

## Egham Amateur Regatta - Junior Rowers' Event Safeguarding Statement 2024

Reviewed 22/5/2024

### General:

The organising committee of Egham Regatta believes that all persons participating in rowing, including children & vulnerable adults, whether attending as competitors, coxes, coaches, umpires, marshals and spectators have the right:

- To enjoy safe participation in rowing
- To be treated as individuals at all times
- To express their views and to be listened to and believed
- To be treated with respect and to receive support for their individual needs
- To enjoy an environment free of discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, marital status, occupation or political opinion
- To participate free from the threat of abuse
- Not to have to endure insult, abuse, including verbal abuse, bullying, neglect or physical abuse
- To enjoy an environment free of sexual harassment and sexual abuse
- Not to be exploited
- To be treated in accordance with British Rowing guidelines.

### Juniors & Vulnerable Adults:

Egham Regatta strives to ensure that:

- The Regatta is a safe environment and
- That any allegations or concerns of harm to juniors or vulnerable adults involved in the event are taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately and
- That Regatta organisers, officials and staff will comply with British Rowing rules, Codes of Conduct, Safety and Safeguarding policies and regulations.

### Safeguarding Policy:

Junior (under 18 y.o.) competitors are directed to the British Rowing Safeguarding Policy here: <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/British-Rowings-Young-persons-guide-to-understanding-our-safeguarding-policy-1.pdf>

All officials, umpires, marshals and coaches should be familiar with the British Rowing Safeguarding Children and Young People policy here:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/British-Rowing-Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-Policy-June-2021-2.pdf>

### Egham Regatta Welfare Officer:

A Welfare Officer and a Deputy Welfare Officer have been appointed for the event and will act as the point of contact for any allegations or concerns.

Their contact details will be available at Race Control and will be made known to all race officials.

### Welfare Plan

#### Event Welfare Officer:

The Event Welfare Officer (EWO) is Joanna West. The Deputy Event Welfare Officer (DEWO) is Peter Harvey.

Joanna West will be contactable by any race official via the radio network or by mobile phone where this is deemed more appropriate from the start of the event until 1300hrs on the day. Peter Harvey will be contactable by any race official or by mobile phone where this is deemed more appropriate from 1300hrs to the end of the Regatta. If any follow-up to concerns raised on the day is required, Joanna West (EWO) will undertake that task.

Details of the Event Welfare Officer and Deputy Event Welfare Officer will also be posted at

official points around the regatta (Race Control Tent, Boating Marshalls' tent etc).

Joanna West (08:00 hrs - 13:00 hrs/ Peter Harvey (13:00 hrs- 17:00hrs) will determine appropriate action to be taken.

Should any incident warrant such action, the Event Welfare Officer and Deputy Event Welfare Officer will be responsible for reporting to the police and the British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO).

**For all Egham Regatta Officials, coaches, marshalls, parents/carers: how to report a safeguarding concern:**

If a child discloses a safeguarding concern/poor practice concern to you, you must follow the seven steps below.

1. Listen carefully to what they're saying;
2. Let them know they've done the right thing by telling you;
3. Tell them it's not their fault;
4. Tell them you'll take them seriously;
5. Don't confront the alleged abuser;
6. Explain what you'll do next, including that you must act on / report what they have said;
7. Report what the child has told you as soon as possible to the Event Welfare Officer, Joanna West (08:00-13:00) or Deputy Event Welfare Officer Peter Harvey (13:00-17:00).

The EWO or DEWO will determine next steps. This may involve calling the police if a child is in any immediate danger, contacting the local authority if the concern relates to a regatta official/contractor/other adult, or contacting the British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer if further advice and guidance is needed. The EWO/DEWO will maintain confidentiality at all times.

**Further help and information on reporting safeguarding concerns:**

The British Rowing Safeguarding Team:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/governance/the-safeguarding-and-integrity-team/>

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

National Bullying Helpline: 0300 323 0169

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

**Proximity of members of the public and security:**

Given the nature of the event and the fact it is undertaken and located beside a public park and the River Thames, it is not possible for the event organisers to take responsibility for security at the Regatta, or to control who has access to the towpath, car park and boating areas.

All officials will be briefed to report any suspicious behaviour, but competing clubs/schools are advised to brief their coaches and competitors on their own policies, to adopt their own diligence and also to report any concerns to the regatta Welfare Officers.

**Supervision:**

Adults with responsibility for children at the Regatta are expected to oversee children or vulnerable adults in their charge and to provide their contact details to the organisers.

Adults – coaches and parents – are also reminded of the need for checking that all equipment used is safe and suitable for use. Namely, that all racing boats conform with Row Safe (such as having securely fitted bow balls, heel restraints, etc), that a coxswain is correctly wearing an appropriate lifejacket and that their crews are appropriately briefed on the Regatta Safety Plan and Navigation Rules.

Adults should also supervise that juniors have suitable clothing for the event and weather conditions on the day; crew coaches are further reminded that in rough conditions, it is they who must make the assessment of whether their crew can safely boat and race in the conditions – particularly so where there is a junior coxswain. Clubs, coaches and responsible adults should refer to and be familiar with the relevant sections of Row Safe 2023.

**Alcoholic beverages will not to be served to Juniors (under the age of 18 years) from any of the regatta catering points and no Junior is allowed to serve alcohol at such areas. Similarly, alcohol should not to be consumed by Juniors around the areas of the regatta. Any Junior competitor observed in breach of this policy may be prohibited from taking any further part in the regatta and the matter will be referred to their relevant club/school.**

**Lost / Missing Procedure:**

In the event that a participant goes missing for a period exceeding 30 minutes, the Welfare Officer should be contacted and they will contact the police if this has not already been done.

The Crew contact details entered on the British Rowing Entry Form will be used to contact the adult responsible for any junior rower (under 18 y.o.) reportedly involved in an incident. It is therefore incumbent upon the person entering the crew to ensure that a usable contact number is included in the entry. No individual contact details for juniors will be held by the committee.

**Photography:**

All competitors in the event may be photographed by amateurs or professionals who sell their photographs. Egham Regatta cannot prevent this, as the river banks and the nearby park are open to the public. Officials and competitors **must** be aware of this. Competitors and their families are advised that anyone aged under 18 should **not** give their full name or other personal details (such as age, address) to any individual who wishes to take photographs, including members of the press/media.