

Staines Amateur Regatta Welfare Statement 2025



In accordance with British Rowing's Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy, the organising committee of Staines Amateur Regatta believe that the welfare and well-being of all children and young people is paramount.

- All children and young people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability, have equal rights to safety and protection.
 - To enjoy safe participation in rowing
 - To be treated as individuals at all times
 - To express their views and to be listened to and believed
 - To be treated with respect and to receive support for their individual needs
 - To enjoy an environment free of discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, marital status, occupation or political opinion
 - To participate free from the threat of abuse
 - Not to have to endure insult, abuse, including verbal abuse, bullying, neglect or physical abuse
 - To enjoy an environment free of sexual harassment and sexual abuse
 - Not to be exploited
 - To be treated in accordance with British Rowing guidelines.

Safeguarding Policy:

Junior competitors (athletes under 18 years old) are directed to the British Rowing Safeguarding Policy here:

[British Rowing's Young persons guide to understanding our safeguarding policy-1 \(britishrowing.org\)](https://britishrowing.org/young-persons-guide-to-understanding-our-safeguarding-policy-1)

All officials, umpires, marshals and coaches should be familiar with the British Rowing Safeguarding Children and Young People policy here:

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)

All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Event Welfare Officer:

The Event Welfare Officer (EWO) is Joanna West.

Joanna West will be the point of contact for any concerns or allegations during the event. Her contact number will be posted at Regatta Control, next to the boating area, throughout the duration of the competition. Any welfare concerns should initially be reported to her.

Should any incident warrant action, the Event Welfare Officer will be responsible for reporting to the police and the British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO).

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For all Staines Amateur Regatta Officials, coaches, marshalls, parents/carers: how to report a safeguarding concern:

If a child discloses a safeguarding concern/poor practice concern to you, you must follow the seven steps below.

1. Listen carefully to what they're saying;
2. Let them know they've done the right thing by telling you;
3. Tell them it's not their fault;
4. Tell them you'll take them seriously;
5. Don't confront the alleged abuser;
6. Explain what you'll do next, including that you must act on / report what they have said;
7. Report what the child has told you as soon as possible to the Event Welfare Officer, Joanna West

The EWO will determine next steps. This may involve calling the police if a child is in any immediate danger, contacting the local authority if the concern relates to a regatta official/contractor/other adult, or contacting the British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer if further advice and guidance is needed. The EWO will maintain confidentiality at all times.

Further help and information on reporting safeguarding concerns:

The British Rowing Safeguarding Team:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/governance/the-safeguarding-and-integrity-team/>

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

National Bullying Helpline: 0300 323 0169

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Police: 999 (for young people in immediate danger)

Other key welfare points:

Missing persons: Regatta Control is the location to report Missing Persons. Missing children should be reported to the EWO who will inform the police, if they have not already been informed.

Juniors- responsible adults' contact numbers: in order to contact the adult responsible for a Junior Athlete (i.e. coach or parent) it is important that the person submitting the race entry provides a usable contact number via the online entry. No individual contact details for Junior Athletes will be held.

Appropriate clothing, sun-protection and hydration for Junior athletes: Adults (including coaches and parents) who are responsible for Junior Athletes are also reminded of the need for juniors to wear clothing suitable for the conditions on the day of the regatta. They should also ensure that Junior Athletes have suitable sun-block cream, hats, footwear, and their own water bottles so that they can stay well hydrated on the day.

Photography: competitors may be photographed by amateurs or professionals who sell their photographs. Junior Athletes (all competitors under the age of 18 years old) are advised **not** to give their full name or address to any official, unofficial or press photographers. The regatta cannot prevent photography as the regatta area and towpath are on public land that is accessible to the general public. However, the Welfare Officer will respond to any reports of inappropriate photography.

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Alcohol: Junior competitors must not attempt to purchase or consume alcohol at the regatta site. Any Junior competitor found to be doing so will be refused permission to race. Their coach/parents/carers will be informed.

Capsizes and River Water Quality:

On rare occasions, a Junior rower may capsize and fall in the river either on the way to the start, at the start, or during a race. Safety Launches will follow the Staines Amateur Regatta protocols which, in turn, follow British Rowing **Row Safe 2025** guidance, for performing a rescue, and the sculler(s) is brought carefully and safely to the landing area.

Once a capsized competitor has been brought safely to the landing area, they are checked by qualified medical staff and the event welfare officer (EWO). The competitor is asked if they think that they have had river water inside their mouth, or that they have swallowed any river water. They will be advised to tell their coach and parents/carers. During the following 24-48 hours the competitor must be monitored by their parents/carers for symptoms of stomach upset, diarrhoea, muscle aches and /or vomiting. The British Rowing information web page:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/athlete-health/rowing-and-water-borne-disease/> explains that, if the competitor is exhibiting symptoms the competitor must tell their GP that they are a rower. Further information can be found in <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Guidance-for-Rowing-When-Water-Quality-is-Poor-March2025.pdf> Printed copies of this information hand-out will be available on the day of the regatta.

Regatta Medical Cover is being provided by Location Medical Services.