COURTMACSHERRY
ROWING CLUB Est.1991

Swift Irish Coastal Sculling Endurance Championships 2025 - Safety Statement

Event Dates: March 28th & 29th 2026

Welcome to the Swift Irish Coastal Sculling Endurance Championships 2025. We hope that you have an enjoyable, safe and successful regatta hosted by Courtmacsherry Rowing Club. With your help and co-operation, we look forward to a safe day of racing for everyone concerned. Our aim is that all competitors, officials and visitors will uphold all good practices that exist in Rowing throughout all the clubs participating over the course of the event.

Safety Advisor:	**Daniel Whelton 086 6090061**
Regatta Director:	**Brian Whelton 086 8489741**
Regatta Secretary:	**Anna O Sullivan 087 2235686**
Event Medical Controller:	**Damien O Leary 086 0847671**

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance	**999 or 112**
Coastguard	**999 or 112**
Courtmacsherry RNLI	**999 or 112 or** (023) 884 6600
Timoleague & Bandon Gardai:	(023) 884 6122 **&** (023) 885 2200
EIRCODE:	**P72 PX96**
GPS CO-ORDINATES:	**51.6360° N, 8.6964° W**

Policy Statement

Courtmacsherry Rowing Club are committed to running this regatta in a safe manner. The safety of the competitors, spectators and regatta officials is given the highest priority in the organisation and running of the event. It is the Regatta Committee's policy to:

- Operate a management system for the event, in which the implementation of the health, safety and environmental policy is a management responsibility
- Ensure that volunteers, have a good understanding of the health, safety and environmental impact of the events and how we are to manage these.
- Provide the necessary training to enable our volunteers, to carry out responsibilities. The Regatta Committee has overall responsibility for the development and review of this policy, along with the development of Safety, Health and Environmental Guidance, Standards and event specific Procedures.
- Conduct activities with regard to the protection of the environment.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure the safety of their members while participating, including knowing what to do if they capsize. All participants should be competent to compete and wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and carry the necessary safety equipment for each boat.
It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that the equipment that they are using is safe and compliant with the requirements of Rowing Ireland's rules of racing.

Method

Safety awareness will be promoted by the following means:

- Informing Club Secretaries of the event rules in advance by correspondence.
- Holding a crew captain meeting prior to racing.
- Appointing umpires as required on the course.
- Providing Rescue-boats and first aid crew on board.
- Recover any capsizes as quickly and safely as possible.
- Holding a meeting of all volunteers-prior to the event

Safety Assessment

It is 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 will be checked and noted.

Traffic Plan/ Parking/Vehicular Access

All parking for the event shall be in the designated car parks. The host club shall liaise with the local Council, lifeboat, residents, in advance of the regatta to ensure that any requirements that the above named are complied with. The host club shall also liaise with An Garda Siochana in advance of the Regatta to agree a plan. Any necessary parking cones or signs should be put in place in sufficient time for the event.

- Assisting with traffic / parking in the main event centre.
- Managing access to the beach crewing areas.
- Giving information to other local users.

Event Centre Access

Given the nature of the event it is likely the main event centre will have limited vehicular access. The management and coordination of vehicular movements on site shall be the responsibility of the host club and any changes to the agreed plan must be agreed with the event safety officer /regatta director in advance.
Each participating club will be permitted to bring their vehicle with trailer boat into the unloading area with them. After unloading the trailer should be returned to the designated Carpark as indicated on the prospectus. A spotter should always be used when reversing or parking trailers.

Water Safety

The Swift Irish Coastal Sculling Endurance Championships will be run in accordance with the Rowing Ireland guidelines for regattas along with the relevant aspects of the Code of practice for the safe operation of recreational craft. It is the intention of the Regatta Committee to encourage water safety awareness throughout the Regatta event.

- Each club will be allocated an area for storing their boats.

- Beach masters will be present so each crew captain can sign out and sign back in on return.
- Beachmasters in high visibility vests shall manage this and advise regatta control.
- All Crews must check their equipment to ensure that enough buoyancy aids are on board and that tow rope is correctly attached and is 1.5 times the length of boat in use
- Coxes must wear a buoyancy aid
- Clubs shall ensure that all equipment is removed from the launching & recovery area when not being used.
- All junior rowers under the age of 16 Must wear a PFD while on the water at this event

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.

This briefing shall outline the various risks associated in the above areas emphasising the safety rules that are in place for the regatta. It shall also outline any relevant weather information that may have an effect on the days racing.

Race Umpires

This briefing shall also outline the rules associated with the days racing. It shall also outline that above all safety is out utmost priority.

- Providing a presence on the rowing course and feed-back of any incidents during racing.
- Ensuring the racing rules of the event are enforced at all times.
- Assisting crews in the event of equipment failure, collision or an accident
- Lifejackets / buoyancy aids shall be worn on the water by all umpires and safety crew.

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 decision. 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 captains 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 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 hazards areas.

Safety Boat(s)

A minimum of one dedicated safety boat shall be on the water at all times with a certified first aid personnel / medical trained personnel on board. This boat shall be a fast boat capable of taking on board at least 5 persons. The safety boat shall maintain a position close to the racing course but so as to ensure it does not interfere with the racing. In the event of an incident please refer to Accident / Incident Procedure.

First Aid/Ambulance/Medical Personnel

A fully equipped First aid station shall be on site for the duration of the regatta. The location of the station will

be the Club house . The medical personnel shall have a two-way radio so as that it can be contacted at all times. A briefing should outline to everyone involved with the First Aid / Medical event team the plans that are in place should a first aid / medical incident arise. for the main medical centres in the area. It shall also detail the two-way radio procedure in the event of an emergency taking place. A patient report form should be completed for each patient. All patient activity will be reported to the Safety Advisor.

Emergency Action Plan

This Emergency Action Plan sets out mitigation and procedures in relation to an emergency which represents a general threat to regatta participants. Responsibility for actions in the event of an emergency rests with the Safety Advisor.

The medical team will deal with general injuries and emergencies if this needs to be escalated the local ambulance will be contacted to provide assistance.

Emergency Radio Procedures

Emergency radio messages should be given slowly, clearly and repeated twice. When other radio users hear the words "ALL USERS, RESCUE, RESCUSE, RESCUE" radio silence MUST be adhered to. Advise slowly - WATER, OR BEACH OR CAR PARK with location, type of incident, who is in trouble and type of incident. ie Capsize boat no 13, OR Crew Illness, OR Beach Incident, OR Car Park Incident.

The initial incident report for a: Code-Red= Medical Emergency or Code Blue =Fire or land based.

- What is needed (medical or safety boat).
- Location stretches of river or bankside that the service is needed.
- What has happened.
- The number of casualties.
- The severity of injuries or illness.
- If racing needs to be suspended.

In the event of any accident or emergency beyond that detailed in the safety plan and outside the capabilities of the regatta first aid and safety facilities, the emergency services will be called using 999 by mobile phone. If available an EIR Code will assist Emergency services. All Traffic stewards will prepare and clear the area for movement of the arrival and departure of the ambulance.

Water Based Incident: Code Red

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 shall also attend the scene and keep the regatta director updated on any news as available.

Land Based Incident- Code Red

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 advisor shall also attend the scene and keep the regatta director updated on any news as available.

Fire Hazard- Code Blue

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 & loudhailers to communicate. 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 Safety 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 where safety is concerned. All such incidents will be investigated by the Safety Advisor and reported to the Regatta Director in order to identify hazards to be managed in future regattas. All regatta officials will be instructed to report all incidents to the Safety Advisor.