

Staines Regatta Welfare Statement, Safeguarding Policy and Plan



For Staines Regatta – Saturday 25th July 2026

This Welfare Statement, Safeguarding Policy and Plan applies to all competitors, coaches, club officials, volunteers, contractors, parents, guardians, spectators and event officials attending Staines Regatta.

All competitors, coaches, club officials, volunteers, contractors, parents, guardians and event officials MUST read this document before the Regatta commences.

Staines Regatta is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects everyone involved in the event to share this commitment.

This statement, policy and plan is written in line with the safeguarding framework, guidance and expectations of British Rowing, including the British Rowing Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy, Online Safety and Social Media Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and relevant Safeguarding Handbooks.

Welfare Statement

Staines Regatta Committee and officials believe that:

- The welfare and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults is the primary consideration at all times.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to participate in rowing in a safe and enjoyable environment. The same applies to all adults.
- Everyone involved in the regatta has a responsibility to support safeguarding and welfare.
- Concerns regarding poor practice, bullying, abuse or inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately.

The Organising Committee will take all reasonable steps to provide a safe, inclusive and respectful environment throughout the event.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Scope of Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to:

- Junior competitors
- Vulnerable Adult competitors
- Coaches and team managers
- Volunteers and event officials
- Contractors and service providers
- Parents, guardians and spectators
- Welfare personnel
- Any person attending or participating in the regatta

This policy applies throughout the duration of the event, including racing, boating areas, trailer parks, circulation areas, spectator areas and any official regatta communications or online activity associated with the event.

2. Relevant British Rowing Policies and Guidance

Staines Regatta committee adopts and supports the principles contained within the following British Rowing policies and guidance documents:

- British Rowing Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- British Rowing Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy
- British Rowing Online Safety and Social Media Policy
- British Rowing Anti-Bullying Policy
- British Rowing Codes of Conduct
- British Rowing Safer Recruitment Guidance
- British Rowing Safeguarding Handbook 1 – The Club Welfare Officer
- British Rowing Safeguarding Handbook 2 – Handling Concerns
- British Rowing Safeguarding Handbook 3 – Club, Training and Competition Guidance
- British Rowing Safeguarding Handbook 4 – Safety in the Digital World

Further information is available from:

[British Rowing Safeguarding](#)

3. Event Welfare Officer

An Event Welfare Officer (EWO) will be appointed for the regatta in accordance with British Rowing guidance. The EWO will:

- Be available throughout the event.
- Act as the first point of contact for safeguarding and welfare concerns.
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment.
- Respond appropriately to concerns or disclosures.
- Liaise with British Rowing and statutory agencies where necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality and appropriate records.

The EWO will not be directly involved in coaching or managing competing crews during the event, in line with British Rowing guidance.

Contact details for the Event Welfare Officer will be displayed at Regatta Control and circulated in competitor information prior to the event. The EWO will be monitoring radio communications throughout the day.

The EWO for the day will be Joanna West.

The Deputy EWO for the day will be Alan Douglas, in the rare event that Joanna West might be temporarily unavailable.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Organising Committee will:

- Ensure safeguarding is considered in all event planning.
- Appoint an appropriately trained Event Welfare Officer.
- Ensure volunteers and officials understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Provide a clear reporting process for concerns.

- Respond appropriately to safeguarding incidents.
- Promote good conduct and inclusive behaviour throughout the event.

Coaches, Team Managers, Officials and Club Volunteers will:

- Remain responsible for the supervision and behaviour of junior competitors in their care.
- Ensure competitors are appropriately supervised at all times.
- Behave in accordance with British Rowing Codes of Conduct.
- Report any safeguarding concerns promptly.

Parents and Guardians will:

- Maintain appropriate responsibility for their child's welfare and behaviour.
- Ensure junior participants understand expected standards of conduct.
- Support event organisers in promoting safe participation.

Junior Participants and/or volunteers are expected to:

- Behave respectfully towards others.
- Follow instructions from officials and safety personnel.
- Avoid bullying, abusive or discriminatory behaviour.
- Raise concerns if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

5. Codes of Conduct and Behaviour

All attendees are expected to behave appropriately and contribute to a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment.

The following behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Bullying or harassment
- Discrimination or abusive language
- Intimidating or threatening behaviour
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Unsafe conduct
- Inappropriate online or social media behaviour

Any individual whose conduct places others at risk or breaches safeguarding expectations may be removed from the event and reported to British Rowing or relevant authorities where appropriate.

6. Photography, Filming and Social Media

Staines Regatta is held at a public location. Photography and filming are common at rowing events; however:

- Images of children should be appropriate and respectful.
- Photography must never be intrusive, inappropriate or exploitative.
- Concerns regarding photography or filming should be reported immediately to the Event Welfare Officer.
- Online communications and social media use associated with the event should comply with British Rowing's Online Safety and Social Media guidance.

7. Reporting Welfare or Safeguarding Concerns

Anyone with a safeguarding or welfare concern should report it immediately to:

Staines Regatta, revised Welfare Statement, Safeguarding Policy and Plan 2026, JW, July 2026

- If **immediate danger** is present, emergency services, by phoning 999.

If no immediate danger is present, they should report their concern to:

- The Event Welfare Officer

If the Event Welfare Officer is not available, they should report their concern to:

- Regatta Race Control, **OR**
- A member of the Staines Regatta Organising Committee. These officials will pass the concern on the Event Welfare Officer as quickly as possible.

All concerns will be taken seriously and handled in accordance with British Rowing safeguarding procedures.

Where necessary, concerns may be referred to:

- British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer
- Police
- Children's Social Care
- Local Authority Safeguarding Teams
- British Rowing's "Report a Concern" online portal.

Emergency Contacts:

- Emergency Services: 999
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111

8. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis, in accordance with safeguarding requirements and applicable data protection legislation.

The welfare and safety of the child or young person will always take priority over confidentiality considerations.

9. Lost and Found Children

Lost children must be reported directly to the EWO, or to any regatta official who is holding a radio. Any children who are found and need re-uniting with their family members will be located with two responsible DBS certificated adults close to the Accident and Emergency Medical Services ambulance team and the EWO will supervise them.

10. Policy Review

This policy applies specifically to Staines Regatta 2026 and will be reviewed annually by the Organising Committee to ensure continued compliance with current British Rowing safeguarding policies and guidance.

Safeguarding Plan:

Scope

This plan applies to all competitors, coaches, officials, volunteers, contractors, spectators and visitors attending the regatta.

Staines Regatta, revised Welfare Statement, Safeguarding Policy and Plan 2026, JW, July 2026

Key Roles

- Event Welfare Officer
- Regatta Chairman and Staines Boat Club President
- Regatta Race Control
- Regatta volunteers
- All other officials, marshals and volunteers

Principles

Everyone shares responsibility for safeguarding. Any concern should be reported. The welfare of the child or adult at risk is paramount. Do not promise confidentiality. Record facts accurately.

Responding to a Concern

- Ensure immediate safety. Reassure the child/person who is the subject of concern.
- Call 999 if there is immediate danger.
- Inform the Event Welfare Officer (EWO) as soon as practicable.
- Record facts only.
- Preserve evidence.
- Do not investigate yourself. Do not ask leading questions.
- Refer concerns to statutory agencies where required in line with British Rowing procedures.

Safeguarding Flowchart:

Safeguarding concern identified

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Is a child or vulnerable adult in immediate danger?

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YES → Call 999 → Make area safe → Inform Event Welfare Officer

NO → Inform Event Welfare Officer immediately

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Record factual information only

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Do not investigate or interview witnesses unnecessarily

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Event Safeguarding Officer decides referral to Children's Services / Adult Social Care / Police / British Rowing as appropriate

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Secure records and conduct post-event review

Additional information:

- Coaches and parents/carers are asked to ensure that Junior rowers have read and understood the Regatta **Competitor Information**, and that they are competent to race on the day.
- Changing rooms are not available on the regatta site. However, temporary Regatta toilets containing individual cubicles are identified as separate facilities for Men and Women. They are appropriately sign-posted.
- Alcohol will be available for purchase by adults in the Regatta Catering Tent. Bar volunteers have been asked to ensure that alcohol is not purchased by anyone aged under 18 years old. They will ask for Photo ID if necessary.
- All responsible adults and coaches are asked to ensure that Junior participants have the correct personal equipment for the conditions of the day. For example, sun screen and hats and water bottles if the weather is hot.