



**Galway Regatta Committee**  
(GALWAY ROWING CLUB)  
WOODQUAY, GALWAY



# Galway Regatta Safety Statement 2023

Galway Regatta Committee  
c/o Galway Rowing Club,  
The Waterside,  
Woodquay,  
Galway

Date: June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

Location: NUIG Sports Grounds, Dangan

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## Statement

The regatta committee is committed to running Galway Regatta in a safe manner. Competitors, support staff and spectators are asked to comply with the instructions of the regatta marshals who will be wearing hi-vis vests.

Medical professionals, Ambulance personnel will be on site during the day of the regatta, and will be present during the whole competition. There will also be a Doctor on call during the regatta.

Safety boats will be patrolling the course throughout the regatta.

## Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure the safety of their members while participating.

Clubs should also ensure that their competing athletes can swim and are competent to participate in the grade for which they are entered. Clubs are also asked to ensure that their members are appropriately dressed for the weather conditions on the day and coxes must wear an appropriate life jacket/buoyancy aid.

The regatta committee recommends that younger junior crews be drilled in attaching to stake boats as this has proved problematic in the past.

Clubs must ensure that their equipment complies with RI safety regulations especially regarding bow balls and heel restraints. Boats will be checked by regatta marshals prior to accessing the slipping area and will be turned back if issues are identified.

**Races will not be postponed or rescheduled to accommodate crews which fail a boat inspection.**

## Communication

Umpires are equipped with loudhailers and basic safety equipment; throw-bags and emergency blankets.

Safety boats, umpires and other regatta officials are provided with radios operating on the Umpires' channel for communication.

We will also have the Galway Radio Club on site as part of regatta communications, as well as Public PA to liaise with participants.

## Hazards

Hazards on the river which include rocky areas immediately above Menlo Castle and on the Menlo side of the boat circulation area upstream of the start have been marked with buoys. *These areas are indicated on the attached map of the regatta course and enclosure.*

Safety launches will inspect the course during the day for any obstructions that may drift onto the course.

Clubs should be mindful of occasional angling boats which may pass through the Menlo straight during the regatta as well as the Corrib Princess tour boat which will pass through the course and boat holding area several times over the duration of the regatta. Races will be stopped at these times to ensure crew safety and facilitate safe passage of these boats. During these times crews should comply strictly with directions from the marshals in the safety launches and regatta umpires. This will also be communicated over the public PA that will be in place on the day.

Crews capsizing or otherwise in difficulty should remain with their boat until rescued.

In addition to the umpire launches there will be 2 safety launches in position to assist if required.

## Boat Launching Area

Crews launching and returning after races should comply with the directions of the slip marshals and not delay in the slipping area.

Clubs should ensure that oars are carefully placed on the hill adjacent to the slip in advance of launching and do not present a trip hazard to crews and others using the slip.

Access to the slipping area will be restricted to competing crews.

When not required oars should be removed from the slipping area.

## Launching & Returning to Slip following Races

Crews should launch with their bows facing upriver (towards the start) and proceed upriver close to the Dangan bank to boat holding area 1 and await direction from the marshal in the safety launch as to when it is safe to cross the course to the boat holding area upstream of the start.

Both areas are identified on the map of the regatta course and enclosure.

Crews must also comply with directions from the safety launch above the start and proceed to the start when asked.

On finishing their race crews should move a short distance downstream of the finish, turn and proceed upstream to the slip staying close to the Dangan bank and ensuring that they keep well off the course.

Please see Appendix for Enclosure and Course maps with direction of travel to the start, during the races and returning to the slip after the races.

## Access to Enclosure

Vehicular access to the regatta enclosure will be restricted to trailers and catering vehicles.

All other vehicles must park in the car park and occupants proceed on foot to the enclosure. This will be strictly enforced.

Parking will be directed to the car park at the Corrib Village area, not at the parking facilities at Dangan. Necessary signage will be used from the lights opposite the IDA Dangan directing cars to Corrib Village.

## Incident Reporting

Any incidents or safety issues should be reported to the Regatta Secretary.

In the event of a capsize

All such incidents will be investigated, where necessary, to identify hazards to be managed in future regattas.

All regatta officials have been instructed to report all incidents to the Regatta Secretary.

## Weather Conditions

Unfortunately, we have no control of the weather and the regatta will proceed regardless.

In the event of the weather deteriorating during the day, the regatta secretary will decide if conditions are safe for rowing. He/She may deem it necessary to cancel certain events for younger people if considered necessary, in the interests of safety.

If we have a severe wind/weather warning the regatta will be cancelled before Clubs start to travel i.e., 2 days prior to the event

#### First Aid and Medical Services

First aid personnel will be on duty at the regatta enclosure for the duration of the regatta.

#### Emergency contact numbers:

Emergency services: 999 or 112


Mill Street Garda Station: 091 538000

University Hospital Galway: 091 524222

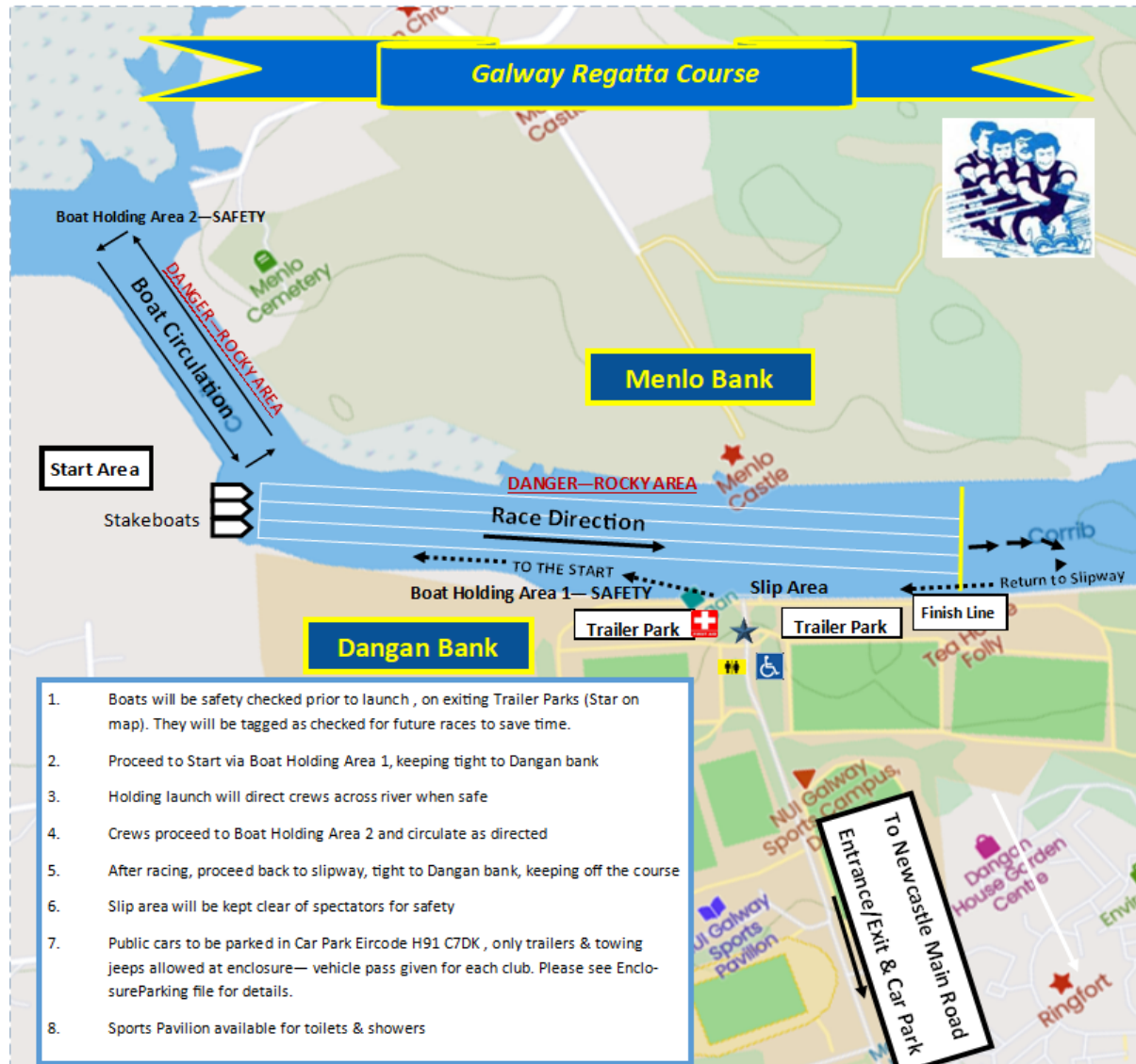
## Appendix

### Risk Matrix

Factor	Details	Value	Score	
<b>Event Nature</b>	VIP Visits	1	0	<b>The total score obtained should be compared to the following threshold to determine the relevant risk category: This will give an idea of the type of action that is going to be needed to run the event</b>
	Exhibits	1	0	
	Classical / Theatrical Performance	1	0	
	Athletics and Sport	2	0	
	Fetes / Fund Raisers	1	0	
	Pop / Rock / Dance events	2	0	
	Parades and Carnivals	2	0	
	Marine / Waterway Events	3	3	
	Celebrations and Parties	3	0	
	<b>Event Venue</b>	Indoor	1	
Outdoor, defined boundaries		4	0	
Outdoor, Widespread / street		5	0	
Riverbank		5	5	
<b>Numbers</b>	<500	1	1	
	500 – 1,500	3	0	
	1,500 – 5,000	5	0	
	>5,000 plus	10	0	
<b>Participant accommodation</b>	All seated	1	0	
	Mixed (at least 50% seated)	2	0	
	Standing	3	3	
<b>Participant age and profile</b>	Family groups	2	2	
	Predominately adults	1	0	
	Predominately under 18s	4	0	
	Predominately elderly	3	0	
	Conflict / Rival factions	5	0	

<b>Additional Factors</b>	Queue management	1	0	<b>safely.</b>  <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>0 -14</b></td> <td><b>LOW RISK</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>15-30</b></td> <td><b>MEDIUM RISK</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>31 +</b></td> <td><b>HIGH RISK</b></td> </tr> </table>  	<b>0 -14</b>	<b>LOW RISK</b>	<b>15-30</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK</b>	<b>31 +</b>	<b>HIGH RISK</b>
<b>0 -14</b>	<b>LOW RISK</b>									
<b>15-30</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK</b>									
<b>31 +</b>	<b>HIGH RISK</b>									
	Animals	1	0							
	Temporary structures	2	2							
	Bouncy castles / sideshow	2	0							
	Onsite catering	2	0							
	Overnight camping	3	0							
	Traffic movement in crowd area	3	0							
	Funfair rides	4	0							
	Alcohol available	5	0							
	24 Hour/Late event	10	0							
<b>First aid present</b>	Advanced paramedic with vehicle	1	1							
	Qualified first aiders	2	0							
	No first aiders present	3	0							
		<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>							

# Course Traffic Circulation



1. Boats will be safety checked prior to launch , on exiting Trailer Parks (Star on map). They will be tagged as checked for future races to save time.
2. Proceed to Start via Boat Holding Area 1, keeping tight to Dangan bank
3. Holding launch will direct crews across river when safe
4. Crews proceed to Boat Holding Area 2 and circulate as directed
5. After racing, proceed back to slipway, tight to Dangan bank, keeping off the course
6. Slip area will be kept clear of spectators for safety
7. Public cars to be parked in Car Park Eircode H91 C7DK , only trailers & towing jeeps allowed at enclosure— vehicle pass given for each club. Please see EnclosureParking file for details.
8. Sports Pavilion available for toilets & showers

Entrance/Exit & Car Park  
 To Newcastle Main Road



## Emergency Action Plan

