



Schools and University Championship Regatta Safety Statement

Water Safety Code

**Schools and University Championship 13th April 2019
Lough Rynn, Mohill, Leitrim**

Policy

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

Objectives

The Safety Plan for the regatta has four main 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 Lough Rynn regatta course on Lough Rynn, Mohill, Leitrim
- To provide adequate First Aid and medical services at the regatta course.
- To investigate any incidents of a hazardous nature which occur during the regatta

The Regatta Committee has appointed a safety officer who will take overall responsibility for implementation of the Safety Plan.

The safety officer for the day is TBA

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. Holding a coxes meeting prior to the regatta Race
3. Slip marshals checking crews to ensure their boat safety features
4. Appointing marshals as required on the lake
5. Providing Rescue launch Ribs from Civil Defence and Club Launches

Marshals

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

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

Marshals are concerned with encouraging the safety of:

1. Safety of Marshalls
2. Safety of competitors
3. Safety of event organizers and all volunteers
4. Safety of other lake users

Hazard Identification Hazards that may arise:

- Crews going up to the start, interfering with races in progress
- Crews straying off course
- Crews straying into areas of the lake that may have rocks near the water surface

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, and
 - (b) Keep the course clear for races in progress
- Instructions will be issued to competitors regarding hazards on the regatta course
- Instructions will be issued to competitors to follow the instructions of regatta marshals
- safety launches will be available at all times during the regatta to assist in all incidents on the course in which the safety of any competitor may be at risk
- Hazardous areas of the lake will be clearly marked, and highlighted to competitors at the coxes meeting.
- Two---way radio communication system will be provided for marshals, race officials and the safety advisor to keep them informed of incidents and the movement of boats on the regatta course
- Public address system will be used to advise spectators.

Crew Safety

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that their competing crews are competent to participate in the grade for which they are entered. On the day, the cox or steer - person must attend the coxes meeting. This meeting will include a safety brief. A map of the lake is included in the programme or provided separately. Bow numbers are issued to provide an identification system to marshals.

All equipment must comply with all Rowing Ireland safety regulations; competing clubs are reminded in particular to ensure compliance of especially bow balls, heel straps, shoe quick release systems, and buoyancy compartment hatches.

Boat Accident Recovery Procedure

1. Approach the recover location from down---wind when possible
2. Inform other marshals in the area and the Water Co---Ordinator immediately so that onshore services can be alerted
3. After recovery move persons needing assistance to the nearest of the following locations:
 - (a) slip area
 - (b) start area

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

The Safety Officer will maintain a register of all reported incidents where safety is concerned. All such incidents will be investigated in order to identify hazards to be managed in future regattas. All regatta officials will be instructed to report all incidents to the Safety Officer.

First Aid and Medical Services

On site

First Aid personnel will be available at the regatta enclosure for the duration of the regatta

Emergency Services

Contact details for the nearest on---call hospital and Garda Station:

Emergency numbers: 999 or 112

Carrick on Shannon Gardai: 071 9650510

Sligo General Hospital 071 9171111

Local doctor: Now Doc, 1850 400911

Access

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

Car parking

All cars will park in the designated car park.

Slipping

All boats competing at the event will use the official slipping area and must adhere to instruction from the slipping marshalls.

Summary

Encouraging Water Safety during the regatta race is an ongoing activity. 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.