

Egham Regatta Safety Briefing 2026

- The following information sets out the Regatta safety briefing, procedures, and guidelines that must be fully adhered to by all regatta crews and officials.
- **As a condition of racing, coaches from visiting clubs must ensure that this Safety Briefing is reviewed with every crew — particularly their coxes — before boating.**
- While within the regatta area, as defined in the circulation plan **((4.0)Egham regatta course map on page 4)**, all competitors, coaches, parents, and visitors to the regatta are under the authority of the regatta and must comply with all instructions issued by regatta officials, particularly in emergency situations.
- The following information is given as required under the British Rowing Row Safe - Guide to Safe Practice in Rowing:
- Approx What Three word locations are given in this document, identified as W3W={location ref}*
TRUC suggested heel restraints are shown on page 6.

(1.0) Event Location

- **Access to Wraysbury Skiff and Punting club is via the pleasure ground, which has the postcode TW20 0AE (W3W=///salad.events.shaped)*.**
- The postcode for the location of Wraysbury Skiff and Punting club is **TW20 0AA (W3W=///stacks.buzz.brief)**

(2.0) Summary of regatta safety, course management and operational guidance

The primary consideration of Egham Regatta is the safety of all crews, officials and spectators involved with the event and the protection of all children & vulnerable adults. The following information defines umpire locations and roles.

Egham Regatta has always considered itself to be a regatta for juniors. Coaches have been advised to ensure that crews are competent enough to steer themselves down the Egham gentle 'S' bend course that can be challenging for a beginner or inexperienced coxswain. Umpires will only intervene under the British Rules of Racing for Safety.

The Egham course for 2026 has been shortened to approximately **400 meters and will start closer to the Boatyard.** See **((4.0)Egham regatta course map on page 4)**.

There are two competitor stations;

- Berkshire station situated closer to the EA pumping station on the Berkshire bank
- Surrey station situated closer to the towpath on the Surrey station.

There are also two safety boats located on the course;

- Safety start located near the start of the course
- Safety finish located near the finish of the course

First Aid There is one ambulance located near Race control at the approx. what three words location of (W3W=///chefs.visual.note)*

Safety boats/ rescue launches will always be on the water during racing and for a short period before and after. **Safety boats or ambulance staff can be summoned through any regatta official.**

* What3words(W3W) assigns a three-word address to a 3-by-3metre square, stated what3word references are approximate locations and may be different on the day but will be close to the references stated in this document.

The river is not closed: and remains open to other members of the public who may use the river, such as pleasure craft, other unmanned boats, swimmers and wildlife. Should you notice the course is obstructed and you are able to quickly resolve the situation, please inform Safety advisor or Race Control.

Report: all accidents and incidents to the Safety Adviser at Race Control. Accidents must be reported immediately, and an Incident Report Form, obtained from Regatta Control, must be completed and handed to the Regatta Safety Adviser.

Water: a reusable bottle can be filled from the Wraysbury clubhouse kitchen or the drinking water tap outside by the boathouse.

(3.0) Race day key contacts & approx. locations

Organising Committee Chair- **Mark Nixon** – contactable via the Judges Finish Tent

Race Committee Chairman(RCC)- **Mike Newsome** - Located at the Judges Finish Tent.

Race Control(W3W= ///focus.cubes.drips)*-(Race Committee chair and safety advisor) - Located, at the Judges Finish Tent will co-ordinate all aspects of the Regatta, and will monitor the Regatta radio network and will co-ordinate any incidents that occur. Organising Committee chair oversees everything on land and water

Event Safety Adviser **Paul Crooke**, stationed Judges Finish Tent and monitoring on the Regatta radio network and will co-ordinate any safety incidents alongside **Mike Newsome** Race Committee Chair

Event Welfare Officer **Joanna West** – Monitoring the radio network

First Aid (Medic) (W3W=///chefs.visual.note)*-Location Medical Services stationed by the Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club car park and monitor the Regatta radio network

Safety boats - Two boats will be stationed along the course and both monitor the Regatta radio network

Race Control (W3W=///focus.cubes.drips)* has access to a telephone which can be used to call the Emergency Services on '999' and all such requests should be made by radio to Race Control.

EMERGENCY SERVICES (if required) can be advised that the Regatta is located at **Riverside, Egham, off Runnymede Pleasure Grounds**. Calls to Emergency Services should include the event postcode (**TW20 0AA** (W3W=///stacks.buzz.brief)

Access to the event is via the pleasure grounds, which have the postcode TW20 0AE (W3W=///salad.events.shaped).

The nearest public telephones are located in the Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club and there is a private telephone available halfway down the course at Nichols Boatyard.

General notes:

- Clubs must make their own safety arrangements for any activities before or after the day's racing.
- Minors need to be supervised with a high degree of vigilance and anticipation. A higher standard of care is expected of coaches and others when acting 'in loco parentis'.
- Egham Regatta takes place on a public stretch of the River Thames and towpath and competitors may be photographed by third parties that the Regatta has no control over.
- Any minor that goes missing or who is unaccounted for, should be reported as soon as possible to the nearest Race Official who will take appropriate action and/or organise a public announcement.

- Report all accidents and incidents to the Safety Adviser at Race Control. Crews should also maintain their own Club records as well. **Accidents must be reported immediately and an Incident Report Form, obtained from Regatta Control must be completed and handed to the Event Safety Adviser.**
- Upon registration at Raft Control/Control Commission, inform Regatta officials of any pre-existing medical conditions known to apply to any competitor and which may be exacerbated by strenuous exercise.
- Provide the name of a 'responsible adult' together with an emergency contact number for each minor competing in the event.

First Aid will be stationed near the enclosure area and rescue launches will be on the water at all times during racing and for a short period before and after

- **All casualties where necessary will be immediately transferred to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department unless advised otherwise by a 'responsible adult'.**
- Umpires and Marshals will be equipped with radios via which they are able to communicate with the rescue and safety services. **If you have any issue of safety then please bring this to the attention of the nearest regatta official, who will make Race Control and will co-ordinate as necessary**
- **It is a condition of racing that all coaches must ensure that all their crews are familiar with the contents of this briefing document and the map of the Regatta course.**

Key

 Water-based Start Umpires

 Other river users' navigation

 Correct navigation pattern for competitors

 Land based Umpires

 EA Pumping station

Bell Weir

DANGER

Bell Weir Lock cut.

DO NOT ENTER

DO NOT GO PAST

Boat marshalling area

Start

Nichols Boat Yard

Citroens Warehouse

Regatta Control & Judges
(W3WE // focus: cubes, clips)

WSPC
TW20 OAA
(W3WE // stacks: buzz :dne)

WSPC – Bar, Refreshments, Prize Giving

SURREY STATION

 Warning sign

 First Aid

Public Car park

Regatta First Aid Trailer and Car park
(W3WE // crn:ets, visual:note)

Play area

Play Ground

Two safety boats will be positioned along the course

Call Sign: Safety Finish.

Call Sign: Safety Start.

BERKSHIRE STATION

Navigation Channel

Buoyed Course

Rafts

Stream

Schematic diagram of Egham Regatta Course and its Environs

Short Course (approx. 400 meters)

Competitors should find and boat with their opposition.

To Windsor

A308

To Egham and Staines

(4.1) Notes to Egham regatta course map

The approx. 400 metre course will be buoyed in the middle of the river, meeting the requirements of the Environment Agency. This allows for the Navigation Channel on the Berkshire (far) bank of normal river traffic & crews going to the Start. Non-regatta river traffic and racing crews moving to the start will be directed to use the navigation channel by signs positioned at either end of the course. All traffic must keep to the right of the Navigation Channel. Extra care must be taken in the buoyed Navigational Channel. This section is relatively narrow and will be shared with other non regatta craft travelling in both directions. Crews proceeding through the navigation channel should do so slowly and without stopping.

Overtaking, full pressure paddling & practice starts are NOT allowed in the navigation channel; crews disregarding this notice may receive an official warning or even disqualification.

- No crew is to go upstream of the boating area rafts.
- Crews are to find their opposition and boat downstream toward the start in the navigation
- In the navigations crews are to keep the starboard side, the right side of the channel heading to the start
- Crews should be aware on hot days large pleasure craft may come out of the lock and head upstream in the navigation channel.
- Coaches should ensure crews are appropriately equipped for the conditions, which may include but not limited to, t-shirts, hats, sunscreen, water etc.
- **There is a towpath along the length of the course but supporters should be mindful of local residents and other members of the public. NB: CYCLING IS NOT PERMITTED – COACHES & SUPPORTERS RISK PENALTY FOR THEIR CREWS IF THEY BREAK THIS RULE. PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE TO WATCH ON THE BRIDGE BY BELL WIER BOATYARD**

(5.0) Additional documents

- For short emergency plan see document labelled 1. Short emergency plan 2026.pdf
- For risk assessment see document labelled 2. Risk Assessment 2026.pdf
- For welfare statement see document labelled 3. 3.Egham Regatta Welfare and Safeguarding Policy 2026 v1.pdf

(6.0) Suggested heel restraints

2) The red shoes below have a valid release strap:



3) The shoes below have had the release strap removed:



4) Shoes with laces cannot be removed with one hand action.



(www.alamy.com - C2A114)

5) Shimano (and similar) rowing shoe system where the shoe detaches. Must not have heel restraint!



(7.0) General notes

(7.1) Changing rooms and toilets

All competitors, family members, coaches, umpires, volunteers and officials are asked to comply with the notices inside Wraysbury Skiff and Punting Club regarding changing rooms inside the clubhouse.

The Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club (WSPC) provides facilities for the Regatta. 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

These designated, separate single-sex changing rooms have been allocated to **Junior competitors** only. There is one changing room for girls and one for boys. **Adults are not permitted in these areas.**

Temporary Event single-occupancy toilets ("Portaloo"-type) situated in the club car park are for adult and non-competitor use.

Additional public toilets are available next to the Runnymede cafe.

(7.2) Swans and Cygnets. If Swans or Cygnets are present, please assist in shepherding them away from the course and competitors. Please note that we are aware of a Swan activists' group, and you should notify Race Control before acting if you are not in a race. An umpire who is following a race should use judgment.

- https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/club-support/swans-and-rowing/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKKkNRleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHmL5CQVJFiLbQtpTFB70m0b0q91vczAYjG3f_IbNIJVz-mJ_1gMJNTt2lcJM_aem_ZeekptyJaFSPnZ9QtOMPMg

(7.3) Seal(s) In previous years a Seal has been seen at the boatyard. If on land, please ensure that you/competitors/ the public stay at least 50 meters away from the Seal; this increases to 100 meters, if possible, if water-based. If sighted, you must inform Race Control, which will decide appropriate action. \

(7.4) Water quality. Club officials, coaches, competitors, related parties, and officials should familiarise themselves and follow the BR guidance on rowing when water quality is poor the current version was published March 2025 and the BR Guidance on Swans. These can be read at the following links

- <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Guidance-for-Rowing-When-Water-Quality-is-Poor-March2025.pdf>
- <https://www.britishrowing.org/athlete-health/rowing-and-water-borne-disease/>

(8.0) Further Notes for Attendees:

Umpires and officials are instructed to give priority to any incident on the river, to the extent of abandoning their umpiring duties if necessary to render assistance to preserve life or some such similar situation until a safety boat/launch arrives at the scene. The umpire should direct safety operations until they are satisfied that the safety boat/launch has assumed control.

People involved with an incident must bear in mind the location to which the injured are to be put ashore so that the paramedics can get to them as quickly as practicable. **The boating rafts or the Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club are the best location to put injured ashore as the Paramedics will be based near there.**

There is nowhere else along the course that is ideal for either putting people ashore or ambulance access though vehicular access to the river is available at Nichols Boatyard (Bell Weir Boats).

It should also be noted that because of the high river banks it is not practical to get out of the river unassisted along both sides of most of the course. **In event of capsize, competitors should stay with their boat and wait to be rescued by the safety launches. The Safety advisor will meet and ensure that competitors are ok after they have been rescued.**

In the event of an electrical storm, racing will need to be postponed or abandoned. Notification will be relayed by radio to all race officials and no further crew should go afloat until further notice. The priority must be to get all crews ashore and to safety as soon as possible. Accordingly, crews should de-boat and clear the rafts for other crews to do likewise. Crews should then seek appropriate shelter either within cars or buildings but not under trees, umbrellas or gazebos, etc. Racing should not resume until the “Flash / Bang” count between lightning & thunder exceeds 30 seconds or until at least half an hour after the last Flash / Bang, whichever comes first.

In the event of a land based incident (ie:Fire) or should the Emergency Services require the evacuation of any regatta facilities on land, all race officials who are ashore should help direct the public to safety. Any competitors still afloat should **not** de-boat until directed to do so by the Emergency Services & those officials & safety boats that are also still afloat should remain afloat & marshal/support any crews still on the water.

Shoes and heel restraints – Should conform to RowSafe and British Rowing Rules of Racing for single-hand operating release of Velcro straps for shoes; see picture on page 6.

WHILE EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE AND CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE REGATTA, THE REGATTA ORGANISING COMMITTEE, RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE WRAYSBURY SKIFF & PUNTING CLUB DO NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY OR PERSONAL INJURY SUSTAINED AT THE REGATTA