

# ***DONCASTER REGATTA***

# ***SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS***

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## **1. LOCATION**

The race takes place over a 600m section of the River Don at Hexthorpe Reach, Doncaster.

## **2. SCOPE**

These instructions apply to all competitors racing at Doncaster Regatta while in the boating area and on the race course. If crews venture out of sight of race officials at the start or finish, they are deemed to be subject to normal river rules. Safety cover applies to this area during the regatta.

These instructions should be read in conjunction with the ARA Water Safety Code which gives broad advice to oarspersons and their associates both in and out of competition.

## **3. RULES GOVERNING THE ORGANISATION OF THE EVENT**

The regatta is run in accordance with the Amateur Rowing Association Rules of Racing and the Water Safety Code

All crews must be apprised of the local rules as defined by the organising committee. These rules have been designed as addenda to the above in order to facilitate the smooth running of the regatta and to ensure the safety of competitors, spectators and the general public.

## **4. CANCELLATION OF THE REGATTA**

While the River Don is seldom susceptible to high water and fast streams, the possibility of dangerous conditions cannot be dismissed. While the race committee understands that cancellation can lead to a great deal of disappointment, the regatta will not be run if there it is believed that conditions present any degree of preventable risk to any participants.

The organising committee will maintain an ongoing watch on the river over the week leading up to the regatta and reviewing forecasts, making a decision to cancel when it no longer felt appropriate to stage the event (either in total or by event), taking all relevant factors into account.

A decision will be taken at 7:00pm on the evening prior to the regatta and, subject to any extreme changes in circumstances, again at 7:00am the following morning. If you have any concerns regarding possible cancellation, please address them to the Regatta Secretary at any time.

Competing clubs will be contacted by telephone as soon as the decision to cancel has been made. If you are travelling a long distance, it may be appropriate to give the secretary a mobile telephone number by which you may be contacted on the morning of the race.

A notice will also be posted to the regatta web site (<http://www.doncaster-regatta.org.uk>) as soon as the decision has been made.

## **5. SUSPENDING RACING**

### **5.1 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION**

Any official may recommend a temporary suspension of racing if their ongoing monitoring of the course and conditions reveals any issue which may give rise to a safety issue or create unfair racing conditions.

### **5.2 WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Officials will monitor the weather conditions over the course of the regatta and, where necessary may decide to suspend racing, in part by event, or in total. This decision will be taken by the

Chairman of the Race Committee and communicated to all competitors.

If thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a flash of electrical discharge, the Race Committee will assess the risks with a view to stopping the event. Restarting will be after thirty minutes from the last clap of thunder.

### 5.3 OTHER FACTORS

The Race Committee will suspend racing in the event of an accident or if appropriate levels of safety cover cannot be guaranteed.

### 5.4 RESUMPTION OF RACING

Following a race suspension, an offset against the original regatta timetable will be issued. This will indicate to all competitors the number of minutes adjustment to the time of all races. The timetable will continue as advertised with this specific delay offset.

## 6. COMMUNICATION

### 6.1 MOBILE RADIOS

Communication between regatta control, co-ordinating umpire, safety launch, umpires, marshals, start and finish is by specifically tuned radios. Up to eight radios are available to cover the event and their positions are as shown on the Safety Plan map.

The over-riding purpose of these radios is safety. In the event of an incident, priority must be given to safety communication.

### 6.2 TELEPHONES

The nearest public telephone is located on Greenfield Lane, approximately 50 metres outside the park gates.

### 6.3 OTHER TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency .....	999
Doncaster Fire Rescue Headquarters .....	01302 344468
South Yorkshire Police .....	0114 2202020
Doncaster Royal Infirmary .....	01302 366666

*The above services have been informed of the event and have been appraised of the nearest points of access in order to assist in the reduction of response time.*

The Regatta Secretary, Andrew Shakespeare ..... (07775) 585 494

## 7. MEDICAL AND FIRST AID

### 7.1 FIRST AID COVER

First aid cover will be provided by the British Red Cross personnel who will be based within the registration area.

### 7.2 SAFETY LAUNCHES

Doncaster Rowing Club provides three launches for the purposes of safety on the course. In the event of technical problems with the launches, the Chairman of the Race Committee or Safety Officer can direct a suspension of racing or to limit racing to a single race on the course at any time.

### 7.3 HOSPITAL

All accident and emergencies are taken to Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Thorne Road, Doncaster.

### 7.4 LEPTOSPIROSIS (WEIL'S DISEASE)

The risk of contracting Leptospirosis from recreational water is small, however the serious nature of the disease is such that we must be aware of the dangers and should take simple precautions to reduce the risk of infection:

- Cuts and abrasions (including blisters) should be covered with waterproof dressings.
- Wear footwear to avoid cuts and protect feet when paddling in the water (launching a boat).
- Shower after contact with the water.
- Wash hands thoroughly before eating and drinking.

If 'flu-like symptoms develop shortly after contact with the water (1-3 weeks) then your doctor should be contacted and advised of the circumstances of exposure.

## **8. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS**

### **8.1 ACCIDENTS ON THE WATER**

In the event of competitors being injured, capsizing or becoming ill whilst rowing the following assistance can be given:

Each umpire, start marshal, starter and finish judge will be issued with a 20 metre throwbag.

Safety boats moored on the course can be summoned through the radio positions marked on the course plan

The co-ordinating umpire will be the person primarily responsible for summoning both medical and emergency cover, unless action may be taken with greater efficiency by any other official.

### **8.2 ACCIDENTS ON LAND**

The boating area is covered by radio contact through the umpires and officials, help can be summoned through the co-ordinating umpire.

First Aid cover is available directly in the boating area.

### **8.3 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

If, during the course of the event, weather conditions present a safety hazard, the race committee may suspend racing either in full, or by event. If racing cannot be recommenced, winners of incomplete events shall be determined by the holder of the fastest race time.

## **9. CONTROL OF BOATS**

In order to provide a safe environment for all competitors while on the river, it is important that all crews adhere to a strict circulation pattern. This is achieved through the following system:

- Boating and landing stages are controlled by stage marshals who work closely with regatta control. **Prior to launching, each boat may be examined by a marshal to ensure compliance with ARA regulations regarding safety of equipment. It is each crew's responsibility to ensure that their equipment is safe, both within the parameters of the Rules of Racing and in the wider context.**
- Boats should be placed on the water with their bows pointing upstream (to the left).
- Crews wishing to embark from the landing stages must first gain the permission of the landing stage official before moving onto the race course.
- Crews should boat from the upstream landing stage and must proceed to the start on the boathouse side of the river.
- The umpires are directed to ensure that crews proceeding to the start or returning to the landing stages pull into the bank when a race is in progress. **However it is each crew's responsibility to be aware of passing races and to stay off the race course.**
- The officials at the start should warn all umpires to "clear the course" before each race.
- A start marshal is used to watch over the marshalling area for safety and to bring opponents together

for the starter

- Landing stage marshals to direct and help crews
- Crews having completed their race should paddle away from the finish line, turn and await permission from the finish judge before returning to the landing stages on the boathouse side of the river.

## **10. CLUBS' AND COMPETITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **10.1 EQUIPMENT**

All clubs should ensure that the equipment being used by its members is safe. This is not only for events, but at all times for training or recreation.

To address this issue Control Commission will be checking boats for security of heel restraints, bow balls, rudder lines, integrity of flotation compartments and general boat security. Any boat that is considered to be unsafe will not be allowed to race.

### **10.2 ABILITY TO SWIM**

Clubs must ensure that its rowing members are able to swim at least 50 metres clothed as part of its election procedure as defined in the ARA Water Safety Code

### **10.3 CAPSIZE PROCEDURE**

Clubs should ensure that their rowing members are trained in capsize drill and that, in the event of capsize they should hold onto their boat and wait for assistance. If safe to do so, crews should attempt to reach the bank with their boat.

### **10.4 ARA RULES OF RACING AND LOCAL RULES**

All competitors must make themselves aware of the ARA Rules of Racing and the local rules issued to all clubs

# 11. CIRCULATION PATTERN

