

Egham Amateur Regatta - Junior Rowers' Event Welfare and Safeguarding Statement 2025

Reviewed 21/5/2025

This document contains the following information:

General Principles

Safeguarding Policy

Egham Regatta Welfare Officer

Welfare Plan (including how to report a safeguarding concern)

Other information-

Proximity of members of the public and security

Supervision

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General Principles:

The organising committee of Egham Regatta believes that all persons participating in rowing, including children, 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.

Junior Competitors

Egham Regatta strives to ensure that:

- The Regatta is a safe environment and...
- that any allegations or concerns of harm to juniors 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:

[British Rowing's Young persons guide to understanding our safeguarding policy-1 \(britishrowing.org\)](https://www.britishrowing.org/young-persons-guide-to-understanding-our-safeguarding-policy-1)

All officials, umpires, marshals and coaches should be familiar with the British Rowing Safeguarding Children and Young People policy here: [Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)

Egham Regatta Welfare Officer:

A Welfare Officer has 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.

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 the end of the day. 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 will also be posted at official points around the regatta (Race Control Tent, Boating Marshalls' tent etc).

Should any incident warrant such action, the 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

The EWO 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 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/>

Other information:

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 Officer.

Supervision:

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

Equipment:

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.

Appropriate Kit:

Adults in charge of Juniors 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 2025** (<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/British-Rowing-2025-RowSafe.pdf>)

Alcoholic Beverages:

Bar staff have been trained not to serve alcohol to any young person under the age of 18 years old. If they are in doubt, they will ask to see relevant, legally required Photo ID. 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 must 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.

Capsizes and River Water Quality:

On rare occasions, a Junior rower may capsize and fall in the river either on the way to the start, at the start, or during a race. Safety Launches will follow the Egham Regatta protocols which, in turn, follow British Rowing **Row Safe 2025** guidance, for performing a rescue, and the sculler(s) is brought carefully and safely to the landing stages.

Once a capsized competitor has been brought safely to the landing stage, they are checked by qualified ambulance staff and the event welfare officer (EWO). The competitor is asked if they think that they have had river water inside their mouth, or that they have swallowed any river water. They will be advised to tell their coach and parents/carers. During the following 24-48 hours the competitor must be monitored for symptoms of stomach upset, diarrhoea, muscle aches and /or vomiting. The British Rowing information web page: <https://www.britishrowing.org/athlete-health/rowing-and-water-borne-disease/> explains that, if the competitor is exhibiting symptoms the competitor must tell their GP that they are a rower. Further information can be found in <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp->

Toilets and changing rooms:

Wraysbury Skiff and Punt Club (WSPC) has the following facilities on the first floor of the building:

- A female only changing room with toilets
- A male only changing room with toilets
- A large, single occupancy toilet with washbasin

On the day of the regatta, the facilities will be signposted and used as follows:

Female only changing rooms and toilets- **under 18 girls only**

Male only changing rooms and toilets- **under 18 boys only**

Single toilet with washbasin, enclosed: **Adults only**. As this toilet with washbasin is for single occupancy, it is appropriate for any individual Junior competitor to use it, who may feel uncomfortable in single-sex group changing rooms. This policy follows British Rowing advice:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Final-Trans-and-non-binary-inclusion-guidance-v5.pdf>

Adults **must not** use the sign-posted under-18 single-sex changing rooms and toilets on the day of the regatta.

Public toilets are located nearby at:

Runnymede Pleasure Grounds, Windsor Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 0AE. They contain male, female and accessible toilets with RADAR access.