

WALTON & WEYBRIDGE REGATTA 2026

Cancellation Assessment

Weather and Stream Parameters

	3	2	1	0
Wind Speed	Force 7-6	Force 5-4	Force 3-2	
Wind Direction	NE/E/NW	NE/E/NW		
EA River Conditions	Red	Yellow	Green	
Precipitation(2)	Take Action	Be Prepared	Be aware	None
Air Temperature	<4C	<7C	>8C	
Visibility(3)	< 200m	reduced	clear	

1 EA River Conditions: <http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk>

2 Precipitation <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings>

3 Visibility <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/guide/weather/severe-weather-advice/fog>

Any parameter that meets the column 3 criteria would mean the event is cancelled.

Other columns show the perceived risk level to the event, severity increasing by column number.

Any combination of factors may mean restrictions are put on the event escalating to cancellation if necessary.

Wind Speed

Those events where cancellation has taken place the wind was forecast to be Force 6 to 7 (30/35mph), below that the wind speed needs to be looked at in combination with wind direction air temperature and rainfall.

If wind speed exceeds 25mph and gusts more than 40mph, the event will be cancelled.

Wind Direction

The course can be adversely affected by a Easterly wind. Firstly wind against the stream over 70% of the Head course. Secondly difficulty in marshalling and attaching to stake boats. At wind speed force 5 – 4 change to free starts

Environment Agency River Board system

This should be monitored before the event for any trends, but the EA do not expect events to run on a Red Board. Typically Red Boards are in force at about 120 . Yellow Boards at approx. 90. Between 70 – 90 cancel all J15 and below events.

The event will be cancelled if Red Boards. No juniors or novices if Yellow Boards, Stream Increasing. Information for clubs will be posted on the regatta website if such conditions occur, so that individual decisions may be taken as regards ability.

Rain Fall

I used the Met Office warning system for this. Events need to consider the air temperature and wind speed along with rainfall as to whether athletes should be expected to wait sometime before starting and the risk of exposure, particularly younger competitors. If rain and wind at 5- 4 then call crews to boat giving limited marshalling time in start area No more than 8 crews on the water at once

Thunder & Lightning

In the event of thunder and lightning, if the period of time between hearing thunder and a visible lightning strike is less than 30 seconds racing will be suspended completely and all persons advised to take cover away from trees and to carry blades in a horizontal position. The Race Committee will consider resuming racing once the length of time between a visible lightning strike and thunder is more than 30 seconds and has maintained that period for 30 minutes or ceased altogether.

Air Temperature

This needs to be considered along with wind speed (wind chill) and rainfall as above. Looking at wind chill factor charts and given a possible maximum wind speed of 35mph, 4C seems to be the cut-off point as to whether wind chill should be considered.

The usual air temperature at the regatta in June averages 18-23 degrees c.

Fog (Visibility)

If the length of the course is not visible, rowing will be suspended/cancelled, depending on the duration.

Competitors

If wind speed / gusts makes it difficult to attach to stake boats, the event on Saturday will move to free starts. The junior event on Sunday is free starts.

If conditions deteriorate during the day (wind speed reaches 35mph), or combination of other events causes difficult rowing conditions, those under J15 will be removed from the program as will inexperienced/novice rowers. This is continually monitored.

Powered safety launches manned by qualified safety crew (Manfred) are in attendance on the course throughout the day and for 30 minutes before the start and until the last crew is off the water.

Tactical Medical land based crew are in attendance at the Finish.