

QuintinHead 2010

SAFETY PLAN

Safety launches

Three rescue craft will be positioned at strategic points along the course with the sole role of providing rescue and first aid for the competitors and for support personnel on the river. The craft will go afloat 30 minutes before the start of the race and will initially position themselves in accordance with the accompanying map, no later than 15 minutes before the start. The final positions will be decided on the day and will depend on the weather and the state of the river.

In addition to the rescue craft several race officials' launches will be able to offer some assistance to competitors in an emergency. All launches will carry loud hailers and radios.

The launches will be coordinated by the chief umpire through the radio network. The radios will be used by the monitors and other officials to attract the attention of the rescue craft if needed.

All craft personnel will be briefed before the race. Briefing safety packs will be carried on each craft.

Ambulance

Medical Despatch will provide a fully equipped ambulance stationed at Barnes Bridge Ladies Rowing Club. This location has a suitable landing area to facilitate the landing or transfer of casualties to the ambulance.

Race communication

Radio coverage will include marshals, start/finish officials and the rescue craft. The coverage will be coordinated by race control at QBC Boathouse. Mobiles will be used as a back up. Everyone with a radio will be given a list of the relevant mobile numbers.

Emergency services

The following will be advised of the race;

PLA
Police
Local Hospitals – Charing Cross & West Middlesex
RNLI (Chiswick Station)

Before the race

Approximately 45 minutes before the start of the race the chief umpire will travel the course to check river and weather conditions or unusual obstructions. In the event of serious problems he will decide whether to delay the start, shorten the course or cancel the race.

During the course review the chief umpire will issue final instructions and directions to the rescue launches and crew.

All support staff must be in place 15 minutes before the start of the event.

Abandonment after the start of the race

If a serious incident after the start of the race makes it unsafe to continue, any race monitor (or the starter) may stop the race by instructing crews to "STOP RACING", which will be reinforced by the use of air horns and red flags. A collision between two racing crews will not necessarily be a reason for stopping the race. The monitor must make a judgment that any further crews entering that part of the course cannot safely continue racing.

Each monitor's first responsibility is to the crews in their part of the course. Having ensured that those crews have understood and complied with the instruction to stop racing, the monitor will then radio the chief umpire with a brief report that they have stopped the race and why they have stopped it.

The chief umpire will relay the message to all other monitors (and the starter), who will then immediately stop the race in their respective parts of the course using the command "STOP RACING", reinforced by the use of air horns and red flags. The chief umpire will use the message: "ALL STATIONS, ALL STATIONS. STOP THE RACE. I REPEAT. STOP THE RACE. ALL STATIONS ACKNOWLEDGE. OVER". Acknowledgements should begin with the starter and work down the course.