

# Saturday 8th June 2019 Welfare Policy and Plan

Under British Rowing Rules and Row Safe Code

## **Welfare Policy**

The organising committee of Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta intends to ensure that any allegations or concerns of harm to juniors involved in the event are taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately. A Welfare Officer is appointed for the event and will act as the point of contact for any allegations or concerns. The officer's contact details will be included in the Competitors/Coaches Instructions and will be made known to race officials. An Event Safety Officer is also appointed to advise on safety.

## **Welfare Plan**

From January 2015 and until decided otherwise, the welfare officer will be Tania Baird, assisted by Bodo Schulenburg. They will be available throughout the duration of the event and will be contactable by any race official via the radio network or by mobile phone where this is deemed more appropriate. They will determine appropriate action to be taken, and should any incident warrant such action, will be responsible for reporting to the police and the British Rowing child protection officer.

Given the nature of the event, where athletes will be racing or resting at a variety of locations at the Regatta venue, it is not possible for the event organisers to take responsibility for security at any specific location. Adults with responsibility for children entered in the event are expected to ensure that boating locations are suitable. Adults – coaches and parents – are also reminded of the need for suitable clothing for the event, given that there is the possibility of a wait before the start; crew coaches are further reminded that in rough conditions, it is they who must make the assessment of whether their crew can safely boat and race in the conditions – particularly so where there is a junior cox. Row Safe sections 1.2, 5.1 and 8.1 are particularly relevant.

In the event that a participant goes missing for a period exceeding 30 minutes, the Welfare Officer should be alerted as soon as possible by mobile telephone. The Welfare Officer will then decide on an appropriate course of action, alerting the local police or BR Child Protection Officers as appropriate. It will be the responsibility of the Welfare Officer to make a written record of the incident and outcomes. Should the weather become inclement to an extent that this adds unacceptable risk either on or off the water this must be reported to the Chief Umpire and the Safety Advisor. They will immediately assess the situation and take any action they consider necessary to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators. This may include suspension and cancellation of racing. Should the Lake need to be evacuated, competitors on the water will be returned to land as quickly as possible and all coaches should proceed to the pontoons to assist with evacuation.

Capsized crews should stay with their boat until the Safety Boat arrives unless instructed otherwise. Capsized crews will be brought to land, and an announcement will be made by the Race Commentator requesting the attention of the coach responsible for the capsized crew. Coaches will be contacted by mobile telephone if there is no response to the announcement.

The Crew contact details as required in the separate set of Coaches Instructions will be used to contact the adult responsible for any junior reportedly involved in an incident. It is therefore incumbent upon the person entering the crew to ensure that a usable contact number is included in the entry. No individual contact details for juniors will be held by the committee.

All competitors in the event may be photographed by amateurs, or professionals who sell their photographs, and these photographs may be used for identification or publicity purposes. Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta cannot prevent this, as the banks of the Regatta lake and areas surrounding the lake are open to the public. Volunteers are advised to report any suspicious photography to the Welfare Officer who will take appropriate action.