

# WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA

## 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### SAFETY PLAN

**ROWING MASTERS, CLUB CAPTAINS AND COACHES MUST ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR COMPETITORS HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS SAFETY PLAN, AND READ AND UNDERSTOOD IT, TOGETHER WITH THE REGATTA CIRCULATION PLAN.**

The regatta is located at Walton Rowing Club, Sunbury Lane, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2JA. However please see separate instructions for trailer and car parking locations.

#### The Course

##### Crews Proceeding to the Start Must:

- Boat with bows pointing upstream.
- When the course is CLEAR of racing crews, proceed across to the far side of the river and into the navigation channel.
- Once in the navigation channel, stay close to the bank (starboard/bow side) at ALL TIMES.
- Keep a look out for other river users, navigating downstream, closest to the racing lanes.

**Regatta Jurisdiction:** Walton Bridge and the 'Regatta Warning' signs above Sunbury Weir mark the boundaries of Walton and Weybridge Regatta. Within this area umpires, marshals and rescue launch teams will be exercising their skills to minimise risk to all crews and maximise safety. There is sufficient space for adequate warming up and cooling down. Crews that feel they need to paddle above Walton Bridge must clearly understand that they do so entirely at their own risk and that in so doing they are leaving the Regatta Area and the associated safety benefits.

**Navigation Channel:** Crews paddling to the start are to keep to the starboard (bow) side of the Navigation Channel, proceeding slowly but without stopping or overtaking. The Environment Agency insist that river traffic using the navigation channel must not be unduly impeded; any crew seen to violate these instructions will be given an official warning.

**There is a small weir (Tumbling Bay) just upstream of Walton Rowing Club and your attention is drawn to it as a potential hazard.**

**Practice starts in the navigation channel are STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** and may incur an official warning. They are allowed above the start having due regard for other river traffic.

Crews arriving at the Start must proceed past it, keeping to the Middlesex bank, until they are above the Regatta Warning Sign. Then, after careful scrutiny and when safe to do so,

cross the river to the Surrey side and wait by the Walton Marina pontoons until called forward by the Start Marshal.

**Safety Cover & Medical:** There will be two safety launches on duty, one situated close to the start "Safety Start" and one closer to the finish, "Safety Finish".

A Tactical Medical first aid ambulance will be stationed in the vicinity of the finish on Felix Lane. What-3-words "SHIRTS.SHIP.FIRST".

In the event of an incident on the water, a safety launch may be summoned by any regatta official and the incident will then be managed by race control. Radio silence will be maintained during any safety incident until the incident is cleared. Race Control will advise when racing may resume.

In the event of an incident on land, including injury sustained by a member of the public, the injured party should either make their way to the first aid ambulance at the finish or, if this is not possible, seek the help of a regatta official who will contact race control.

Should it be necessary to call the emergency services, this will be managed by Race Control and the regatta Safety Adviser.

Any competitors with pre-existing medical conditions that may impact their safety or the safety of others should notify the competition, ideally in advance of race day. Any such information will only be advised to those officials who need to know.

**Emergencies:** In the event of an emergency situation affecting the regatta site, a message will be broadcast from Race Control at the finish. Any message must be acted upon promptly.

**Adverse Weather Conditions:** In the event of adverse weather conditions the race committee will take appropriate action. Crews on the water may be directed to return to their boating areas or the nearest opportunity for shelter. If crews are already at the start it may be the quickest option to race them down the course. Please listen for tannoy announcements or instructions from officials and act on them accordingly.