# XXX Regatta

# Information for parents and spectators

Parents - 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 at ….. Directions.

Car parking for the event will be clearly signed. It costs X. Please do not park on the roads near the club as it upsets our neighbours. This is a residential area.

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

Please take a look at the maps and plans on the website indicating where the layout of the site.

Rowing is an outdoor sport, you may need umbrellas, water and wind proofs, sun lotion, sunglasses and suitable footwear. 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.

**Safety**

We take safety very seriously. Please take a moment to look at the safety information on the website.

**Refreshments**

There will be lots of cakes, sandwiches (rolls) and drinks for sale at ………..

There will also be burgers and hotdogs available from about ……………..

The club bar will be open from ………….

**Toilets**

Toilets can be found at ………..

**Disabled Access**

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

The disabled loo is near the lift door on the 1st floor of the clubhouse.

**Results**

Race results and updated race schedules are posted at…

**The Races Explained**

When racing, junior rowers and scullers are classified by their age according to the school year. Boys are ‘J’ (junior) and girls are ‘WJ’ (women – junior). The age is that achieved during the current school year, so J14s are boys (in Year 9 in state schools) who will be 14 this academic year. WJ12s are girls in Year 7.

‘Beginner’ and ‘club’ classes are unique to XXX Regatta. In order that crews are as closely matched as possible coaches are requested to enter according to the following criteria:

‘Beginner’: Less than one year or less than approximately 40 sessions on the water.  Anyone entering will not have achieved any wins and this will probably be their first regatta.

‘Club’: Can include crews with some racing experience but not those who are capable of success at National level events.

Events run on a knockout basis with the winner of each heat progressing to the next round until an ultimate winner is decided in the final.

**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 X station (i.e. the nearest the spectators), and the other on the Y station .

**The finish**

The finish umpire is in the Finish 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 maybe 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**

**At the start**

The marshals will hand crews over to a British Rowing licensed umpire; his job is to enforce the rules during the race, as follows;

**Role Call**

As a final check to ensure the correct crews are presented for the race, the umpire will call the race number, the event, the competitors and if time allows the outcome, for example "Race 29 a heat of the J14 beginner quads between XXX and XXX, the winner goes through to the semi-final and the other crew to the repechage.”

**The Start**

The umpire will raise a red flag and shout “ATTENTION” then pause between 1-3 seconds then shout “GO” as he lowers the red flag.

**False Start**

If any crew jumps the start the umpire will stop the race by shouting "Stop Rowing", waving a red flag and ringing a bell, he may restart the race, give an official warning to the offending crew (two of these leads to automatic disqualification) or disqualify the offending crew.

**Keeping on station**

Any crew wandering off station will be directed back to station by the umpire calling the name of the crew , giving an instruction in which direction to move and pointing in that direction with a white flag. If both crews merge together he will call for them to move apart and hold the flag above his head. Failure to obey can lead to disqualification.

**Clashing**

If boats and blades contact each other, the umpire will stop the race and may restart it either from the start or a suitable point, or decide the winner there and then

**The finish**

If the race has been in order and the finish is not disputed, the umpire in the launch will raise a white flag which will be acknowledged by a white flag from the finish tent.

**Disputes**

If the crew disagrees with a decision, they must raise their hands and call to the umpire immediately the race has finished, he will go and talk to them about it.

If they are still not happy with the decision or revised decision, they may make an appeal to the Chairman of the Race Committee.

All officials and helpers are volunteers giving up many hours to make the competition 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 decision is final.

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 ….

All finals are run at the end of the program.

When all the races have finished the prizes will be presented to the winners by …..

**First Aid/Emergencies**

First aid services will be based at ….

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 and Results.

**Photographs and Full results**

Full results will be on the Regatta website and photographs at xxxxxx website with a few days.