

Ironbridge Rowing Club – Regatta Welfare Statement

The Organising Committee of the **Ironbridge Weekend Regattas** is committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all participants. In accordance with the **British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Guidance (WG 3.4)**, the welfare and wellbeing of all children and vulnerable adults is paramount.

All children—regardless of **age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or ability**—have equal rights to safety and protection. Everyone attending the regatta is asked to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious, including behaviour such as unknown individuals taking photographs of crews. All suspicions, concerns, and allegations of harm are taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.

Welfare Plan Overview

The Organising Committee has reviewed regatta procedures from the perspective of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in all roles—competitors, helpers, and spectators. Most welfare considerations are also reflected within the Regatta Safety Plan, but the following key points are emphasised:

Children as Competitors

- Officials and competitors must treat junior rowers appropriately at all times, including during instructions, boating, marshalling, and racing.

Children as Helpers

- Children acting as helpers will *not* be placed in hazardous or unsuitable situations.

Children as Spectators

- Juniors spectating near the riverbank—particularly close to the Finish area—must take extra care. Supervising adults should maintain awareness at all times.

Please note that abusive, intimidating, discriminatory or inappropriate behaviour towards athletes, volunteers or officials will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the event.

Reporting a Welfare Concern

Anyone with a concern of any kind regarding child or vulnerable adult welfare should contact the **Regatta Welfare Officers** immediately.

Regatta Welfare Officers

Sally-Ann Beech

- Mobile: **07572442872**
- Can be contacted via any official with a radio

Sarah Staniforth

- Available at **Registration** during racing hours
- Mobile: **07966 441873**
- Can also be contacted via any official with a radio

The Regatta Welfare Officer will:

- Take overall responsibility for investigating concerns
- Take action where necessary and consult relevant parties
- Refer matters to the coordinating umpire, police, or the **British Rowing Safeguarding Team** (07976 902618) where appropriate
- Ensure any report requiring external escalation reaches the police, NSPCC (0808 800 5000), or Childline (0800 1111) if necessary

Please note that new British Rowing procedures for reporting Safeguarding should come into effect from June 2026 (at the time of writing this statement these are not available) we will adhere to reporting procedures in place at the time of our regatta.

If a child or vulnerable adult is believed to be at **immediate risk of harm**, contact emergency services on **999** before notifying the Welfare Officer.

Medical Provision

Medical support is provided **on-site during racing hours only**.

Outside these hours, competitors and spectators should use the **local hospital or doctor's clinic** using the contact information posted at the venue.

Contact Details for Responsible Adults

Clubs with junior competitors must provide a **contact mobile number** for a responsible adult at Registration. These details are held only for the duration of the regatta and securely destroyed afterwards.

Missing Persons Procedure

If someone is believed to be missing, the following applies:

- Report immediately to Race Control, the Welfare Officer, or the nearest official.
- Race Control will coordinate via **radio and PA system** and notify relevant authorities if necessary.
- Information required includes:
 - Name, age, and brief description
 - Any known medical conditions
 - Name and contact number of reporting person
 - How long the individual has been missing

Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of junior athletes from visiting clubs lies with those clubs. Ironbridge Rowing Club undertakes not to serve drinks to underage persons whether direct or by proxy via irresponsible adults.

Summary

Ironbridge Rowing Club emphasises:

- Equal rights to safety and protection for all children and vulnerable adults
- Vigilance from all participants, volunteers, and spectators
- Prompt reporting and thorough handling of all welfare concerns
- Clear protocols for supervision, reporting, medical support, and missing persons management

This Welfare Statement reflects Ironbridge Rowing Club's published safeguarding approach for the Ironbridge Weekend Regattas and meets the expectations of **British Rowing's Safeguarding & Protecting Children Guidance**.