



# Cambridge Autumn Regatta

Cambridge '99 Rowing Club, The Boat House, Kimberley Road, Cambridge, CB4 1HJ

Website: <http://cambridge99.org/autumn-regatta/>

Twitter: @Cambridge99RC | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge99RC>

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## Safety briefing

The following information defines key Regatta rules, procedures and guidelines, which must be fully adhered to by all regatta crews and officials.

It is a condition of racing that coaches of visiting clubs must go through this Safety Briefing with every crew – and especially their coxes – before boating.

- **Entries and Results** – Located at Race Control on the Regatta field. Umpires on control commission duty coordinate all safety and rescue.
- **Finish tent** - Race Committee and umpires in tent at finish line.

Whilst in the area of the regatta as defined in the circulation plan, all competitors are under the authority of the regatta and must follow all the instructions given by officers of the regatta – this is particularly relevant in emergency situations.

The regatta is being run in full compliance of the BR Water Safety Code and the Cambridge '99 Rowing Club Overall Safety Plan.

- A Marshal's boat will patrol the river area.
- The Marshal's boat will be afloat before racing crews get boated prior to any racing. Approval to go afloat and for racing to commence will be given by the Race Committee.

### 1. Vehicle and Trailer Access and Parking

The location address is Ditton Meadows, Fen Ditton, Cambridge CB5 8SX. We expect to receive entries from most of the rowing clubs in the region, all of whom will be bringing boats on trailers to the regatta.

To reach the regatta field

- Approaching from the North, South and West
  - From the A14, at junction 34 take the B1047 exit to Horningsea / Fen Ditton
  - Turn right onto Horningsea Road / B1047
  - Carry straight on past Fen Ditton school. At the next traffic lights, turn right onto High Street
  - Go past the Ancient Shepherds pub, at the war memorial take the left fork (continuing on High Street)
  - At the end of the road, follow the road around to the left and follow signs into the regatta field
- Approaching from the East
  - From the A14, at junction 35 take the A1303 exit to Fen Ditton
  - At the roundabout, take the first exit onto Newmarket Road / A1303
  - After 0.8 miles, turn right onto High Ditch Road
  - Continue onto High Street, go past the war memorial and take the left fork (continuing onto High Street)
  - At the end of the road, follow the road around to the left and follow signs into the regatta field

Trailer parking is straight in front of you at the finish end of the regatta course.

At this point marshals will direct cars and trailers to the car parking and trailer parking areas. Both areas are signed and indicated by tape barriers. Boat trailers and cars carrying boats should bear right and park in the boating area. Cars without boats should bear left and go behind the main marquee where they can park overlooking the river and racing. **Please park trailers back from the river** to leave an area between them and the river clear for boats going afloat and coming off the river, it makes it easier for everyone.

Trailers are requested to park sensibly allowing room to unload and for access by others. **Please ensure that the areas for emergency access are kept clear at all times**, and that this access is suitable in the event of heavy rain.

## 2. Boating and Landing

**Boating** - The boat marshal will direct crews through the Noah's Gateway. Crews will pair up with their opposition and proceed to the landing state together. **They will boat together. No crew will boat without their opposition unless they have permission of an official.**

The boat marshal will direct which landing stage to use. Checks of safety equipment (e.g. heel straps, bow balls, hatch covers, etc) as well as coxes' lifejackets will be carried out by the control commission BR Umpire. It must be emphasised that it is the Clubs' and master of the vessel's responsibility – not that of the Regatta – to ensure that they row in equipment that conforms to the [British Rowing RowSafe Water Safety Code](#) paying particular attention to the [advice on Heel Restraints](#). The passing of a random check, for example on a bow ball, should not be interpreted as tacit approval or acceptance by the Event that the boat as a whole is safe.

Race control, under guidance from the boat marshal and Umpire, reserve the right to disqualify any crew for late attendance or if a boat does not meet safety criteria.

**Landing** - Crews must follow instructions from the Boating Marshal. Once instructed to land, crews need to promptly clear the boating area and remove any blades and equipment left near the bank.

**Supporters** - For reasons of safety and expediency, supporters are not allowed in the boating area or on the pontoons. A coach or designate may however accompany each crew in this area.

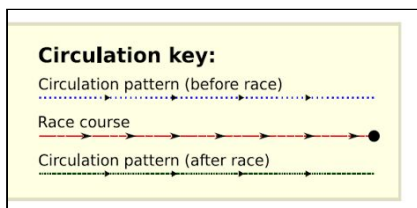
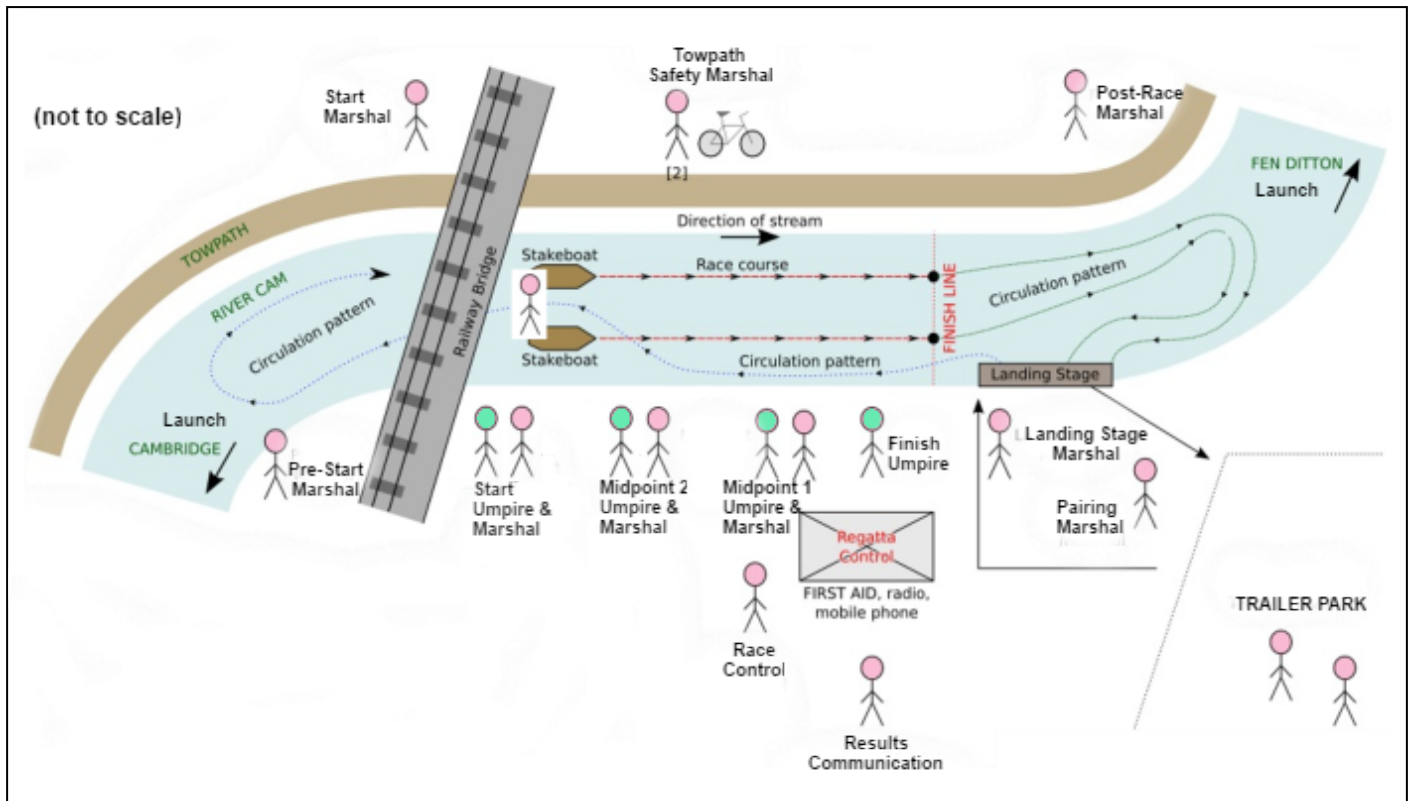
## 3. Boat Circulation Plan

Please see the map provided and note that it is not to scale.

Once boated, crews will proceed to the start on the Meadow side of the river. Crews will be held at Midpoint Marshals 1 and 2 and must wait for instructions from the marshal before continuing to the next marshaling station. Care must be taken to watch for crews racing and not wander out into the middle of the river.

**Warming up - Practice starts are not permitted in the navigation channel;** crews disregarding this notice will receive an official warning or disqualification. If you wish to practise there is plenty of water beyond the start, but please note that you will be out of earshot of the start marshals, and therefore still responsible for being at the start on time. Crews wanting to do practice starts can also warm up downstream of the finish towards Fen Ditton. This area can also be used for warming down.

Due to the river width, crews will marshal for their race upstream of the start and will take orders from the Start Marshal. Once at the start area, crews must remain within calling distance of the Start Marshal.



## 4. Racing

All crews upstream of the start will be under the control of the Start Marshals. Crews should line up on the start with their opposition when instructed to do so by the Start Umpire. Instructions given by the Start Marshals must be obeyed at all times. Failure to do so may result in an official warning.

As each crew comes forward to the start, they are under control of the Start Umpire and each course Umpire as the race proceeds down the river. Races will be started and run according to British Rowing rules and the rules of racing. **Crews must comply with instructions given by Umpires.**

When finished, crews must paddle downstream and turn beyond the boating area.

## 5. What to do in an Emergency

In the event of an incident or event arising, notify a marshal as soon as possible. The marshal will notify race control immediately and ring for emergency services if required. Marshals are distributed along the course and marshalling area, so the entire course is covered. Any marshal can assist you.

Once race control has been notified, a first aider will be notified and provided. A first aider will attend the scene immediately.

- **Any Accident** - Racing will be suspended by race officials until such time that the casualties have been attended and the course is in a clear state, and approval is given by the Race Committee. Regatta Control will make the necessary arrangements with the Emergency Services and liaise with Race Committee regarding the incident.
- **On Water Incident** - The marshal's launch will provide an immediate response and rescue if required.
- **Waterside Incident** - The Race Committee at Race Control will co-ordinate the rescue and land support.

Messages on the regatta day can be phoned through on 07940 830 697. **This is for emergencies only.**

## Post codes for emergency services notification during a major incident

Ring 999 and provide location details as follows:

- **Green Dragon Bridge:** Green Dragon Public House, Water Street, And Chesterton: CB4 1NZ
- **Penny Ferry** (Pike and Eel), the former Public House, Water Street, Chesterton: CB4 1PA
- **The Drove** (next to 32 Fen Road, Chesterton), Access gate to Tow-path by railway bridge: CB4 1TX
- **Long Reach**, White House, near Railway Bridge: CB4 1UN
- **The Plough** Public House, Fen Ditton (no access to Chesterton tow-path): CB5 8SX
- **Grassy Corner:** Access via bottom of Chesterton Fen Road (Code controlled County Council owned Gate).

## 6. First Aid and Capsize

- Graham Durant EMT will provide First Aid at the Regatta and will be based on the Regatta field.
- The marshals at the start will carry a first aid kit.
- Key Safety and First Aid information is also published in the regatta programme.
- In the event of capsizing; crews should proceed to the Meadow bank (bow side when rowing downstream) which is quite shallow. The river is about 2.5 metres deep in the middle. A launch boat is situated half-way down the course, but safety lines and direction will come from the Umpires and Marshals on the bank, as it is sufficiently narrow to have good contact through the extent of the marshalling area this way.

## 7. Cancelling or suspending the regatta

The organisers will cancel or suspend the event if it is deemed unsafe for competitors, race marshals and umpires. Cancellation will be relayed to all via the marshals, who are in radio communication with the organisers.

At least one of the following will be taken into consideration when making this decision:

- Severe weather conditions or adverse weather (such as thunderstorm, threat of thunderstorm, high winds, or heavy rain that affects racing or marshalling)
- Poor weather forecast
- Water level too high or increased stream conditions
- A significant fault or obstruction of communication systems between key officials, the race controller, and first aid post.
- A fault that jeopardises the functioning of the launch or equipment in the launch, or safety equipment

If an incident or event occurs to make the regatta unsafe then race controller in consultation with the regatta secretary, water safety adviser and finish umpire will, at his/her discretion, suspend or cancel the race. This will be duly announced by radio communication to the marshals, who will relay this to the crews. Updates will be given as appropriate. In the event of an incident then the emergency action plan will be put into effect.

### Thunderstorm Strategy

If a thunderstorm develops during the regatta this will be regarded as a substantial risk and officials will move crews to safety as soon as possible. It is recognised that crews on the water may not be in an ideal position to seek immediate shelter. Officials will direct them to a place where they can get off the water to seek shelter. This may mean pulling into the bank on the towpath side of the river.

- The Race Committee and Umpires will monitor the progress of the thunderstorm from its start.
- The orders from the Race Committee and Umpires will be issued from the finish tent.
- There will be a chain of command via the public address system to instruct officials, competitors and spectators of actions to be taken.
- The Control Commission will stop all crews from going afloat until the 'all clear for racing' is announced.
- The Start Teams, Umpires and Marshals will instruct crews on the water to quickly return to the landing stages, to disembark and remove the boat from the water and then to seek proper shelter.
- Control Commission and Marshals shall help crews off the water at the landing stages as quickly as possible.
- Crews should be advised to keep their blades as horizontal as possible, as many contain carbon fibre, a conductor that could attract lightning.
- We will follow the BR advisory on Thunderstorms (attached) for timings and actions.

### Seeking shelter

- General recommendation for thunderstorms at our regatta is that sheltering in a car is the safest process as the metal of the car will shield the occupants.
- The Start Team should shelter in the start tent.
- The Finish Team and Umpires should shelter in the finish tent.
- Should competitors and spectators shelter in the marquee, care must be taken to avoid touching the main masts supporting the roof as these are metal.
- Before leaving their stations umpires will inspect the river for any crews on the water under their jurisdiction.

All officials, coaches and those steering racing shells are asked to familiarise themselves with this plan so that it can be initiated quickly in the event of a storm.