

**Lagan Autumn Head of the River 2023**  
**- SAFETY POLICY & STATEMENT**

The Lagan Head of the River is run in accordance with the Rowing Ireland Safety Guidelines for events along with the relevant aspects of the Water Safety Code. The Race Organisers are committed to running the event in a safe manner.

SAFETY ADVISOR – David Webb

MEDICAL ADVISOR – Alister Ferguson - Ambutran

- POLICY** It is the policy of the Organisers to encourage water safety awareness throughout the event.
- INTENT** It is the intention of the Organisers to implement its own safety policy and to provide an example to participating clubs by creating a safe environment during the event.
- METHOD** All rowing to be conducted in accordance with current Rowing Ireland rules. Event details, course map and other relevant information to be circulated to the club secretaries of each participating club. All participants should be aware of this policy.
- All rowing to be conducted in accordance with current Rowing Ireland safety guidelines. Checks will be made by marshals to ensure equipment is safe – including for example secure, correct type bow balls fitted, suitable heel restraints, general boat condition.
- Coxwains must wear suitable flotation aids.
- Course map –issued to each club and displayed at Belfast Rowing Club.
- Safety launches – safety launches will be on the course throughout the event. The launches will have the necessary rescue equipment. First aid will also be carried on the launches. All regatta officials will have details of how to deal with an emergency.
- First Aid – available from the safety launches.  
Ambutran will be providing a mobile unit between the start and the finish and at Belfast Rowing Club at the end of the event.
- Incidents – event officials will be instructed to report all incidents where safety is compromised
- Emergency Services – event officials will have details of the nearest hospital with Accident & Emergency facilities. Access routes to be kept free.
- Communication – event officials will be in mobile phone contact with each other and the safety launch. Radios will be used as back-up.
- RESPONSIBILITY** In accordance with current guidelines it is the responsibility of each participating club committee to ensure the safety of their members while participating, including knowing what to do if they fall in, be competent to compete and wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.