

## **Burway Head – Safety Plan**

The risk of serious incidents will be reduced by the adherence to these instructions by all competitors, coaches and officials. The Organising Committee will check the forecasts for weather and stream, and seek advice, if necessary, from the Environment Agency, before the event, to decide if conditions will make it safe to proceed.

### **Safety Information**

The Burway RC website provides maps of the course, together with Instructions to Competitors and Officials, which give details of the positioning of crews at the start, the course to be steered, navigation rules that apply on the day and the circulation plan for crews. It also outlines the positions of all Race Monitors, Marshals, Key Race Officials, Safety Launches and First Aid.

### **Accident and Emergency procedures**

All parts of the course are under observation by at least one Key Race Official (KRO). A KRO seeing an incident will deal with it as the first priority and inform the Chief Umpire immediately by radio.

If a safety boat is required this should be summoned on CHANNEL 1.

The nature, specific location of the incident and the assistance required must be clearly stated.

The safety of the crew is the sole priority.

It should be quickly ascertained that all crew members' feet are free of the boat.

Approaching crews must be warned to take avoiding action.

The crew should be assisted if possible, to get their boat to the bank.

Consideration must be given to seeking expert medical assistance from First Aid available.

*A capsize does not necessarily warrant an EMERGENCY radio call unless there is a clear need for immediate help.*

### **Stopping Racing**

In the event of a serious incident on the course making it unsafe to continue racing, any KRO may stop racing by verbally instructing crews to "STOP RACING".

Each KRO's first responsibility is to the crews in their reach of the course. Having ensured those crews have understood and reacted to the instruction to stop racing, they will then contact the Chief Umpire by radio or phone with a brief report as to why they have stopped the race.

The Chief Umpire will then relay the message to all other KROs and the Starter, who must immediately stop the race in their reach using the command "STOP RACING".

The Chief Umpire will use the following message "ALL STATIONS. ALL STATIONS. RACE CONTROL.STOP THE RACE. I REPEAT STOP THE RACE. The Chief Umpire will then seek confirmation from all KROs, beginning with the Starter.

The Chief Umpire will then determine what KROs should instruct crews to do.

### **Man Overboard and Capsize**

If a sculler or crew capsizes, others must be instructed to steer clear whilst those in the water should stay with their boat. The sculler or crew should attempt to get themselves and their boat to the nearest bank, straddling the boat to get as far out of the water as possible and await rescue by Safety Boats. Nearby Marshals' boats may be re-positioned to warn oncoming boats/protect capsize/recover equipment if required.

### **Lightning**

In the event of possible thunder or lightning, the race will adopt the British Rowing guidelines, as below:-  
*Use the "30-30 Rule" - when you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If it is 30 seconds (approx 10km away) or less, seek "proper shelter". If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule for it being time to seek "proper shelter". Wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder before leaving shelter.*

In the event of imminent danger from thunder and/or lightning, the Chief Umpire will suspend racing and in conjunction with all other KROs, instruct all crews to land as quickly as possible at the nearest and safest part of the river. Crews should not row back to their departure point but land at the nearest point.

### **First Aid and Rescue**

Three Safety Launches, each carrying a qualified First Aider as crew, will be stationed along the course in the positions shown on the map. If a launch crew sees an incident they should deal with it as a priority, keeping the Chief Umpire/race Control informed. A rescue launch attending an incident must be aware of the effect excessive wash can cause to other crews. Where possible, safety launches should approach an incident from downstream.

Land based First Aiders will be in attendance in a marked vehicle at Burway Rowing Club.

Casualties can be brought ashore with Ambulance access at the Burway RC landing stage and at various points along Thameside.

The four water based Marshals will assist where necessary.

### **Communications**

During any incident, the radio network must be kept free from unnecessary traffic to allow the person on the spot, handling the situation, to communicate with whom they choose.

Radios are issued to all KROs, safety Launches, First Aid and Start Team.

### **Emergencies**

#### **In the case of a serious emergency, dial 999**

**A&E St. Peter's Hospital: Adults           01932 722321**  
**Paediatrics           01932 723624**

**Surrey Police (Staines):                   0845 1252222**

**Chief Umpire:           Paul Crooke           07977 419422**

**Welfare Officer:       Sarah Thompstone   07882 156166**

**Safety Adviser:       Clive Morris           07986 287676**

**Safety Asst:           Graeme Ross           07933 177175**