

# Ironbridge Rowing Club

## REGATTA SAFETY PLAN

28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Emergency Team:** Regatta Safety Adviser: Sandra Towers

Regatta Medical Adviser: ACE Medical Solutions

Regatta Welfare Officer: Sarah Staniforth

Chairman of Race Committee: Gail Thomas

Duty Co-Ordinating Umpire: As listed on Umpire Rota

Regatta Secretary: Stewart Plant

Club Chair: Gail Thomas

Club Captain: Stewart Plant

Facilities Manager: Phil Gardner

Any or all of the above named may be responsible for taking control of an emergency situation not directly connected with racing. On-river incidents shall be under the control of umpires and officials, as detailed in "Emergency Instructions for Crews and Officials" below.

- **Instructions to Umpires, Officials and Competitors**

All notes and instructions for Umpires, officials and clubs will be available on the website prior to the event. Items relevant to the safe running of the Regatta include the following:

- Notes for Clubs and Competitors
- Safety Procedures/Instructions
- Regatta Safety Plan
- Welfare Plan

Umpires and officials will also be briefed on the Accident & Emergency Action Plan (see below) prior to the Regatta.

- **Rules of the Regatta**

The Regatta is to be conducted in accordance with the British Rowing Rules of Racing and under the guidance of 'Row Safe'. Umpires, Marshals and Officials shall be responsible for ensuring the Code and Rules are complied with at all times. All competitors are expected to be familiar with the Rules and Code.

- **Communications**

Umpires, Officials, Safety Boat crews and First Aid shall maintain contact with each other and Control Commission through 2-way radios. In addition, Umpires Start and Finish Marshals shall be issued

with loudhailers for communicating with crews. A public address (PA) system will be used to make announcements to spectators etc. during the hours of racing.

To aid efficient communication, two radio channels are used (the numbers will be allocated on the weekend):

- Channel 1 used for: Race announcements/Umpires/Safety Launches
- Channel 2 used for: Regatta Control/Marshals and discussion of race disputes or safety issue between the officials.

### **Emergencies:**

To clear the radio lines for emergency communications, radio users will use the call '**PAN PAN**'. Upon hearing this call, all users must stop conversations immediately whilst the emergency messages are communicated to Control/Co-ordinating Umpire.

'May Day' will be used only where there is an imminent danger to life.

- **Medical/First Aid Cover**

Throughout racing, a team of suitably equipped and qualified RYA2 launch drivers and first aiders from Ironbridge Rowing Club (IRC), Bridgnorth RC and Pengwern BC, will be positioned on the river to view the whole course. A qualified team (ACE Medical Solutions) will provide first-aid cover on land during racing on Saturday and Sunday.

A defibrillator is kept inside the boathouse. It is located on the first floor at the top of the stairs, there will also be the following equipment located at the medical tent which is situated at the front of the boathouse:

1 Team Leader/ Manager  
3 Responders  
2 patient monitors  
3 x Defib  
3 x Responder bags inc oxygen.  
1 x Entenox kit  
1 x Burns kit  
1 x med tent with 2 bed capacity  
1 x 4x4 with stretcher

- **Navigation and Marshalling**

### **Start/Finish**

Start and finish areas are under the control of Marshals. Signs on the riverbank will advise crews of the turning points and limits of safe water upstream of the start and downstream of the finish.

### **Boating-On**

A blade rack is available (at the top of the 'on' steps) to aid prompt boating-on and to avoid clutter on the steps. A line of buoys will separate the racing lane from boats at the landing stages. Once boated, Marshals shall direct crews speedily across the race lanes to the far side of the river. Crews shall be reminded of the need to keep well into the far bank when rowing up to the start to avoid clashes with racing crews.

### **Boating-Off**

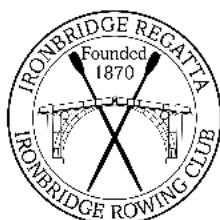
Marshals shall control the return of crews to the downstream landing stage once they have turned around the buoy after the finish. The PA shall be used, if necessary, to remind crews to remove blades promptly after boating-off.

### **The Course**

Safety on the course is under the control of Umpires stationed at the start, 750m, 500m, 250m and the finish. The "Notes for Clubs and Competitors" includes a plan (see below) that identifies hazards on the course. As far as practically possible, tree branches and other riverside vegetation that may

cause obstructions are pruned/cut back prior to the Regatta. Your attention is drawn to the sunken boat on the club side between the concrete road bridge (old Power Station) and the landing stage (see below).

## Plan of the River

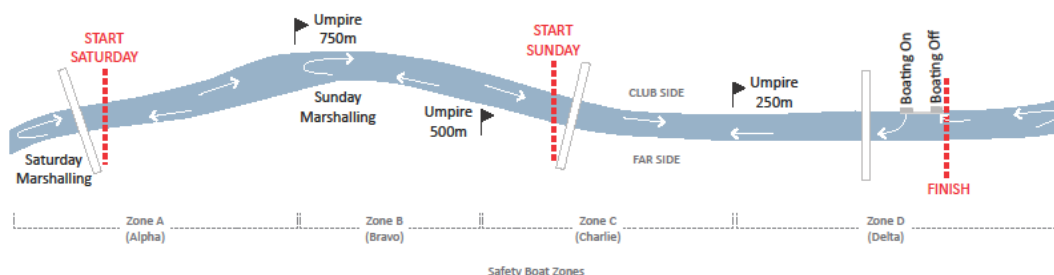


# Regatta Course Map

Please note potential hazards: Shallow water approximately 300m above the Saturday start and 300m downstream of the steps; sunken barge at the 250m Umpire point on the club side - these areas will be buoyed. Please stay within the boundaries of this plan during both racing and when practising.

Crews must proceed upstream to the start on the far side of the river, taking care to heed marshalling instructions so as not to impede races in progress. Practice starts are not allowed anywhere on the course and crews are liable to disqualification if they disobey this instruction.

On Sunday, please do not proceed beyond the 750m Saturday Umpire point; this is to ensure that racing stays on time. Should you do this, you may be liable to an Official Warning, as laid down in the British Rowing Rules of Racing.



## EMERGENCY ACCESS

**It is essential that access for emergency vehicles is unrestricted throughout the entire Regatta weekend.** Notices prohibiting parking shall be displayed on the access track and emergency access lanes left on both the camping field and trailer park. Club members and officials will take responsibility for helping to enforce this. If necessary, the PA system can be used to make sure offending vehicles or other obstructions are moved.

## ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

**Emergency Services:** In case of an emergency dial **999** and request relevant service.

Mobile coverage is generally poor in Ironbridge Gorge; a better signal for mobiles can be obtained at the top of the track from the main road down to the club. There is a telephone behind the bar in the boathouse for emergencies only; the clubhouse will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

**Directions to the Clubhouse:** the clubhouse is reached down a single-lane track off the B4380 Buildwas Road, Ironbridge. The entrance to the track is just before the railway bridge if heading from Ironbridge, just after the bridge if heading from the Power Station. (There are three steel barriers down the track, which are chained and padlocked when the club is not in use).

**SAT NAV:**

**TF8 7BJ**

### **WHAT3WORDS**

The following what3word locations can be given in the event of an emergency to direct emergency services to the corresponding position.

- Clubhouse Door knowledge.germinate.prune
- Race Control rates.panicking.ends
- Boating Off torso.wiggling.singles
- Boating On heartless.racing.grapes
- 250m Umpire obstruction.squabbles.rainy
- 500m Umpire solutions.hopping.jabs
- 750m Umpire insurance.cheer.funny
- 900m Umpire unframed.bakers.flash
- Start Marshall 900m backdrop.engulfing.strain

**Nearest Accident & Emergency Unit:** Princess Royal Hospital,  
Apley, Telford. TF1 6RH  
Tel: 01952 -64122

# On-River Emergency Instructions for Crews and Officials

## **In an Emergency:**

- Inform Control and the Co-ordinating Umpire immediately, giving the following details
  - Nature of incident
  - Where on the course
  - If safety boat/first aid required
  - Race details, who is involved
- Stop all racing: The Co-ordinating umpire will confirm the suspension of racing to all points on the radio. Crews **must** follow instructions given by Umpires for their own safety and that of their fellow competitors. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- Co-ordinating Umpire to take charge of the incident in conjunction with the Regatta Safety Adviser.
- Co-ordinating Umpire will notify the appropriate services, i.e. Safety Boat, First Aid etc.
- Capsized crews should stay with their boat. Crew Captains should take charge until the Safety Boat arrives.
- All involved in the incident must be checked by a qualified First Aider and details recorded by IRC
- Racing will only recommence when the Co-ordinating Umpire/Regatta Safety Adviser is satisfied it is safe to do so. The Co-ordinating Umpire will announce that racing can recommence to all points via the radio.
- To aid the Co-ordinating Umpire/Regatta Safety Adviser in managing the incident, no one should use the radio unless requested by the Co-ordinating Umpire/Regatta Safety Adviser.
- Race commentary will be suspended unless it is required to help the emergency situation

## **In the event of a Major Incident**

- In the event of serious medical emergency, the Regatta Safety Advisors will take charge of the situation and will call and liaise with emergency services as required. The incident response will be managed from the Race Control tent, on the race finish position.
- Racing may be suspended dependent on the nature of the incident.
- Announcements will be made via the PA system to give instructions to all competitors and spectators. Umpires and Race Marshals will communicate with any crews on the water.
- Any water borne casualties will be landed ashore to the boating OFF steps and met by the onsite First Aid team. The immediate area will be cleared of all spectators by Club Marshals to enable safe access for emergency services and, if needed, to screen any casualties undergoing treatment.

- **Weather and River Conditions**

### **Abandonment due to poor weather:**

River and weather conditions will be monitored prior to and during the Regatta. The course may be reduced in length if the river is too high, and racing suspended temporarily during bad weather. The event may be abandoned entirely in extreme conditions. The Regatta Committee will make decisions where time allows, joint responsibility in an emergency resting with the Regatta Safety Adviser, Umpires and the Race Committee (See Chairman of Race Committee for contact names).

**Crews must listen out carefully for and obey all instructions given by Umpires and race officials.**

### **Thunderstorm:**

- The Regatta Safety Adviser will monitor the course of any thunderstorms affecting the area. If the storm is heading towards the Regatta, boating-on will be suspended when the interval between lightning and thunder is less than 30 seconds.
- At less than 30 seconds interval, racing will be suspended and crews instructed by marshals and umpires to return to the nearest boating on/off area.
- PA announcements will be made advising crews, officials and spectators to seek proper shelter: safe shelter – vehicles, buildings; unsafe shelter – trees, tents, near boats (carbon fibre/metal).

**Heavy Rain / Strong Winds:**

- There may be temporary suspension of racing or limiting of single and double crews. The Race Committee and Safety Advisor will advise.
- Crews must listen out carefully for and obey all instructions given by Umpires and race officials.

**Flooding / High Water:**

- Where there is a fast current and/or debris in the river there may be suspension of racing, or limiting of entries to older, more experienced crews and larger boats; the Safety Advisor, Umpires and Race Committee will advise accordingly.
- Crews must listen out carefully for and obey all instructions given by Umpires and race officials.

**Failure of safety arrangements**

- In the event of the loss of safety boat cover, medical cover or communications breakdown (radios), racing will be suspended, shortened or ultimately cancelled to reduce risks, unless appropriate cover can be arranged. The Race Committee will take control.

**Abandonment Plan**

The Regatta Committee will monitor the weather / river conditions leading up to the day of the Regatta and if the conditions are becoming adverse, will;

- Communicate with clubs, crews and officials prior to the Regatta and abandon beforehand if possible, or will;
- Continue with the Regatta but reduce the course length, and assess the fixed and variable aspects of the Regatta, and;
- Base their decision on the weather, the course river conditions, and age of the competitors, experience, category, coxless boats, front loaders, seat buoyancy, and other external factors.
- If the Regatta is abandoned during race hours, crews on the water will be instructed accordingly.
- It is the responsibility of the competing club, coaches and competing individuals to decide whether to enter crews capable of completing the course in possibly worsening conditions. The decision to enter should be made prior to or on the day of the Regatta.
- If the event is abandoned due to external causes, e.g. police request, the Regatta Committee will issue instructions to all on site to evacuate etc. as required. All competitors and spectators MUST follow those instructions which shall be issued by the PA system and/or Marshals.

**General:**

- If there is a medical emergency during the day-time, a manned first-aid post will be located at the front of the boathouse on the car park.

## **Fire Action**

On discovering a fire the following procedure should be followed:

**Inside the Club/Boathouse**

- Operate the nearest alarm and, if safe to do so, inform Race Control of the emergency situation.
- If considered necessary, the first person on scene will call the emergency services before putting the club procedures into action
- Only tackle the fire using the correct extinguisher(s) and without taking any risks.
- Building to be evacuated as quickly as possible, without inducing panic. Ensure all rooms in the building have been checked to make sure all people are out of the building.
- The muster point is in **Dale End Park**, in the field by the river (**Trailer Park**), opposite the clubhouse.
- People must not stop to collect belongings, or re-enter the building until told by an official that it is safe to do so.

- The Safety Adviser, or most senior club official present, shall be the last person to leave the building, after checking all rooms are empty and fire doors closed.

### **Outside the Club/Boathouse - marquee, camping field, trailer park**

- Seek help to notify the nearest club member or official.
- The most senior club official immediately available shall phone 999 and take charge of mustering people in **Dale End Park**, in the field opposite the clubhouse (**Trailer Park**).

### **Responsibilities**

The Regatta Committee endeavour to provide a safe environment in accordance with the **British Rowing's 'Row Safe'**, although competitors, coaches and clubs are specifically reminded that every person attending the Regatta, including those competing, or officiating, do so entirely at their own risk and are solely responsible for:

- Their own safety;
- Ensuring that their equipment is safe and prepared to the standards required by **British Rowing's 'Row Safe'** and **BR Rules of Racing**. Any boats found failing to meet the standards shall be excluded;
- The strict observance of circulation pattern and **British Rowing's 'Row Safe'**;
- Competing crews determining together with their clubs, coaches, whether or not they are competent to compete in the prevailing weather and stream conditions, and;
- Ensuring 'a responsible adult' accompanies each junior competing in the Regatta to assist them in 'loco parentis' with their responsibilities and assume responsibility for their welfare.
- In the interest of safety, any competitor that falls into the river under any circumstances will not be allowed to race again until BR's capsized procedure has been followed (showering, dry kit has been obtained) and the First Aid representative has authorised it.

### **Camping at Ironbridge**

- Please pitch tents in the dedicated camping zone only so that access for emergency vehicles is maintained at all times.
- Ensure that a safe distance is maintained between tents. We will request that tents are moved, if necessary, to maximise parking availability during the day and for safety reasons.
- Please take care when moving your vehicles and keep a look out for pedestrians.
- Barbecues and fires are **not permitted** on the field at any time.
- Toilets and bins will be situated on the field and drinking water will be available at the boathouse.
- The field is not illuminated so please bring a torch or lamp to avoid trips/falls in the darkness and take all due care when moving around the area.
- IRC cannot accept any liability for loss or damage to vehicles or personal possessions.

