



WELFARE PLAN

The Organising Committee of Wallingford Head of the River ("Organising Committee") believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability have equal rights to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations or harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

A Welfare Officer for the competition will be appointed annually and will act as the point of contact for any concerns or allegations. Their contact number will be posted in the boating area throughout the duration of the competition. A network of radios is spread along the course. In the event of an emergency please contact the nearest event official

Event Welfare Officer

The Organising Committee has appointed Ben Townsend as Event Welfare Officer.

Reporting Structure

If you have any concerns regarding welfare of children at the Event these should, in the first instance be raised with the Welfare Officer. If the concern is considered to be a serious issue then it will be discussed with the Chairman of the Organising Committee and Chief Umpire, a decision will be made by them as to the most appropriate course of action, this may include contacting the British Rowing Child Welfare Officer, or in extreme cases Thames Valley Police. If it is a minor issue then the Welfare Officer is able to take the appropriate action without consulting the other members of the Organising Committee.

Conduct

All coaches, competitors and other participants should abide by the British Rowing Rules of Racing ("Rules of Racing") and any bye-laws for the Event. Attention should also be paid to the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.

Medical Provision

First Aid and general medical provisions are provided to all coaches, competitors and other participants. These facilities will be located adjacent to the registration and boating area. In case of an emergency please contact the emergency services as well as advising an Event official of any problems.

Security

All volunteers have been advised to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the Welfare Officer.

Missing Participants

If a child is believed to be missing it should in the first instance be reported to the nearest Event volunteer or the Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer will advise both the Chairman of the Organising Committee and the Chief Umpire of the situation. The coach / team manager of the missing child will be made aware of the situation. The Welfare Officer will be responsible for organising the search for the missing child and, if necessary, contacting Thames Valley Police.

Volunteer Training

All volunteers will be provided with a copy of this Welfare Plan and asked to read the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy. If they have any queries they should contact the Welfare Officer.



Photography

All official photographers will have to register with the Organising Committee before attending the event. Given the nature of the event it is not possible to control all photography taking place at the event. Volunteers are advised to report any suspicious photography to the Welfare Officer who will take the appropriate action.

Distribution of Data

All competing clubs, Umpires and Race Officials will receive a copy of this Welfare Plan, the [Safety Plan](#) and a set of [Competitors' Instructions](#); in addition these documents will be available on the event website.

Umpires, Launch drivers & Safety Crews will receive a race day umpire rota, which includes all Umpire mobile phone numbers, radio protocol sheet & any other relevant information prior to the event.