the prevailing and forecast conditions;
- familiarising himself with the current and expected weather conditions;
- registering the outing with the Control Commission, showing the date and time of the outing, the estimated length of the outing and the route to be taken;
- checking the condition of the boat and the safety equipment on board.

During the outing:

- ensuring that the crew respects all navigational and safety rules;
- requiring that all members of the crew wear their life jackets as necessary;
- monitoring any changes in the weather or water conditions which might affect the safety of the crew;
- making necessary decisions for the safety of the crew if the weather deteriorates.

After the outing:

- informing the Control Commission of the return of the crew;

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- completing the log to indicate the crew's return.