



# Commercial Regatta

31st Annual Regatta  
Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

## SAFETY STATEMENT

### Policy

The Commercial Rowing Club Regatta Committee is committed to running Commercial Regatta in a safe manner. The safety of the competitors, spectators and regatta officials is given highest priority in the organization and running of Commercial Regatta. Regatta safety will be assured through the implementation of the Safety Plan.

### Objectives

The Safety Plan for the regatta has four primary objectives:

- To ensure that racing is conducted with due observance of all safety conditions in Rowing Ireland's Rules of Racing
- To manage hazards specific to 1,200m Commercial Regatta course in Islandbridge from the Boohouse bend to the UCD slip, and all reasonably foreseeable hazards on the slip, and boathouse.
- To provide adequate First Aid and medical services at the regatta course
- To ensure yearly improvements in the safety plan through investigations of any incidents or near misses which occur during the regatta

### Responsibility

In accordance with current guidelines, it is the responsibility of each participating Club Committee to ensure the safety of their members while participating. References include The National Safety Council and Rowing Ireland.

### Intent

It is the intention of the Organising Committee to implement its own policy and to provide example to participating clubs by creating a positive Safety Environment during the event.



## Method

Safety awareness will be promoted by:

1. Informing Club Secretaries of the event rules in advance by correspondence
2. Publishing details of course navigation
3. Slip marshals ensuring crews to check their boat safety features
4. Trinity launching crews may be inspected in advance on the Saturday (6<sup>th</sup> April)
5. Appointing marshals and umpires as required on the river
6. Providing Club Rescue Launches

## Marshals

Marshals are requested to assist voluntarily in the running of the event by:

1. Providing a presence on the River
2. Marshalling crews on the course and at the start and finish areas
3. Giving information to other River users
4. Assisting crews in the event of equipment failure, collision or an accident

Marshals are concerned with encouraging the safety of a) themselves, b) competitors, c) event organizers and d) other users of the Islandbridge stretch.

## Hazard Identification

The major hazards that occur on the Islandbridge stretch of the Liffey are as follows:

- Crews going up to the start, against the direction of racing,
- Racing crews crashing into one and other due to the non delineated lanes
- The weir immediately after the finish line
- The large flow at the start line especially for South stationed crews
- Drop offs at slip edges
- Spectators and moving boats on the slips

## Management of Hazards

- Marshals will be positioned at nominated points on the course and at the start and the finish and will
  - a) ensure the safe passage of crews to the start zone
  - b) keep the course clear for races in progress
  - c) monitor crews excessively close to the weir after the finish line
  - d) issue instructions to crews regarding hazards
  - e) keep in contact with regatta control, to advise on hazardous situations
  - f) keep crews from warming up or down on the course.
- Safety Launches will be on hand at the Start and at Commercial Rowing Club (close to the finish line), to assist should any incidents occur on the course.
- Umpires will direct crews to separate and issue any steering to crews on a collision course
- Slip marshalls will be on hand to keep the spectators and launching area separate,



- The starting umpire will direct crews especially on the south station to compensate for the flow, and point them in such a way that will ensure a straight line as they send crews away.
- The regatta will finish at the end of UCD's slip this should give crews enough time to turn and head back to their slips, however a marshal will be at the finish to ensure they move away from the weir and clear the line for oncoming races.
- Crews will be held on the south bank by the returning marshal until such a time that it is deemed safe to cross.

### Crew Safety

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that their competing crews are competent to participate in the grade in which they are entered. All participants from their club comply with the Rowing Ireland criteria regarding their swimming ability. Inexperienced crews should be accompanied by a Club Coach on the way to start. On the day, the Cox or steer-person should examine "Rules of the River" poster at the Commercial Boat House. A map of the river is included in the programme or provided on a separate sheet.

It is the responsibility of club captains/safety officers to carry out an adequate safety inspection prior to launching to ensure their boats and equipment comply with Rowing Ireland safety regulations. Slip marshals may check boats launching and those deemed not compliant or considered unsafe, will not be allowed to launch and the crew will be disqualified unless the problem is rectified

The following will be expected of all crews, non-compliant crews will not be permitted to launch

- Bow balls, securely fastened, with a screw or otherwise, tape will not be acceptable.
- Quick release straps, attached to all foot straps.
- Heel restraints tied and no greater than 7cm(2 inches) in length
- Hatch covers sealing bulkheads.
- Steering mechanisms are in good working order.
- Coxes are wearing a suitable buoyancy aid that will not impede escape from a submerged boat.

There is no briefing prior to the race –all instructions are contained within this document and in the 'Commercial Regatta - Rules of the River' (see separate document)–it is the responsibility club captains/safety officers to ensure your coxes/steerers are familiar with this document and the instructions/rules therein –any queries to [regatta@commercialrc.ie](mailto:regatta@commercialrc.ie)



## Boat Accident Recovery Procedure

In the event of a capsized boat the following procedure will be adhered to;

1. Approach the recovery location from down-wind when possible
2. Inform other marshals in the area and the water coordinator immediately so that onshore services can be alerted. In the event of a panicking swimmer, marshals are to throw their recovery lines, **DO NOT ENTER THE WATER.**
3. After recovery move persons needing assistance to the nearest of the following locations:
  - (a) slip area
  - (b) start area
4. Following recovery of scullers/rowers, slip marshal or other regatta official to bring to paramedic for immediate attention, if necessary, athlete will be brought for further medical assistance

The safety of competitors, event organizers, spectators and other river users is the priority. Abandoned boats or equipment representing a hazard to others should be removed off the racing course.

## Incident Reporting & Collation

The Regatta Committee will maintain a register of all reported incidents and near misses. All such incidents will be investigated in order to identify hazards to be managed in future regattas as part of Commercial's Continuous Improvement Programme (CCIP). All regatta officials will be instructed to report all incidents to the Committee.

## First Aid and Medical Services

First Aid personnel will be available at the regatta enclosure for the duration of the regatta. Paramedics will be in the Commercial Slip Area. Additionally, Commercial Rowing Club has twelve coaches certified to use our Automated External Defibrillator located in the Gym

## Emergency Services

In addition to the onsite paramedic and security arrangements, here are the contact details for the nearest on-call hospital and Garda Station.

**Hospital: St. James's                      01 410 3000**  
**Garda Station: Kilmainham            01 666 9700**

## Access

Regatta officials will ensure that access roads to the enclosure are kept free for emergency vehicle access.

## Car parking

Car parking is available at Commercial Rowing Club grounds and on the verge on the footpath outside. Parking will also be available in the Garda and UCD car parks (including trailers) on Sunday. **Do not park on the cycle lane or within five metres of the main gates / entrance.** Parking in this area may present an unnecessary barrier to emergency service access. Cars parked in this area will be asked to move



## Slipping

All boats competing at the event will use the official slipping area (Commercial, Neptune, Garda, UCD and Municipal slips will be open). Trinity may naturally launch from their slip, as a result Safety checks may occur in advance of racing.

## Summary

Encouraging [Health and Safety at Commercial](#) is an ongoing activity at Commercial. It is an essential element of all decisions made in the organizing of the event. Compliance with the code is a condition of entry and the code will be reviewed annually.

For further information on Rowing Safety visit  
<http://www.rowingireland.ie/rowing-ireland-water-safety-code/>