



## **Castletownbere Offshore Regatta Safety Statement** **2023**

Welcome to the Castletownbere Offshore Regatta 2023. We hope that you have an enjoyable and successful day. We look forward to a safe day of racing for all participants, volunteers, and visitors. This can only be achieved through mutual assistance between all visiting clubs and their commitment to upholding the recognized safety standards throughout the day.

<b>Regatta Director:</b>	<b>Miriam Sheehan 086 0839173</b>
<b>Club Secretary:</b>	<b>Orla Gilenan 0868448516</b>
<b>Safety Advisor:</b>	<b>Fintan Gilenan 086 8240966</b>
<b>Club Captain:</b>	<b>Fergus O'Driscoll 086 8295878</b>
<b>Event Medical Controller:</b>	<b>Bantry Red Cross</b>

### **Emergency Contacts**

<b>Ambulance</b>	<b>999 or 112</b>
<b>Coastguard</b>	<b>999 or 112</b>
<b>Castletownbere Garda</b>	<b>027 70002</b>

**EIRCODE: P75 HV22**

## **Policy Statement**

Castletownbere Rowing Club is committed to running a safe, all-inclusive offshore regatta. To help achieve this, the club will promote standards of health and safety which will lead to a reduction in risks for all participants and visitors. The club shall also implement the Rowing Ireland Code of Practice for Water safety,

In practical terms, CTB RC will commit to the following:

- The provision of safe and well-maintained facilities, (Boathouse, slip etc)
- The provision of safe equipment, (Safety Boats, Life jackets etc)
- The communication of appropriate safety information in a timely manner
- The provision of appropriate training and Instruction to club volunteers.
- Determining Risk and implementing appropriate preventative and protective measures. (Risk assessments)
- Report and investigate all accidents and incidents so lessons learned can be applied to future events.
- Holding a club captains meeting prior to racing.
- Appointing safety personnel as required on the course.
- Providing appropriate number of Rescue boats and first aid cover ashore.

## **Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure the safety of their members while participating. Crews should be competent to compete and wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and carry the necessary safety equipment in each boat.

## **Safety Assessment**

It will be the responsibility of the event safety advisor in conjunction with the Regatta Director to carry out an inspection of the course at least 90 minutes before the first race is due to start. As part of this safety assessment the weather conditions should be checked and noted. A detailed Risk Assessment shall also be prepared and published well ahead of the scheduled date.

## **Traffic Management Plan**

Parking shall be in the designated area. Details shall be included in Race Pack which will be published at least a week before the regatta date. The host club shall liaise with the Harbour authority, RNLI, emergency services and local residents in advance of the regatta to ensure that any of their requirements are complied with.

## **Water Safety**

The regatta will be run in accordance with the Rowing Ireland guidelines for regattas along with the relevant aspects of the Irish Water Safety Code. It is the intention of the Regatta Committee to encourage water safety awareness throughout the Regatta event.

- Beach masters will be present so each crew captain can sign out and sign back in on return.
- All Crews must check their equipment to ensure that enough buoyancy aids are on board and that tow rope is correctly attached.
- Coxes must wear a buoyancy aid.
- Clubs shall ensure that all equipment is removed from the launching & recovery area when not being used.
- Bow number (this should match the number at the time of entry) Crews who do not comply with the above safety standards will not be allowed to launch.

### **Safety Briefings**

In order to ensure the smooth and safe running of the regatta, the safety briefing will take place in the morning before racing commences at the Crew Captains meeting. It is therefore imperative that each participating club have at least one member attending.

### **Crew Captains/Competitors/Coxswains**

Each competitor and competing club also have a duty of care to themselves and others. The Decision to compete is a club's own. Competitors should ensure that adequate clothing and protection is worn depending on weather conditions. In the event of cold weather conditions rowers, volunteers, and all involved should ensure they are properly clothed.

### **Coxes**

All coxes and those rowers required by rules to wear personal flotation devices should be familiar with the method of operation of the PFD. All coxswains must attend the crew captain's meeting. At all times coxswains must ensure the safety of their crew is their utmost priority.

### **Course Map**

A copy of the course map shall be given out to all clubs prior to the event as part of the Race pack and shall also be on display at the venue. This map shall outline the course and will indicate warm up / cool down areas and also identify all known hazardous areas.

### **Safety Boat(s)**

A minimum of two safety boats shall be on the water at all times during racing.

One boat will be specifically charged with monitoring for approach of other watercraft not involved with the rowing event.

A second safety boat shall maintain a position close to the course but will ensure it does not interfere with the racing. Race stewards may use the safety boats to carry out their umpiring duties. However, any safety concern will take precedent over a racing incident.

### **First Aid/Ambulance/Medical Personnel**

A first aid plan will be in place for the duration of the Regatta. Bantry Red Cross will be providing Medical cover on the day. The location of the station will be detailed in the Race pack. The medical personnel shall have a two-way radio so that it can be contacted at all times. Captain's meeting should outline to everyone involved where the First Aid / Medical event team are located and how to contact them in event of an emergency.

### **Water Based Incident**

In the event of a water-based accident / medical situation the following is the procedures that apply:

1. The coxswain or other member of the subject boat shall raise their two hands to alert the stewards / safety boat that assistance is required.
2. The umpires/ Safety Boat personnel shall notify race control that they have been called upon.
3. The safety boat shall proceed in a prompt but safe manner to the subject boat.
4. If necessary, Race Control Shall notify the First Aid Crew to standby for further information.
5. In the event that it is a medical incident then the safety boat shall contact the ambulance crew and give them a report on what has happened and where they will be bringing the boat ashore.
6. The safety boat shall then bring any injured competitors to the agreed meeting point with the first aid personnel.
7. The ambulance/first aid team shall then proceed to the advised location and be prepared to treat the patient(s).
8. The event safety adviser should also attend the scene and keep the regatta director updated on any news as available.

### **Land Based Incident**

In the event of a land-based accident / medical situation the following is the procedures that apply:

1. Proceed to the nearest steward / first aid personnel and inform them of the incident.
2. The stewards shall notify the First Aid team that they are required and given the details of location etc.
3. The ambulance / first aid team shall then proceed to the advised location and be prepared to treat the patient(s).
4. The event safety adviser shall also attend the scene and keep the regatta director updated.

### **Fire Hazard**

If anyone sees smoke or fire in any enclosures, or engines, they should raise the alarm immediately.

### **Equipment failure**

Should there be a Radio failure during the event, Safety Boats and marshals etc shall use mobile phones as a secondary means of communication. If this is not possible Race Control shall be informed.

### **Floating Hazard**

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

### **Incident Reporting and Contacts**

The Safety Advisor will maintain a register of all reported incidents. All such incidents will be investigated by the Safety Advisor and reported to the Regatta Director in order to identify hazards and help improve safety procedures for future regattas. All such incidents must also be reported to Rowing Ireland via the online reporting portal on the website. IROW safe