

Staines Amateur Regatta Safety Plan 2026



Regatta Policy Statement:

The Regatta will be run under British Rowing's Rules of Racing (RofR) and in compliance with British Rowing's Row Safe Guide (a guide to safe practice in rowing). This Safety Plan together with the Course Map (showing Safety Information and Circulation Patterns), Instructions to Competitors and Instructions to Officials have been developed from the Risk Assessment prepared following consideration of local aspects of the Regatta.

Coaches are reminded that it is their responsibility to assess whether their crews or scullers can safely boat and race in the conditions on the day.

Regatta Map (Ref. RofR 5-2-4):

The Course Map shows the 500m sprint course. The race course is sufficiently wide for two crews to race side by side and buoyed from the navigation channel. The circulation pattern including warm-up, cool down and turning areas are shown. The circulation area of the regatta is covered by two water based safety launches. Water based signs to general river traffic are located at each end of the regatta circulation zone to indicate the diverted navigation channel.

This year the regatta will be run on a "winner stays on" basis to reduce the number of people using the boating area.

Regatta Safety Adviser (Ref. RofR 5-2-2):

The Regatta Organising Committee has appointed Simon Cackett as Regatta Safety Adviser. He is a full member of the organising committee and the co-author of this document, and the Regatta Risk Assessment.

Regatta Organising Committee – Key Members (Ref. RofR 6-1-2, 5-2-3):

- Martin Corless – Chairman
- Murray Litvak – Secretary
- Richard Packer – Race Committee Chair
- Adam Gill – Head of Regatta Management and Entries Secretary
- Simon Cackett – Safety Adviser (Mobile: 07393 942449)
- Jo West – Welfare Officer

The Safety Adviser and the Race Committee Chair undertake to perform the respective duties specified in RofR, in particular Section 6 'Conduct of the Race', and monitor the adherence of any relevant requirements by regatta competitors and race officials.

The on-site Umpires appointed to Control Commission will apply the requirements of RofR 7-2. A reminder of the requirements of 7-2-8 (Equipment Checks) is highlighted in the Instructions to Competitors.

Safety Cover:

Medical and Safety Cover is provided for the period from at least 30 minutes prior to the first race to at least the end of the last race of the day.

The Race Committee Chair shall verify that Safety Cover is in place prior to allowing racing to commence at the start of racing and re-instated after any break periods.

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Medical Cover for Staines Amateur Regatta is supplied by Location Medical Services staff based near regatta control and the boating area.

Water Safety Cover is supplied by Brent Lifeguards who provide two fully equipped launches, manned with lifesavers.

Both of the launches and the Location Medical Services staff are provided with a radio on the Umpire Race Net so that a direct call for assistance can be made in the event of a water based incident. This net is separate from the Information Net.

Additional safety equipment as specified by Row Safe will be carried by each Umpire's Launch.

Incident Response (Emergency Action Plan):

Anyone observing a safety related incident must report it immediately to the nearest race official. If this is at the boating area, the nearest official is located at the registration tent. If the incident is on water, reporting shall be by radio on the Umpire Race Net.

The first attending regatta official will take control of the incident until safety/medical support arrives. If necessary, the attending regatta official will call for radio silence except from those involved in dealing with the incident and will summon whatever help is needed. The attending regatta official will advise whether any suspension of racing is necessary. Radios are located at the Start, with each water based umpire, the finish, race control/registration, commentary, each safety boat and the land based medical point.

The attending regatta official (or safety/medical attendant if they have taken over) will initiate any "999" call by mobile phone should the incident require assistance beyond the scope of that available on the Regatta site.

The nearest public phone is located on Penton Avenue, 200m from river access on Wheatsheaf Lane.

Radio Protocol:

When reporting an incident, the following radio protocol shall be used:

- **'Safety, Safety'**
- Provide Description, e.g. **'capsized sculler'**
- Provide Location, e.g. **'mid race course'** or **'in warm-up area'** or **'in cool-down zone'**
- Provide Status, either **'stable - sculler conscious and with boat'** or **'urgent assistance required – sculler in distress / unconscious / not surfaced'**
This differentiation is critical to the Safety and Medical personnel.

Keep messages brief, precise and advise updates as situation evolves.

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Regatta Incident Reporting:

In the event of any incident, the details are to be recorded on a Regatta Incident Form or directly onto the British Rowing Incident Reporting page
<https://incidentreporting.britishrowing.org/> .

Welfare:

The Regatta Organising Committee takes welfare of children and vulnerable adults very seriously and complies with all current British Rowing practices. All concerns should be raised with the Regatta Welfare Officer (see also separate Welfare Statement).

Further information may be found on the British Rowing Safeguarding page -
<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/regulation/safeguarding/>