**Water Safety Code**

Skibbereen RC

Skibbereen HEAD OF THE RIVER,

The Marina, Cork

Compiled by Skibbereen RC

Date: Saturday 19th November 2022

**Skibbereen Head of the River – WATER SAFETY CODE**

**Policy:**

It is the policy of the Skibbereen RC Committee to encourage water safety awareness during the event.

**Responsibility:**

In accordance with the current guidelines it is the responsibility of each participating Club Committee to ensure the safety of their members while participating. References include The Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, The National Safety Council, The Irish Sailing Association and The Irish Amateur Rowing Union/Rowing Ireland.

**Intent:**

It is the intention of the Organising Committee to implement its own policy and to provide example to participating Clubs by creating a positive Safety Environment during the event.

**Method:**

Safety awareness will be promoted by

1. Informing Club Secretaries of the event rules in advance by correspondence
2. Holding a coxes meeting prior at 8.45 am before the event starts.
3. Slip Marshals ensuring crews to check their boat safety features
4. Appointing Safety Marshals as required on the river.
5. Providing Rescue launches

**Marshals**

Marshals are requested to assist voluntarily in the safe running of the event by

1. Providing a presence on the river
2. Marshalling crews to the start in a prompt and orderly manner and return to slipping area when finished
3. Giving information to the other river users
4. Assisting crews in the event of equipment failure, collision or an accident

Marshals are concerned with encouraging the Safety of

1. Themselves
2. Competitors
3. Event Organisers
4. Other River users

**Marshals Safety Code**

1. Be aware of the weather forecast for the day.
2. Check your engine, oars, oarlocks, bailer, fuel tank, bung and painter to ensure that they are secured properly and in good working order. It is good practice to carry alternative source of propulsion.
3. Carry out a visual inspection of the hull for damage.
4. Ensure that each person onboard wears a lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
5. Check the propeller for dents and nicks which could cause the engine to vibrate.
6. Make sure that nobody is standing in the water near the propeller and that no one is standing behind you when pulling the starting cord.
7. Consult the handbook if in doubt about operation of the engine, carburettor flooding or any other issue such as tilting mechanism as these are necessary skills in the event of a rescue of rowers.
8. When the engine fires check the cooling water telltale and allow the engine to run for a few minutes before closing the choke.
9. Make a visual check to ensure that you have sufficient fuel.
10. Forbid horseplay and never drink alcohol.
11. Do not carry more that the authorised number of passengers in your boat as recommended by the manufacturer.
12. Make sure that you co-ordinate your movements on the river with the needs of the Water Co-ordinator and keep in regular communication.

**Crew Safety**

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that their competing crews are competent to participate in the grade for which they are entered. On the day the cox or steerperson must attend the coxes meeting and must register their attendance. This meeting will include a safety brief. A map of the river included in the programme or provided separately. All equipment must comply with Rowing Ireland Safety regulations; especially bow balls and heel straps.

**Boat Accident Recovery Procedure**

1. Approach the recovery location from down wind where possible.
2. Inform other marshals in the area and the Water Coordinator immediately so that onshore services can be altered.
3. Secure the recovery craft to the bow or stern of the boat requiring assistance.
4. Stop the engine before giving further assistance due to danger from the propeller.
5. Recover the persons in the water over the stern only.
6. After recovery more persons needing assistance to the nearest of the following locations

Start Boat

Slip Area

Either side of the Regatta Course

Finish Area

The safety of competitors, event organisers, spectators and other river users is the priority activity. Unless abandoned boats or equipment represent a hazard to others their recovery should be left until after the event when river traffic has eased.

**Summary**

Encouraging Water Safety during the event 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.