

ATHLONE BOAT CLUB REGATTA

17TH JUNE 2023

SAFETY PLAN



Athlone Boat Club, Regatta 2023

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(1) INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Athlone Regatta 2023. We hope that you have an enjoyable, safe and successful days racing. This Safety Plan incorporates the key points regarding safety for all the Rowing Clubs involved. A copy of this Safety Plan is lodged with RI. The Order of Malta ambulance and personal will be on site for the duration of all races. Athlone Sub-Aqua will be on the water observing for the duration of all races.

ABC will have minimum of 6 manned launches on the water for the duration of all races.

Safety Boats, Umpires and other Regatta Officials are provided with radios operating on the umpire channel for communication.

(2) SAFETY PROCEDURES AND PREVENTITIVE MEASURES

(a) Equipment

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the equipment that they are using is safe and complies with RI safety regulations. Coxes must use a suitable life jacket, no exceptions. All boats must have secure bow balls, heel restraints and watertight buoyancy chambers. Spot checks will be made on all boats by Slip Stewards and non-compliant boats will be refused access to the slip.

(b) Competitors Responsibility

Adequate clothing/protection is worn by all competitors suitable to the conditions on the day.

(c) Swimming Ability

Every competitor must be able to swim and be in good health. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all their competitors comply with this RI rule.

(D) Launch Plan

Adequate slips are laid in Coosan for the Regatta. They will be manned by Stewards of ABC. All competing crews and coaches are asked to help with the flow of outgoing crews by ensuring boats are ready to launch and all adjustments are made before approaching the slip. Please wear appropriate footwear when using the slips. Please follow the instructions of the Slip Stewards, a plan of the course will be on display at Regatta Control Notice Board.

(E) Water Traffic Plan

ABC in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and Athlone Sub-Aqua will be controlling the water way at Coosan Point and access for other water users will be restricted. However, limited and controlled access to and from the inner lakes will be permitted along the side of the course (marina side).

After slipping, all crews should make their way to the holding area keeping to the marina side of the red buoys and staying clear of the course, be mindful of other water users.

From the holding area the Marshals in safety launches will direct the crews to line up in their correct lanes behind the race ahead of them and when each race starts the next race must be in lane and ready to advance as the Marshals advise.

The whole course and the holding area is visible to strategically placed Umpires, Marshals and Athlone Sub-Aqua observers. In the event of an incident, collision or capsize please stay with your boat and follow Umpire's/Safety Marshal's instructions.

When the race is finished, please make your way to the slip without delay.

(3) KEY PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

Emergency Fire, Garda, Medical

Dial 112 or 999

Ballinasloe Hospital Nearest AE 090 9648200
and or contact nearest ABC Steward

Key Personnel

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Person in charge (Secretary) | John O'Meara 087 2903160 Regatta Secretary |
| Location on the Regatta Day | |
| (2) Person in charge (waterside/umpires) | Michael Murtagh 087 9177242 on Water |
| Location for Regatta Day | |
| (3) Person in Charge (landside/slipping/trailer parking) | Nick Friel 087 7144227 slip/car park |
| Location for Regatta Day | |
| (4) Safety Advisor | Matt Lough 087 2551664 Starter Marshal |
| Location for Regatta Day | |

Please respect our neighbours. The local Garda have been informed of the event and we request that all cars are parked legally and to avoid obstruction to others and emergency vehicles.

Incidents Extreme Weather and other Threats

The Regatta Secretary and or the Safety Advisor will monitor the weather and the activities on the day and if they feel an unsafe situation could occur, they will postpone or cancel racing.

Marshals, Safety Boats and other Officials will be issued with all relevant safety documentation prior to the event.

Specific safety instruction may be issued on the day.

Competitors will receive details of the arrangements and instructions prior to event.

(5) EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

(A) Responsibility

Responsibility for action in the event of an emergency rests with the Umpires, Marshals and Athlone Sub-Aqua. These individuals will carry radios at all times and will be in direct contact with Regatta Control.

(B) Actions in the Event of a Medical Emergency

The nearest radio equipped Race Official on the scene will take initial control and will assess the situation. If necessary, he/she will call emergency services. As soon as immediate life saving measures are in hand Race Control (if not aware) will be notified. If emergency assistance is required, the Official will call **Code-Red** (urgent medical issue) and **Code-Blue** (non-urgent) on his radio and all other radio users will observe radio silence and follow instructions given by that Official. For any other radio users observe radio silence and follow instructions given by that Official. For any other situation (obstacles, debris etc) normal radio protocol should be used.

The initial incident report for a **Code-Red** should briefly include;

- What is needed (first aid or higher or safety boat).
- Locate stretch of river or bankside that the service is needed.
- What has happened.
- The severity of injuries or illness.
- If racing needs to be suspended.

As soon as an incident is reported, all stations on radio are to minimise their communications. Absolute priority is to be given to Race Control and those responding directly to the incident.

In the event of any accident or emergency beyond that detailed in the safety plan and outside the capabilities of the ABC first aid and safety facilities, the emergency services will be called using 999 by mobile phone.

Emergency services not familiar with the embankment and requiring detailed information about an incident location can contact Race Control for grid references & post codes.

(C) Equipment Failure

In the event of equipment failure i.e., radio/launch outboard please advise Regatta Control.

(D) Capsize or Incident on the Water

In the event of a capsize or incident on the water during a race the Umpire with that race will access the situation and decide if additional assistance is required. All unnecessary radio traffic should be discontinued until the event is declared safe by the Umpire.

(E) Floating Hazard

Any significant floating debris or “hazard” seen on the water shall be reported to Race Control immediately. A Safety Boat shall be deployed to clear the water and racing shall be suspended.

(6) EMERGENCY SERVICES ACCESS

Emergency vehicle access to Coosan Point is via the main gates, the emergency services will be met by an ABC official at the gate and will be directed to the location of the incident. It is very important that the road down to Coosan Point is kept clear and free from obstructions at all times.

Athlone Boat Club and it’s Directors and Committee accept no responsibility for damage caused to vehicles parked in such a way as to cause an obstruction to emergency vehicle access.

Regatta Secretary

Safety Advisor

John O'Meara

Mattie Lough

John O’Meara

Matt Lough

Date: 29/05/2023

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