



Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club Carrick on Shannon Regatta Safety Statement 2024

Policy

Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club is committed to running the Regatta in a safe manner. The safety of the competitors, spectators and Regatta officials is given the highest priority. The organisation and safe running of the Regatta will be ensured through the implementation of the following Safety Plan.

Objectives

The Safety Plan for the Regatta has four main objectives:

- To ensure the regatta is organised in compliance with specific national safety guidance including those of Rowing Ireland
- To ensure that racing is conducted with due observance to all of the safety conditions in Rowing Irelands Rules of Racing
- To manage hazards specific to the Regatta (see Race Instructions)
- To provide adequate First Aid and medical services at the Regatta course
- To investigate any incidents of a hazardous nature which occur during the Regatta.

The Club Committee has appointed a safety officer who will take overall responsibility for implementation of the Safety Plan.

The safety advisor for the event is Barry Ryan

Responsibility

In accordance with Rowing Ireland safety guidance, it is the responsibility of each participating Club Committee to ensure the safety of their members while participating. References include The National Safety Council and Rowing Ireland.

Intent

It is the intention of the Organising Committee to implement its own policy and to provide guidance to participating clubs by creating a positive and safe environment during the event.

Method

Safety awareness will be promoted by:

1. Informing Club Secretaries of the event rules in advance by correspondence
2. Slip marshals ensuring crews check their boat safety features
3. Appointing marshals to ensure crews proceed safely to the regatta start
4. Providing Rescue launches from Civil Defence and the Rowing Club
5. Waterways Ireland to oversee river traffic management on the day of the event

Marshals & Umpires

Marshals and Umpires are requested to assist voluntarily in the running of the event by:

1. Providing a safety presence over the length of the course
2. Overseeing fair and safe racing
3. Marshalling crews on the course, including the start, finish and slip areas
4. Giving information to other river users
5. Assisting crews in the event of equipment failure, collision or an accident

Hazard Identification

Hazards that may arise:

- Crews on their way to the start
- Management of other river users in association with Waterways Ireland
- Crews proceeding through the bridge post race
- River Navigation markers and public mooring facilities
- Crews straying off the course
- Crews, during their warm-up in the holding area
- Debris or domestic animals entering the water on the regatta course
- Any person entering the water on the regatta course

Management of Hazards

- Marshals and umpires will operate from safety launches on the regatta course to ensure at all times the safe passage of crews to the start and to further ensure that the regatta course is kept clear at all times for the safe passage of races in progress.

- Instructions will be issued to competitors regarding the hazards on the regatta course.
- Instructions will be issued to competitors to comply with all directions issued by Regatta officials.
- A safety launch will be available for assistance at all times during the regatta.
- Safety of crews crossing the race course on route to the start
- Two way radio communications will be used by all safety officials, marshals, umpires and regatta officials to ensure free flow of information about potential hazards and the safe movement of races on the course.
- Ensure crews taking to the water comply with boat safety requirements
- Assistance in the Marshalling of other river users during the regatta will be provided by Waterways Ireland and Civil Defence.
- All crews and scullers will be advised of the appropriate time to cross the race course below the start by a safety Marshall/Umpire
- Marshals and umpires will operate from safety launches on the regatta course to ensure at all times the safe passage of crews to the start and to further ensure that the regatta course is kept clear at all times for the safe passage of races in progress.
- Instructions will be issued to competitors regarding the hazards on the regatta course.
- Instructions will be issued to competitors to follow the instruction of course officials.
- At least one Safety launch will be available for assistance at all times during the regatta.
- Public address system will be used to alert crews of possible hazards.

Incident Reporting

The Safety Officer will maintain a register of all reported incidents where safety is concerned. All such incidents will be investigated in order to identify hazards to be managed for future Regatta's. All Regatta officials will be instructed to report all incidents to the Safety Officer.

First Aid and Medical Services

First Aid personnel will be available at Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club for the duration of the Regatta

Emergency Services

The Regatta Secretary will provide contact details for the nearest on-call hospital and Garda Station

Access

Regatta officials will ensure that access roads to the enclosure are kept free for emergency vehicle access

Emergency numbers: 999 or 911

Sligo General Hospital: 071 917 1111

Carrick on Shannon Garda: 071 9620021

Now Doc: 071 9671696

Civil Defence: 087 8311219

Car parking

All cars to park in the car park beside the boathouse or in the recently opened carpark beside the Primary Health Care Centre – located to the back of the Landmark Hotel.

Slipping

All boats competing at the event will use the official slipping area where bow balls and heel restraints will be checked before crews are permitted to slip.

Summary

Encouraging Water Safety during the Regatta is an ongoing activity. It is an essential element of all decisions made in the organising of the event. Compliance with the code is a condition of entry and the code will be reviewed annually.