

# YORK CITY ROWING CLUB

## YORK SUMMER REGATTA 2019

### SAFETY PLAN

This plan is made available to all participating clubs and is on display in York City boathouse and online at [www.ycrc.co.uk](http://www.ycrc.co.uk).

#### 1. THE COURSE

The course is identified on the Course and Safety Map and is approximately 1,000m long, starting at St. Peter's School Boathouse and finishing at York City Rowing Club.

York Summer Regatta takes place with the full knowledge and co-operation of the Canal & River Trust, North Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, York Fire Station and York District Hospital.

Prior to the event the York Boat Company, users of York Marina, members of the York Motor Yacht Club, York and District Amalgamation of Anglers and other river user organisations are informed in writing of the location and timing of the event.

Prior to the commencement of the event the course is inspected for debris or submerged hazards, any hazards are cleared or buoyed off. Umpires and marshals will notify the nearest launch of any debris coming onto the course to have it cleared away.

#### 2. DECISION MAKING PROCESS FOR INCLEMENT CONDITIONS

There is a chance of flooding or poor weather and the organisers have developed a system for monitoring these conditions for the overall benefit and safety of the competitors.

Long-standing members of York City Rowing Club with local river knowledge, rowing experience and a good understanding of the event, the Leeds Meteorological Office, for weather prediction, and the Environment Agency, are consulted before the organisers decide on the appropriate action which will be taken as soon as the situation is clear and as early as possible, with due consideration for travel arrangements. Decisions could include:

- i) Run the event in full.
- ii) Cancellation of specific categories e.g. Juniors.
- iii) Cancellation of the whole event.

**a) FLOODS** - The organisers are in communication with the local Environment Agency who operate a monitoring system for the River Ouse and its tributaries. They are able to advise and predict the height of the river along the course for the day and duration of the race.

**b) INCLEMENT WEATHER** - Local weather forecasts are consulted in the days leading up to the event to ascertain any need to advise competitors of potential difficulties.

**c) ELECTRICAL STORMS (Lightning)** - The organisers will monitor the forecasts and current weather conditions for electrical activity and either cancel the event or notify the competitors of the possibility of a thunderstorm. If thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a flash of lightning, the organisers will assess the risk with a view to stopping the event. Restarting the event will be after 30 minutes from the last clap of thunder. The umpires instructions give clear guidance for the procedures to be adopted if a thunderstorm is in the vicinity.

**d) MECHANISM OF COMMUNICATION** - Entrants will be advised in the most practical timescale of any adjustments or cancellations. These will take the form of:

- i) Advising of potential problems when confirming entries and requesting competitors to check a website.
- ii) Contacting entering clubs individually by email.
- iii) In extreme cases of sudden difficulty, withholding racing numbers of affected crews, thereby preventing embarkation.

### **3. RULES APPLYING TO THIS EVENT**

- a) The event is run under British Rowing Rules of Racing.
- b) Local rules are written up as Competitor's Instructions, made available on the York City Rowing Club website in advance.
- c) Foss and Ouse Bye Laws apply only in a general way and are not published for competitors.

### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a) MOBILE RADIOS** - Communication between umpires, monitors, safety launches, start, finish and control is by specifically tuned radios. Use of radios will be in accordance with Row Safe guidance. 'Mayday' will be used in emergency and 'Pan Pan' for urgent situations (non-life threatening).

**b) MOBILE TELEPHONES** – Are used as a backup and the appropriate numbers made available to key officials prior to the competition.

**c) A CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE** is appointed to overhear all communications and is the person responsible for coordinating any action which needs to be taken in the event of accident or emergency.

If conditions limit the distance for communication such that the coordinator cannot contact all stations, then s/he will instruct one of the stations to act as a relay.

#### **d) TELEPHONES**

- i) Key officials will carry mobile phones which can be used to call emergency services.

ii) York City Rowing Club has a public telephone situated outside the bar - Number 01904 623959.

#### **e) OTHER TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

i) EMERGENCY - 999 or 112

WATER RESCUE UNIT launched from King's Staith, York - 999, or 112

ii) Ambulance Headquarters - 01904 666000.

iii) Fire Brigade Headquarters - 01609 780150 (non-emergency).

iv) Police Headquarters, Fulford Road, York YO1 4BY - 0845 60 60 247

v) York District Hospital, Wiggington Road, York, YO3 7HE. - 01904 631313.

vi) Regatta Secretary, Anna Heathcote, Mobile 07799337279.

vii) Event Safety Adviser, Andy Wilkinson, Mobile 07753 604469.

viii) Event Medical Adviser (NE Medical), Duty Phone, 07872058590

ix) Yorkshire Rowing Council, Region Safety Advisor: Howard Holmes, Mobile 07968 524149

x) Canal and Rivers Trust, Ferns Wharfe, Neptune Street, Leeds LS9 8PB - 0800 4799947

xi) National Electricity Grid, emergency no. 0800 404090

xii) Rail Authority - 01904 644252

xiii) NEDL - 0800 668877

xiv) York Boat Company - 01904 628324

## **5. MEDICAL AND FIRST AID**

**a) FIRST AID COVER** - First aid cover will be provided by a professional first aid group who will be situated at York City Rowing Club (NE Medical).

**b) WARM AREAS** – Will be provided in York City Rowing Club along with warm showers and refreshments.

**c) HOSPITAL** - All accident and emergencies are taken to York District Hospital, Wiggington Road, York.

## **6. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS**

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT THE APPOINTED CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE WILL RECEIVE ALL REQUESTS FOR AND MAKE THE DECISIONS AS TO THE LEVEL OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED i.e. USE OF SAFETY LAUNCHES, NEED FOR FIRST AID GROUP, NEED FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES. THE CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE WILL HAVE RADIO AND MOBILE TELEPHONE.

**a) ACCIDENTS ON THE WATER** - In the event of competitors being injured, capsizing or becoming ill whilst rowing, the quickest way of rescue and access to emergency service is by safety launch. Although there are several access points from main roads, safety launches can transport competitors to meet either the stand-by ambulance or the emergency services ambulance at the following points:

- **F5 Government House Road** (just below Clifton Bridge)
- **St Peter's Boathouse** (via Westminster Rd, next to No. 52 YO30 6LY)
- **EM11 Lendal Landing**

- **York City Boathouse** (via Wellington Row YO1 6HU)

**b) ACCIDENTS ON LAND** - Competitors and supporters congregate around the landing stage areas at St. Peters School, St. Johns B.C. and the esplanades between Lendal and Scarborough bridges and at York City Rowing Club where the control, administration, results, prize giving, food and drink are situated. First aid cover is located in this area.

If necessary, radio communication to summon help from the First Aider or the Emergency Services is available at the umpire locations shown on the course map.

Direct calls to the emergency services may also be made by officials or members of the public.

## 7. SAFETY LAUNCHES

There will be a minimum of two safety launches, each containing two crew members at all times during the regatta. In the event of a safety launch being withdrawn or involved in an emergency or rescue, all boating and racing will cease until a replacement launch is available and the course is safe to race. Each safety launch is fitted with a propeller guard and a kill cord, and carries a British Rowing Launch Rescue Kit containing a lifejacket, throw bag, thermal blankets, knife, whistle and first aid kit. A loudhailer and radio communication is also provided for each launch. The crews of the launches are experienced in launch control and understand how to use the kill cord. All safety crew will wear life jackets and the driver will have the kill cord attached. The driver of each launch will be a RYA level 2 powerboat driver or considered sufficiently experienced and competent by the Safety Launch Co-ordinator. Their responsibilities are:

- To be aware of the details of the safety plan before embarkation
- To remain in the launch and be within 150m of the Start or within 50m of YCRC landing stage
- To remain in radio contact at all times
- To respond to emergency or rescue situations as necessary
- To assist umpires & marshals as necessary in ensuring that the course is clear for the races to proceed
- To ensure changes in safety crew cover takes place at pre-arranged times to ensure continuity of safety cover
- To warn officials and crews of any dangers whilst the race is in progress e.g. commercial or private boats/launches refusing to wait until racing is finished before travelling on the course

## 8. RACE OFFICIALS

- **UMPIRES** are positioned along the course so that between them, they can observe the course in its entirety and ensure that it continues to be safe for racing. Umpires have the authority to suspend racing and boating at any time if in their judgement circumstances require such suspension. They are provided with loudhailers to give instructions to crews to maintain safe navigation and radios to summon rescue if necessary. The positioning of Umpires is indicated on the plan of the course.
- **The CO-ORDINATING UMPIRE** - is situated within view of the course, is in a position to overhear all communications, and is the person responsible for co-ordinating any action that needs to be taken in the event of accident or emergency. When conditions limit the distance for communication such

that the co-ordinator cannot contact all stations then s/he will instruct one of the stations to act as a relay. The Co-ordinating Umpire will relay any decision to stop racing as necessary.

- **START MARSHALS** - Start marshals are co-ordinated by the Starter who briefs them on procedures. Part of these procedures is to act as safety lookouts to avoid collisions and arrange the crews in a safe position prior to racing. Loudhailers and at least one radio will be provided.
- **FINISH JUDGE** - The Finish Judge(s) will ensure that crews continue to proceed downstream past Lendal Bridge and do not stop on the finish line creating a hazard to the next race. S/he also ensures that crews returning to the landing stages do not stray into the racing lanes.
- **OTHER MARSHALS** – If available, additional marshals will be placed at St. Peter's landing, either side of Scarborough Bridge and at the finish, in order to act as safety lookouts to avoid collisions and arrange the crews in a safe position prior to racing. Loudhailers and walkie-talkies (for the Scarborough Bridge marshals), will be provided.
- **ALL OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS** to be familiar with this Safety Plan, Competitors Instructions and Circulation Plan. Clothing and footwear must be appropriate for the role and weather conditions. Designated Team Leaders to be responsible for ensuring wellbeing of all members of their team. Alcohol consumption will not take place by race officials until such time as their duties are complete.

## **CLUBS' AND COMPETITORS' GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1) EQUIPMENT**

ALL CLUBS MUST ensure that the equipment being used by its members is in good condition and suitable for the conditions. This is not only for racing, but at all times for training or recreation. Umpires and marshals will be making random checks on boats looking in particular at:

- a) Heel restraints, bow balls, buoyancy compartments/canvasses, rudder lines and the general security of fixings.
- b) Stage marshals who will be helping crews onto the water will also be giving visual checks.
- c) Any boat that is considered not to fulfil the minimum standards will not be allowed to race.

### **2) ABILITY TO SWIM**

Clubs must ensure that its rowing members are able to swim at least 50 metres clothed as part of its procedure for election.

**3) CAPSIZE PROCEDURE** - As part of its safety training clubs should advise its rowing members to hold on to the boat in the event of a capsize where it is safe to do so and await assistance.

**4) COXSWAINS** - Clubs must be aware that it is highly irresponsible to place an inexperienced coxswain with a crew of inexperienced novices. This can lead to dangerous situations not only for the crew, but also other competitors.

**5) CLOTHING** - Clubs must ensure that their members (particularly Juniors) are suitably dressed for the expected conditions i.e. adequate clothing if it is expected to be cold/wet and sunscreen/head protection if it is expected to be hot/sunny.

**6) CLUBS MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT ALL COXSWAINS:**

- a) Are suitably dressed for the forecast weather conditions.
- b) Wear on top of their clothing (and have checked and know how to operate) a lifejacket conforming to relevant national EN standard and carry CE mark of approval.
- c) In front (bow) loader boats, only use manually operated life jackets.
- d) Know of the safety procedures, instructions to competitors and potential hazards on the course.

**7) KNOWLEDGE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPETITORS, SAFETY PROCEDURES AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS** - It is not only the coxswain or steersperson who must be conversant with the above, the whole crew must be aware of the instructions etc. and be prepared to put them into practice.

**8) CONSIDERATION OF OTHER COMPETITORS** - Dangerous situations, damage to equipment and injuries can occur through thoughtless acts. Every year there are several complaints about a crew's chances of winning being ruined when other competitors have deliberately not given way the racing line, balked, steered across etc. There have also been examples of crews having finished the race and when returning to the landing stages have impeded racing crews through ineptness and lack of concern for others. There are however instances each year when dangerous situations have been avoided through warnings being shouted by competitors to other crews, particularly in coxless craft.

**9) CONSIDERATION TO OTHER PEOPLE** – When handling boats to/from the trailer, care must be taken to ensure passers-by are not injured, the cox or responsible person should give instruction to the handlers so as to avoid any accidents. Every effort must be made to keep walkways and cycle paths clear during the handling of boats off the water. The river is not closed to normal river traffic. Marshals will ensure the racing course is kept clear and warn racing crews of other river traffic on the course. Non-racing boats will be asked by marshals to pull in to allow other river users to pass.

Motor-craft may use horn signals to alert competitors:

One short blast	The signal made by a vessel intending to turn to the starboard.
Two blasts	The signal made by a vessel intending to turn to the port.
Three blasts	The signal made by a vessel running engines in reverse.

**Crews must not stop under bridges**

**10) IF AN ACCIDENT OCCURS** - Competitors can help in the case where an accident occurs by:  
a) Continuing down the course and informing a safety launch or marshal who will have radio contact.

b) Stopping to give assistance where there is someone in difficulty in the water, unconscious, or in danger of being run down by oncoming crews. It is a difficult decision to stop racing, but the priority of us all is the safety and wellbeing of our fellow rowers and scullers.

## **11) OTHER POSSIBLE HAZARDS**

Waterborne Diseases - Leptospirosis, Bugs or Blooms, Algae, Bio Hazards.

Keep water and skin contact to minimum, remove contaminated clothing and wash contacted skin areas. If in doubt seek first aid attention.

Footwear - Due to the event taking place in public areas, it is strongly advised that suitable footwear should be worn to avoid an accident.

All competitors must be familiar with the instruction to competitors, safety plan and any potential hazards and be able to act upon them.