

Schools Head of the River Race – 13:30 - Thursday 17 March 2011

Safety Plan

Safety Launches

Safety launches are situated at strategic points along the river with the role of providing rescue and removal of casualties to the nearest landing place or ambulance point. They will be positioned in accordance with their marked location on the rule 2.2.3 map.

In addition to the rescue craft there will be a large number of marshal and umpire launches which may be able to offer assistance to competitors in an emergency. All launches will carry safety net radios, megaphones and mobile phones.

Co-ordination of the craft will be by radio by the safety officer at base control in Ranelagh Sailing club, Putney.

The RNLI lifeboats will be positioned up river of the long start and down river of the finish and will be in contact with the RNLI adviser at base control. Marshal and Umpire launches can attract the attention of the rescue craft by sounding the siren or by radio via control.

Ambulance and First aid

Mediforce will provide an ambulances and crews at:

- Emanuel School Boat House [W4 2SH],
- St.Pauls Boathouse [SW13 9JT]
- Fast response medical vehicle on the Putney Embankment [SW15 1LB] .

The event doctor will be located at base control in Ranelagh Sailing Club.

First aid may be summoned by calling to any Marshal or Umpire.

Race Communications

The radio safety net includes all safety craft, marshals, umpires, race officials, PLA, RNLI and Police and is co-ordinated by the safety officer at Ranelagh Sailing Club, Putney Embankment. Mobiles will be used as back-up.

If the Emergency Services are required dial 999 and ask for coastguard and use the nearest landing place post code as a position indicator.

Landing places:

In addition to the landing places above emergency help may be summoned to:

- Barn Elms Boathouse SW13 0DG

- Lower Mall Hammersmith W6 9DJ
- Corinthian Sailing Club W6 9TA
- Chiswick Pier [RNLI] W4 2UG
- Small Profits dock Barnes SW13 9QG
- TTRC boathouse W4 2SH
- TSS Boathouse W4 2SH
- Ship pub SW14 7QR
- Quintin/MAA boathouses W4 3UJ
- Putney Town RC TW9 4EN
- Univ London BC W4 3TU

Procedure in the event of bad weather Pre-boating

In the event of bad weather, a decision to postpone or cancel the race will be taken at **12.15** This will be broadcast over the public address system at Putney and the following boathouses will be informed by 'phone by **12:30**

- Barn Elm
- St Paul's School
- Latymer Upper School
- Emanuel School
- Thames Tradesmen/Quintin/MA&A
- University of London

SHORR'11 ABANDONMENT PLAN

This plan is the result of considerable discussion and consultation between various tideway heads organising members. Hopefully it will never have to be implemented. But just in case please study it. There will be a refresher at the briefing meeting before the event.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CREWS INCLUDED IN THEIR PAPERWORK

In case the race has to be abandoned at any time while crews are marshalling or racing the following procedure will apply and be strictly adhered to:

Crews, on hearing continuous short blasts on sirens and/or seeing marshals waving red flags will immediately STOP. They will wait to be instructed on how and where to proceed by a marshal. They must maintain a sharp lookout for other crews in the vicinity who may not have heard or seen the warnings and are continuing with marshalling or racing. If necessary they must move to avoid any collision with such a crew.

Marshals will wait for instructions from the Chief Marshal, who will be in constant communication with the Race Safety Advisor / Race Control, and once the cause and location of the problem has been determined, he will proceed to put the abandonment plan into operation.

Depending on where crews have boated, whether or not the Race has started and the number of crews still being marshalled, they may be asked to either paddle lightly downstream under the direction of the marshals (if they have boated from downstream of the marshalling area), or turn on to one of the banks and wait to be sent upstream if they boated from one of the clubs at or above Chiswick Bridge.

A crew may be asked to proceed downstream of all marshalling crews before turning on to one of the banks.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MARSHALS AND UMPIRES

The Chief Marshal is in absolute control in the event of abandonment. He will state over the radio “RACE ABANDONED, RACE ABANDONED, RACE ABANDONED”. From this time strict radio silence must be maintained unless a response is requested by the Chief Marshal or a request requiring an immediate safety response is required.

Marshals will immediately sound their megaphone sirens with continuous short blasts, and if possible wave their red flag at the same time. This will be maintained until every crew has stopped. Care must be taken that any crews coming downstream - especially if they are still racing - do not interfere with other crews still moving who may not have reacted as quickly.

ALL CREWS TO BE HELD UNTIL INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY CHIEF MARSHAL. (Unless there is an immediate safety concern in which case the Marshal in the vicinity will contact the Chief Marshal and seek assistance.)

Once the cause of abandonment has been ascertained the evacuation process as follows will be implemented, subject to:

- a) In the case of an obstruction, weather conditions or other difficulty putting one or more Divisions at greater risk than others, those Divisions will be dispersed first - using the same general approach as set out below if safe to do so.
- b) If there is an obstruction downstream of the marshalling area, requiring a detour past it, the Chief Marshal will re-locate enough marshals' and umpires' launches to direct any previously racing, or returning crews before ordering the dispersal .
- c) The Chief Marshal may, as an alternative, order a suspension of racing, but this should not normally last more than 10 minutes before abandonment is declared or normal marshalling/racing resumes.
- d) Given the possibility of injury and a need to land crews quickly, the areas around the Barnes and Chiswick clubs to be kept as clear as possible.
- e) In the event of a radio base-station or relay failure (due to a power cut), handsets will still work on battery power. In this case, the Chief Marshal will pass instructions to the lead marshal for each division for cascading down.

Crews at the lower sections of the marshalling area/river will be dispersed first.

Marshalling area below Barnes Bridge.

Crews for Hammersmith and Putney on Surrey turn and proceed downriver.
Crews for Barnes on Surrey held until all crews below Barnes Bridge going to Hammersmith and Putney have gone.
When boating area at Barnes is clear, Surrey crews below Barnes Bridge will be instructed to cross en bloc to Middx so they can proceed to Barnes boating area. Once crews are across turning above Barnes Bridge can commence.

Marshalling area between Barnes Bridge and Chiswick Bridge.

Crews for Hammersmith and Putney on Middx turn and paddle down.
Crews for Hammersmith and Putney on Surrey turn and paddle down.
Crews for Barnes then turned and sent down
Crews for Chiswick on Middx move up and disembark when possible.
Crews for Chiswick on Surrey held until all crews on Middx have disembarked.
When boating area at Chiswick is clear, turning above Chiswick Bridge will be stopped and Surrey crews below Chiswick Bridge will be instructed to cross en bloc to Middx so they can proceed to Chiswick boating areas. Once crews are across turning above Chiswick Bridge can be resumed.

Marshalling area above Chiswick Bridge.

Crews for Hammersmith and Putney on Middx turn and paddle down.
Crews for Hammersmith and Putney on Surrey turn and paddle down.
Crews for Barnes and Chiswick then turned and sent down
Crews for UL on Middx move up and disembark when possible.
Crews for UL on Surrey held until all crews going down river have gone then they can cross.

Returning Crews

Normal post-Race navigation rules and procedures will apply in the absence of instructions to the contrary. If crews coming down the course are being told to stay on the Surrey bank, it must be stressed to them that returning crews coming up from Putney must be allowed to pass on their starboard side. At the same time, the Chief Marshal will instruct as many umpires' and marshals' launches as possible between the Black Buoy and St. Paul's to take up a position between the lines of crews and keep them apart. Drivers are to be requested to assist the umpires and marshals in a lookout capacity.

Under no circumstances will any crew coming downstream be permitted to pass on the Surrey side of the Putney moorings, or cross the line of the moorings.