2026 Bicentenary Private Match Regatta

Safety Plan Part 1

Prepared by

Eton Excelsior Regatta Organising Committee

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Regatta Insurance: Affiliated competitions are covered by our speciality liability insurance. This includes:

- Public and Products Liability: £15 million each and every claim or loss, excluding defence costs and criminal proceedings costs, the limit is in the aggregate in respect of Products Liability
- Professional Indemnity: £5 million each and every claim or loss, excluding defence costs
- Employers Liability: £10 million each and every claim or loss, including defence costs but excluding criminal proceedings costs.

All Regatta Racing to follow the British Rowing Regatta Rules and protocols as set out by British Rowing and the RowSafe guidelines.

Introduction

This Safety Plan has been formulated to meet the Eton Excelsior Bicentenary Regatta Organising Committee's responsibilities, taking account of advice from British Rowing, the Thames Valley Umpires Council, the British Rowing Upper Thames Safety Lead, the Environment Agency and other interested parties such as the Thames Valley Police and the Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service.

The 2026 Regatta Risk Assessment is annexed to this Plan and should be reviewed by all competitors. The 800m course layout and circulation pattern have been inspected and agreed by all stakeholders.

1.1 REGATTA SAFETY ADVISERS

The Regatta Organising Committee has appointed Caroline Hague, Water Safety (mobile: 07814 375545) and David Moss, Shoreside Safety (mobile: 07920 568 250) as Regatta Safety Advisers for the day. Both are members of the Organising Committee whilst Caroline and is also the Club's current serving Safety & Welfare Officer.

1.2 REGATTA RACE COMMITTEE UMPIRES

Whilst we are operating as a Private Match, a race committee of licensed umpires lead by Keith Settle will undertake the duties detailed in British Rowing Rules of Racing. In particular, they will decide whether conditions are too dangerous to permit racing to continue should adverse weather be forecast or arise on the day. Further to this, should there need to be a variation of the racing rules for any reason, Keith Settle shall provide guidelines to competitors and race officials.

1.3 ROW SAFE: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing ('RowSafe")

It is compulsory that all crews attending the Eton Excelsior Bicentenary Regatta comply fully with British Rowing 'Rules of Racing' and all aspects of RowSafe (2024 version update).

It is the responsibility of the competitors to ensure that their boats are safe and are prepared to standards required by RowSafe. Control commission umpires will randomly inspect boats for compliance with the requirements of Row Safe.

1.4 REGATTA RULES OF RACING

All club/crew coaches are responsible for ensuring that their crews are correctly briefed on RowSafe, in particular in relation to capsize procedures. All competitors, coaches and other participants must familiarise themselves with the Eton Excelsior Bicentenary Regatta Competitor Instructions 2026 and the Regatta circulation pattern. All Competitors & Coaches must follow all posted safety notices and obey instructions from all Regatta Officials.

1.5 SAFETY COVER

First aid facilities and safety boats are provided by **Medical Water Safety** with staff and facilities close to both the Race Control Gazebo and the boating area. Safety boats will be in attendance with two fully equipped & staffed safety boats provided with radios on the 'Regatta network'.

The Safety Boat will be positioned at the mid position of the Course with a second crew located at the Boat House, adjacent to the finish line. Further to this, 4 Boat Marshall crews provided by EERC and familiar with the circulation pattern and local hazards, will be positioned equidistant along the course at both ends to ensure safe turning and navigation as well as providing marshalling assistance to the Umpires for the race start .

The Safety boat and medical team will be coordinated by their own Operational commander who will report to the Safety Adviser any incidents, as well to provide support should any major incident occur.

Additional safety equipment as specified by Row Safe will be carried by each umpire's launch. Marshalls along the warm up area will provide look out for any incidents requiring safety boat support, whilst also marshalling crews ready to race.

1.6 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCIES

The Regatta has a network of radios spread along the course. In order to summon help for an incident on or off the water, please contact the nearest Regatta Official. They will report it by the nearest available radio link to the Safety Adviser and failing that to Race Control. The Safety Adviser or Race Control may assume control of the incident or delegate to the on-site Official.

Racing may be suspended if an incident has occurred anywhere on the course.

Radio silence may be called for except from those involved in dealing with the incident to allow additional help to be summoned if required. Radio users will be advised when conditions return to normal.

The operational commander will initiate any '999' call by mobile phone should the incident require assistance beyond the scope of that available on the Regatta site. The Safety Adviser or Race Control will alert the Car Park Team to the imminent arrival of emergency services, provide a point of contact, and clear directions to the incident.

1.7 REGATTA INCIDENTS

A Regatta Incident Book is held by the Regatta Safety Officer/Duty Controller. All safety-related incidents, including 'near misses' will be recorded in this book.

1.8 INJURY REPORTS & EQUIPMENT CHECKS

Boats and equipment that do not pass inspection along with Medical Returns should now be reported via British Rowing's online reporting system.

The Medical Advisory Panel and Safety Committee collate information from competitions so that they can check for trends, learning points, etc. Competitions are advised to report a safety incident or concern, whether or not damage, injury, or a health issue has occurred.

1.9 DISTRIBUTION OF DATA

This Safety Plan, Competitor Instructions and Circulation Pattern are available on the Regatta Website. Copies will be available for all competing clubs, Umpires and Race Officials.

Umpires, launch drivers and safety crews will receive a race day umpire rota, which includes all relevant contact numbers, a radio protocol sheet and any other relevant information prior to the event.