



# **Bewdley Rowing Club Regatta**

**25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

## **Safety Plan**



# Bewdley Rowing Club

Riverside North, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1AB

[www.bewdleyrc.co.uk](http://www.bewdleyrc.co.uk)

## **Annual Regatta Safety Plan**

### **Relevant Individuals**

**Regatta Safety Adviser:** Jo Gulliver

**Regatta Assistant Safety Advisor:** Julie Prior

**Regatta Welfare Officers:** Lin Beech and Gerry Glenister

**Medical Cover:** Ace Medical Solutions

**Regatta Secretary:** Kat Carlyle

**Race Committee Chairman:** Gill Warnett

**Club Captain:** Alex Busnell

**Club Interim Chairman:** Jon Fazakerley

### **Vehicle and Trailer Access**

- Access to the trailer park is via Riverside North, approached from the river bridge. The access is controlled by marshals. Only vehicles towing trailers or carrying boats on roof racks will be allowed to access the trailer park.
- Umpires will use parking at Bridge House, accessed from Riverside North.
- Competitors/Officials who are camping will access the camping area via Riverside North. Please keep vehicle movements to an absolute minimum.
- All vehicles using Riverside North must proceed with great care, taking note of the speed bumps in the road, not exceeding 5mph and being aware of the large numbers of pedestrians regularly using the road.
- There is no parking for any other vehicles at the club. A park and walk option is located at The Bewdley School on Stourport Road or the pay and display car parks in town. Long stay parking is provided in Gardners Meadow Car Park, accessed via Severnside South. There is no on-street parking in Bewdley town centre.
- In the event of an emergency, marshals shall direct the use of Riverside North and all users are asked to obey their instructions. Emergency vehicles shall have absolute priority



over all other users. The road shall remain closed to all users for the duration of the emergency, except where it is needed for safe evacuation.

### **Circulation Pattern**

- The circulation pattern for water users is available for all crews on the Regatta Website. A copy is also available at registration.
- All crews are required to observe the circulation pattern at all times.
- There is no use of the water at any time except for the purposes of racing under the supervision of marshals and umpires. There is no water practice facility.
- Crews should act upon the instructions of Landing Stage Marshals promptly.

### **Points of Danger**

- The Race Committee and the Safety Officer will assess the safety and condition of water levels on the day prior to racing, on the mornings of racing and during racing.
- In the event of low water, shallows will be buoyed or marked by booms. The attention of crews/coxes will be drawn to the shallows above the start, both sides of the river near the Gasworks, those opposite the clubhouse and those above the ford beyond the bridge. The shallows are clearly marked on the course map, available on the regatta website and displayed in registration.
- Other river users will be alerted to the regatta. Racing will be suspended to allow safe passage of such users. The local canoe hirers and angling societies have been alerted to the date of the regatta.
- As shown on the circulation pattern, passage through the bridge is via the centre arch only. Boats moving downstream have priority.
- Marshals will control passage of boats through the bridge. Their instructions must be acted upon promptly by all crews. All crews will be alerted about debris near the bridge if there is any.
- Boats must start turning around by the glass-topped flood wall on Club side of the river to avoid shallow waters further downstream.
- Due to the environmental condition of the river, all persons are prohibited from entering the water. BRC advises all persons to wash hands and equipment following their row. If any person feels unwell following rowing on the water, they should take advice from their GP.

### **Safety Boats**

- Water safety, including safety boats, is provided by BRC and other local clubs.
- Safety boats will be positioned at the start and finish of the course.
- All safety boats will have a plate stating the maximum carrying weight.
- All safety boats will be equipped with a minimum of first aid kit, loudhailer, bailer, paddle, rescue tube, rope, boathook, throw/grab line, tool kit, safety knife. Safety boats will be in radio communication with marshals, umpires and race control.
- All safety boats will consist of a qualified driver and a support person.

### **First Aid**



- First Aid is provided by Ace Medical Solutions located close to the club.
- They will also be provided with radios to allow rapid communication.
- There is a defibrillator located in the kitchen of the clubhouse. Whatthreewords location handicaps.dimension.drain. and on the outside wall of the gym. Whatthreewords location repeat.briskley.lifted. There is another defibrillator located on the outside wall of the Bowling Club next to the club car park. Whatthreewords location birthing.indulgent.pigtails.

### **Safety Equipment**

- Throw/grab lines are located in the boathouse, by the steps and at all umpire points.
- All marshals and umpires are in radio contact with Race Control, Coordinating Umpire and the Safety Boats.
- Marshals controlling the crews are equipped with loudhailers.
- Spare batteries and spare radios are provided at Race Control.

### **Cancellation/Suspension of Racing**

- Cancellation/suspension of racing is controlled by the Race Committee.
- Junior racing is to be considered for suspension if water levels are above the first narrow step and rising.
- 1x, 2x and 2- racing will be considered for suspension if water is above the second narrow step and rising.
- If water is above the third narrow step and rising, then the Race Committee will consider suspension of all racing.
- The Race Committee will consider suspension of all racing if crews cannot row the buoyed course without potential damage to boats/equipment.
- Racing shall be suspended if other water users are on the course. Marshals above the start or below the finish will contact Coordinating Umpire by radio.
- Racing shall be suspended on the order of any Official if thunder follows lightning within 30 seconds. All competitors, officials, spectators to be guided to safe shelter by marshals. Safe shelter is provided in the clubhouse, boathouse, gym and changing rooms. Shelter should not be sought in tents, marquees, under the canopy of the clubhouse or under trees. Campers should seek shelter in any of the designated safe places or inside their vehicle.
- Racing shall be suspended in the event of any accident, injury or illness on the water. Any official, marshal, umpire or safety boat shall communicate the need for suspension immediately to Coordinating Umpire. Racing shall only be restarted when it is deemed safe to do so.

### **Medical Support Arrangements**

- All injuries shall be treated in the first instance by Ace Medical Solutions.
- First Aiders to decide on further treatment.
- Fire, Police, Ambulance can be contacted on 999 in the event of an emergency.
- Further non-emergency medical advice can be sought by ringing 111
- In the event of an accident/injury requiring hospital assistance the nearest hospital is Kidderminster Hospital, Minor Injuries Department, Bewdley Road, Kidderminster.



- The local Ambulance and Police services will be informed in advance that the regatta is taking place.

### **Marshalling Instructions and Control**

- The circulation pattern and course map are available on the regatta website prior to the regatta. The circulation pattern and course map are also posted in registration.
- Crews shall pair up in the trailer park. Crews will be marshalled into the boat-checking area in their pairs.
- In the event of hot weather, crews should be reminded at pairing up to ensure they are wearing sun protection, keep covered up and stay hydrated as they may be waiting some time to boat on.
- It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that their boats are safe and are prepared in accordance with the guidance in RowSafe and are suitable for the crew and conditions in which they are to be used. Officials will conduct spot checks.
- Coxes must wear life jackets and their understanding of operation may be checked by officials.
- Blades should only be left on the Club steps immediately prior to racing.
- Marshals with loudhailers will instruct crews when to approach the boating area.
- Marshals with loudhailers will instruct crews when it is safe to cross the course to the town bank in order to proceed to the start. No crew should cross the course without the instruction of the marshal on the steps.
- No race-pace or start practice is allowed on the river at any time.
- Marshals and umpires shall ensure that crews proceeding to the start are aware of racing crews and are in a safe position on the town bank.
- Crews will be held in the bay downstream of the Gasworks on the town bank due to shallows and shall be released in batches to proceed to the start when safe to do.
- Marshals above the start shall keep crews in their pairs and in a safe position above the start.
- Racing shall be controlled by The Race Committee, Race Control, Umpires and Officials. Crews must respond immediately to any instruction from any of the above named.
- Marshals below the finish shall ensure safe passage of crews back to the club steps. Crews passing through the bridge must use the centre arch. Crews rowing downstream have priority through the bridge. Passage through the bridge will be controlled by Marshals. Crews should be aware of the ford below the bridge and in no circumstances should crews attempt to cross the ford.
- Crews returning to the Club steps should vacate the area as quickly as possible, taking instructions from the marshals. Blades should not be left on the steps.

### **Warm-up/Cool-down**

- The Gym is available for crews to warm-up and cool-down
- Crews may only warm-up and cool-down on the water as they proceed to the start and return from the finish. Attention is drawn to the instruction that no race-pace or start practice is allowed at any time

### **Racking and Boat Storage**



- Boats are to be stored in the trailer area only. There is no storage provided in the Boathouse or Club area. Boats should not be stored in the camping field except on the roof of a vehicle.
- Blades should be stored with trailers.

### **Launching and Landing Provision**

- Boats may only be launched and landed from the Club steps, under the instructions of marshals.
- Boats may not be launched or landed at any other site whatsoever.

### **Catering**

- Food preparation is in accordance with food hygiene regulations.
- All those involved in food preparation should wash their hands regularly; gloves are to worn at all times when preparing food and should be changed frequently and always after handling money/other equipment.
- Signs are to be prominently displayed to warn everyone regarding food allergies.
- Fire blankets and extinguishers are to be kept near the BBQ when operational.

### **Emergency Action Plan**

- In the event of an emergency, all regatta users shall obey the instructions of the emergency services, and Ace Medical Solutions, regatta officials and marshals.
- As stated above, Riverside North shall be closed to all users in the event of emergency services requiring access to and from the regatta site, except in the case of an emergency evacuation being instructed.
- In the case of an emergency evacuation of the regatta site, all users should follow the instructions of those listed above. Evacuation routes shall be Riverside North, the riverside path from the site in a northerly direction or through the campsite either onto the riverside path northwards or eastwards onto Northwood Lane via the gate in the boundary fence to the east of the campsite.
- There shall be no return to the regatta site following an evacuation except on the instruction of the Emergency Services or a Regatta Official who has been appraised by the Emergency Services.

### **Welfare Plan**

In accordance with British Rowing guidelines and policies relating to safeguarding, the following welfare plan will be put in place:

- The coaches of junior squads or of adult crews with a junior cox will be responsible for the welfare of all children representing their rowing club.
- As part of the registration process, juniors will be asked to supply the name and mobile phone number of their coach so they can be contacted immediately if any welfare issues arise
- Coaches of junior crews will be advised to check the changing rooms to ensure no adults are using the facility whilst juniors get changed.



- The Bewdley Rowing Club welfare officer's contact number and photograph will be displayed on signs in prominent positions around the club. She will be contactable from 9 am Sat morning to 8 pm Sun evening.
- All bar staff will be instructed to ask for ID for any young person attempting to purchase or consume alcohol if they look under the age of 25. The bar areas will display clear signage to this effect.
- BRC will not take responsibility for those persons who are intoxicated and will inform their club coach and BRC welfare officer.

### **Risk Assessment**

- A separate risk assessment document is available from the regatta secretary and the regatta safety advisor.