



## Limerick Regatta Safety Statement 2023

Welcome to Limerick Regatta and the National Schools Regatta. We hope that you have an enjoyable, safe and successful weekend's racing.

Limerick regatta is an event run since the 1870 at various locations in the Limerick/Clare region. The current regatta set up has been in the O'Brine Bridge area of Co. Clare since the mid 1980's. Limerick Regatta is a committee formed from members of Limerick Boat Club, Shannon Rowing Club, Athlunkard Boat Club, St. Michaels Rowing Club, Castleconnell Boat Club, and University of Limerick Rowing Club, with the assistance of volunteers from the local and national clubs.

This safety plan incorporates the key points of all the rowing clubs involved, our aim is that all competitors, officials and visitors will uphold all good practice that exist in rowing throughout all the clubs participating this weekend. A dedicated safety launch crewed by first responder personnel will be patrolling the course throughout the regatta. Umpires are equipped with loudhailers and basic safety equipment in rescue bags; throw-bags and emergency blankets, etc. Safety boats, umpires and other regatta officials are provided with hand portable radios operating on the Umpires' channel for communication.

Seán Willis, Limerick Boat Club, has been appointed by the Limerick Regatta Committee as the Safety Advisor for Limerick Regatta 2023. The Safety Advisor will advise the committee on all aspects of health and safety relating to the event including Rowing Ireland's Code of Practice for Water Safety.

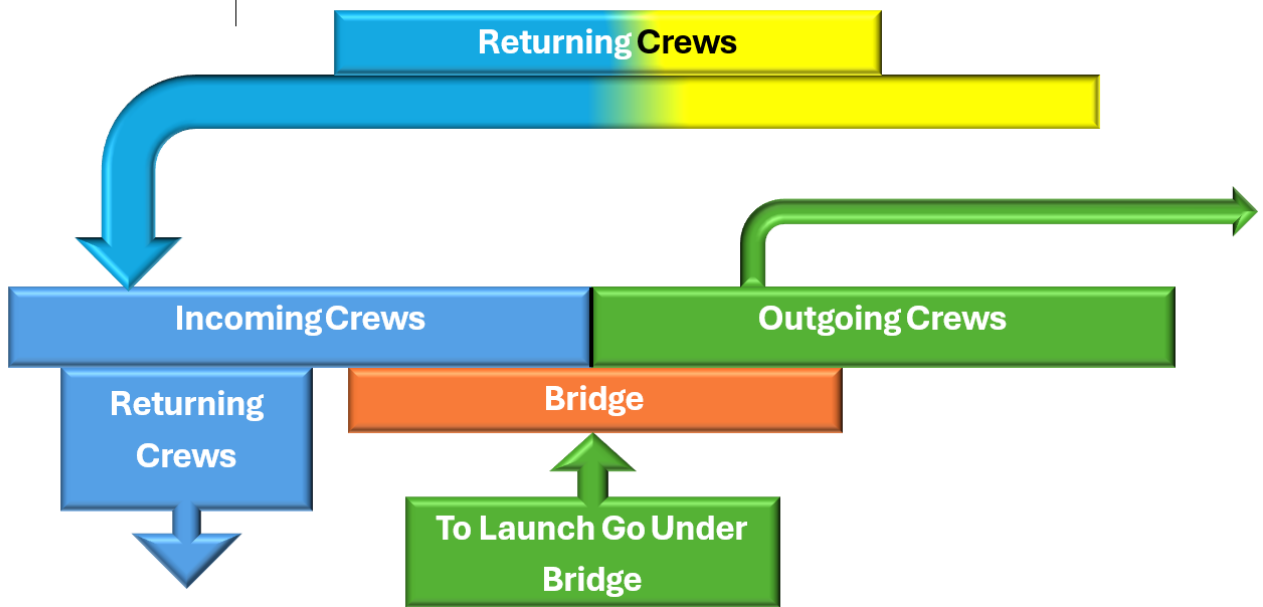
### Safety Procedures & Preventive Measures

1. A display of safety related phone numbers will be displayed for the duration of the Regatta at the official race secretary's tent.
  - a. Phone Number: 999/112
  - b. Three WORD Location: [cranes.irritably.wits](http://cranes.irritably.wits)
  - c. GPS Location: 52.74795956561716, -8.509527947522782
2. First Aid equipment, an AED and First Aiders/EMTs are to be provided for the duration of the regatta by trained professionals.



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3. Launching of boats will be carried out under the direction the slip stewards on duty, and they will be obey not doing so may incur an official warning.



4. A plan of the course has been drawn up and will be displayed on the Regatta webpage and also at the Regatta Secretary's tent.

**Limerick Regatta Course Instructions**

- All boats will be subject to a safety check prior to being allowed into the slip area. Follow the instruction of the slip stewards when launching - they are in control of the slip. Launch on the course side of the slip(Right) Return on the upriver side of the slip (Left)
- Proceed to the start on the Clare Shore side. Once at the start you will be instructed by a regatta official or the starter on when to cross the course & into the holding area. Do not proceed beyond the holding area as you may miss your race being called.
- Once your race is completed you must row past the slip, around the buoy/marker and into the slip under the direction of the slip steward.
- **NB - Failure to follow the traffic rules or the instruction of regatta officials will lead to traffic violation false start or disqualification.**

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5. An accident log will be available at the secretary's tent. All injuries will be reported in writing to Rowing Ireland.
6. Observance of the requirements of Rowing Ireland's Code will be the duty of the Safety Advisor and breaches will be reported to the relevant Club Captain and Rowing Ireland as required.
  - a. It is the duty of all participating clubs that the equipment being used is in safe working order. Complete checks will be carried out at the Regatta prior to launching. Equipment used for the Regattas will be the responsibility of the club taking part in the regatta and will undergo checks prior to use.
  - b. It is the duty of all participating clubs to ensure all boats have bow balls to the stated Rowing Ireland specification. Checks will be carried out at the Regatta and boats without appropriate equipment will not be allowed race.
  - c. It is the duty of all participating clubs to ensure all boats have appropriate heel restraints. Spot checks will be carried out at the Regatta and boats without appropriate equipment will not be allowed race.
7. It is the duty of all participating clubs to ensure all boats have appropriate buoyancy compartments, bow and stern canvasses etc. Checks may be carried out at the Regattas and boats without appropriate equipment will not be allowed race.
8. It is the duty of all participating clubs to ensure all participants are in good health and capable of swimming 50m in light clothing and shoes.
9. It is the duty of all participating clubs to ensure that their coxes are provide with appropriate PPE including life jackets conforming to the BS3595 standard. Coxes in front-loader positions must wear life jackets that allow them easy escape from their positions.
10. Coaches of all participating crews must take responsibility for their crews safety at all times.
11. Coaches of all crews shall ensure that each member of the crew is aware of the relevant safety procedures at all times.
12. Coaches shall ensure that all members of the crew, including coxes, are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions at the Regattas.
13. All launch drivers, umpires, stakeboat personnel and others on the water, except competing rowers / scullers shall wear life jackets conforming to BS3595 standard at all times.
14. Full consultation has been undertaken with the relevant authorities including An Garda Síochána, Waterways Ireland, ESB, Local residents. Rescue and First Aid personnel.



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Resuscitation will be the responsibility of the on-site paramedics who have the relevant expertise in this area.

15. Provisions are in place to ensure unrestricted access to the site for ambulances / emergency vehicles. On site emergency first paramedics will be present on site at all times and provided by St. John's Ambulance.
16. Water rescue facilities for the Regatta are being provided by local clubs who have adequate capabilities to cope with all athletes rescue requirements. There will be between 8 and 10 launches on the water at all times and the personnel will be capable of exercising a rescue. Two of these launches will at all times be solely designated as safety launches and will be located in designated locations on the regatta course to ensure broad coverage of the course from a safety perspective.
17. Procedure for accident and emergency is prepared including Rowing Ireland radio protocol.
18. There will be no rowing or on water activities at the Regatta outside of daylight hours.
19. The Racing Course is marked out with buoys as required. Safety notices are displayed at other river access points to inform other river users of event.
20. All umpires are trained that in the event of an incident/accident, the Umpire's first duty is to the safety of competitors or any person in difficulty. In the event of an incident/accident on the water:
  - a. "Rescue, Rescue, Rescue" will be announced over the walkie talkies. The priority is any personnel in danger - the race/regatta is secondary.
21. Weather conditions for the Regattas will be monitored. Water rescue will be swift as there will be 8 to 10 launches on the water at all times. There will be a dedicated safety launch that will not be used for any other purpose. Ensuring a change of clothes is available will be the responsibility of the participating athletes / clubs. Medical assessment of all persons who enter the water will be mandatory. Hot drinks will be available on the bank.
22. The transportation of all boats, equipment and individuals to and from the Regatta will be the responsibility of the participating clubs. Stewards will be in place to control access, parking etc. Instructions from stewards must be followed in the interest of maintaining safe access and egress for emergency vehicles etc.
23. The Rowing Ireland Water Safety Guidance Notes are adopted, where relevant, for the Regatta.