

Southampton Amateur Rowing Club

Coastal fours HORR



Safety plan

The course

Details of the safe course (correct line and routes through bridges), start marshalling and finish line are shown in document “Course details and marshalling”.

The river Itchen is a busy waterway for both commercial and leisure use. Letters have been sent to clubs, marinas and local police informing them of the event and asking them to inform members. Port of Southampton Vessel Traffic Services have also been informed and will be consulted immediately before each division to check on commercial vessel movements that may affect the race.

Location of safety boats along with their areas of responsibility are shown in the document “course safety”. This document also shows location of landing points, fixed river hazards, race monitors and course evacuation areas.

Weather

Decision to cancel- weather will be checked the previous day and a decision made to run the event or cancel.

If conditions on the day are unsuitable (despite forecast) then clubs will be informed as soon as possible.

In the event of weather deteriorating to unsafe levels during the race (e.g. sudden lightning), safety boats will be instructed to marshal all crews to the nearest rowing club or safe shelter.

Tides

Division times have been chosen to allow all racing to take place at high spring tide. The race plan calls for the race to start on time with late crews held safely out of the race line.

Rules

Rules for the event are contained in a separate document “instructions to competitors”. Essential information in a concise form is contained in a document “if you read nothing else”

Availability of documents

All documents relating to the event will be available in PDF form on the clubs website. Links to this will be disseminated via social media.

Communications

The geography of the course is such that two way radio communication may not be ideal for communication with safety boats. Lists of mobile phone numbers for each club and each safety boat will be given to each club and safety boat to allow for easy communication. The marshalling area is in excess of 500m with at least four marshals. Communication between these marshals will be by two-way radio, loud hailer and flags for pre-arranged signals.

First aid

First aid kits are available in each safety launch and at each of the rowing clubs on the river. First aiders will be located at each club.

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Safety essentials

It is recognised that the full risk assessment will not be read by most competitors. With this in mind essential safety information will be included in a single page document; “if you read nothing else” which will also contain key rules and course details.

Actions in event of accident on water

Safety boats are located in locations that provide visual coverage of the whole course. The primary responsibility of safety boat crews is getting injured athletes to the nearest point where appropriate assistance can be given. Obviously for most incidents the boat will also be towed to an appropriate place of safety.

Actions in event of accident on land

Appropriate action should be taken.

Reporting of incidents

All incidents should be reported to the event organiser as soon as possible. Reporting of incidents to British Rowing (where necessary) is the responsibility of clubs concerned.

Welfare

Although the event takes place in spring cold weather is always a possibility. The start marshalling area is divided into three groups. Each group has approximately 160m to keep moving if they require. The river is wide enough to allow for a rotation pattern and stationary crews. The event will start on time with late crews held to prevent collisions so crews will spend less than 10 minutes stationary. Crews will be given a five minute warning to allow them to remove non-race clothing.

Junior events are offered and all clubs where boating will take place have junior sections and therefore have documented procedures for junior rowers.

Missing participants

The number of boats started will be confirmed to the finishers. Any discrepancy will be reported after all crews have finished to the event safety advisor. Crews not finishing will be reported by either safety boats or other clubs. All safety boats will be tasked with searching for any crew not accounted for by the above.

Safety briefing

A safety briefing will be held at Southampton Amateur Rowing Club before the event to be attended by representatives of all clubs.

Boat inspections

The regional safety committee may inspect boats prior to launch. In accordance with rowsafe guidelines athletes, coaches and clubs are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is fit for use.