

Annex D: Competitor's (Safety) Information



Leicester Regatta – 21 April 2024 Competitor (Safety) Information

D1.1 Registration

D1.1 Registration will take place in the shed at the side of the clubhouse, the other side of the railings from the regatta finish. **All competitors must present a copy of digital membership card or alternative photo ID before numbers will be issued.**

D1.2 Race Details and boating

D1.2.1 Leicester Regatta runs on a batch system because the river is not wide enough for crews to row down the course while a race is in progress. Batches generally start on the hour and at each half hour and crews are sent to the start every half hour as each batch of races finishes. You should be ready to boat 30 minutes before the time of your batch. Ensure that your crew is available to boat as soon as your batch is called.

D1.2.2 The course is 700m and Junior and /or inexperienced crews should consider whether they will be able to compete at this distance

D1.2.2 Please check your equipment prior to proceeding to the boating area. It will not be possible to accommodate late boating due to failure at Control Commission because your batch will probably be at the start by the time you are able to boat.

D1.2.3 Competitors are reminded of the principles set out in the Canal and River Trust Invasive Species Control 'Check, Clean and Dry' guidance and are requested to check their clothing and equipment prior to boating and on completion of their race to ensure nothing is brought to the regatta location or removed from it which could result in the spread of an invasive species. (ERA20)

D1.3 Boating and Marshalling

D1.3.1 On leaving the landing stages you proceed towards the towpath footbridge. Beware of shallow areas on the STARBOARD (coxswain's right) side, these reduce the effective width of the exit from and entrance to the boating/deboating area. The shallow areas will be identified with buoys. Marshals on the bridge will tell you when it is safe to proceed onto the main canal See Fig D-1 which you will

cross to the city side and turn to STARBOARD (coxswain's right i.e. away from the finish line), the diagram on the following page shows the circulation pattern once you leave the boating area. Beware, the circulation pattern on entering the main canal zone is counter intuitive since you will be proceeding upstream on your port side.

D1.3.2 Once on the main canal you proceed towards the lock on the city (port) side before spinning and waiting with bows pointing towards the start. Beware, there is very shallow water near and downstream of the weir, **do not proceed beyond the marker buoys**. You will be able to warm up while rowing up to the start.

D1.3.3 Marshals will instruct you when to row down to the start and a red/green marker (lollipop) on the finish scaffold will also signal when it is safe to row down the course. **Fig D-2** Compressed Plan showing Boating Area and Regatta Course is a useful indication of the location of the boathouse, boating area and regatta course. After you have passed through the bridge at the start, (Newarke Bridge) a marshal will be lining crews up in race order and you will be instructed when to spin by the marshal.



Fig D-1 Circulation pattern after coming out of the boating area

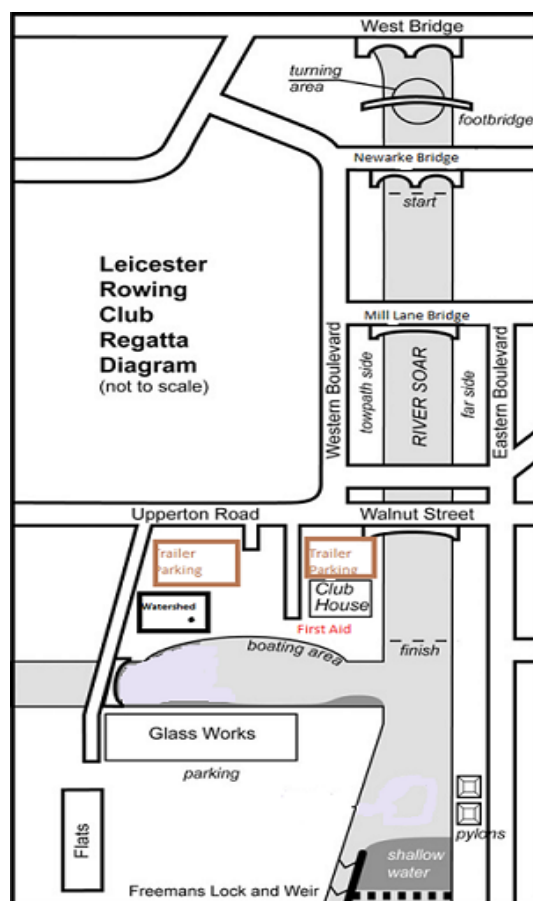


Fig D-2 Compressed plan showing boating area and Regatta Course

D1.3.4 The Start Umpire will call you to the start in the usual way. At the start a line of buoys mark the line between the two lanes.

D1.3.4 Due to the restricted width of the canal, lining up can be difficult if there is a cross wind. Please listen to and comply with the instructions given by the marshals and start umpire. **Many coaches like to take control of their crews at this point, if you are one of these, please desist! Crews, please listen to and follow the instructions given by the umpires in the start zone, this will ensure as stress free a start as is possible given prevailing weather conditions.**

D1.3.5 When racing, take particular care when passing through the three bridges as these are narrower than the rowing course. The approach to the narrowest bridge, other narrow points and any nesting swans will be buoyed. Striped poles suspended from the bridges mark the centre of each lane,

Every attempt will be made to clear swans and water fowl from the course though you are reminded to keep a lookout.

D1.3.6 **Coaches are requested NOT TO CYCLE along side their racing crews.** The hazard created by such behaviour could lead to serious injury to members of the public and spectators using the canal towpath. There are a number of low arched bridges on the towpath along the course and these present considerable hazard to anyone cycling on the towpath.

D1.3.7 The scaffold platform over the edge of the canal marks the finish line which is also marked with a line of bunting across the river. Do not stop immediately on the finish line. Continue for a few strokes before stopping and preparing to enter the basin. A marshal will tell you when it is clear to do so. No crew should enter the basin until instructed that it is clear for them to do so.

D1.3.8 Once in the basin you will need to proceed to and land on the incoming landing stages. Marshals will tell you when stages are clear for you to use.

D1.3.9 All boats and blades should be removed from the landing stages after racing. Please return them to trailers, leave on the racking or, if there is space, move to the grassy mound. Remember to secure your boat even if it is on trestles; the proximity of buildings around the basin produces some interesting wind gusts!

D1.3.10 There are some areas of shallow water, in particular some areas of the boating basin and the area immediately downstream of Freeman's Lock in the pre-batch handling area. Buoys will mark these areas and marshals stationed on the towpath will remind you of this.

D1.3.11 Due to the possible risk from leptospirosis coxes and new winners must not be thrown into the water in the basin. Buckets are available in the boathouse if a dousing is appropriate.

D1.4 **Barges and Canal Boats**

D1.4.1 The course is on a canalised stretch of the River Soar and subject to the

occasional passage of barges and other river craft. Racing may be suspended to allow the passage of these over the regatta course. Competitors need to take care when barges are passing through the marshalling areas above the start and below the finish.

Leicester Rowing Club hopes that you have an enjoyable day of racing and meeting up with old friends and adversaries. Good luck!

**Last item
09 Apr 24**