



Chester Regatta 2026  
Competitor Instructions

Welcome to Chester Regatta. We hope you have an enjoyable day with us.

Please be aware that this event may be photographed, video recorded or live streamed for regatta use during the event and post event

### **1. Everyone involved with the Regatta is expected to:**

Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others affected by their actions

- Read, understand and follow the Event Safety documents and course plans ([www.chesterregatta.org](http://www.chesterregatta.org))
- Read, understand and comply with all the instructions to competitors in this document
- Comply with British Rowing Rules of Racing and Rowsafe
- Report any incidents to the Event Organisers and to British Rowing.
- Dress to impress – Please take account of predicted weather conditions hot or cold! Keep hydrated!
- We operate on a tidal river which may be subject to waterborne diseases. Whilst we take steps to reduce these risks you must play your part by practising good hygiene.
- If you feel unwell at the event, please seek medical help immediately at the sailing club.

### **2. Arrival**

- The location of parking and boating areas is shown on the Site Maps. Parking is limited so please travel with as many people as possible in one car and obey the instructions of the parking marshals.
- The main parking for competitors and coaches is at [Bishops High School](#) five minutes' walk from the Regatta Ground. A map of how to get to and from this School can be found on our website. The car park will be open from 0730-1900.
- Boat trailers should be parked only in the designated hardstanding area. Parking is very tight so please follow marshals instructions as the parking is measured and marked
- all boat assembly must take place in the trailer park. Space is limited so please be courteous to your fellow competitors
- Changing facilities, toilets and showers are provided in Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club at the upstream end of the Regatta ground and separate toilet facilities are located adjacent to the trailer park, as shown in the Course Maps.

### **3. Registration and Weighing of Coxes**

Registration will be open from 8:00 am for entry packs to be collected including competitor and empacher numbers. Please ensure all substitutions are notified to Registration prior to racing, Spot checks on crew identity will be made and failure to notify substitutions may result in and disqualification.

- Please ensure you have your British Rowing membership card (Physical or electronic). You may not be allowed to race if you cannot produce it when asked. You will also need to show it to collect any prizes.
- All coxes and lightweight competitors must be weighed at registration, including those boating from locations other than the main regatta ground. They will be issued with a weight certificate which should be shown to the umpire or boating marshal upon embarkation which is compliant with the latest British Rowing rules and guidance.
- Every club must have a nominated person to collect their race pack for their junior and their senior entry.
- Final crew changes must be made at registration in line with prevailing British Rowing Rules of Racing. Failure to declare substitutions will result in immediate disqualification.

#### **4. Boating**

It is the responsibility of every competitor to ensure their equipment and clothing is safe complies with the rules of racing and rowsafe. Checks will be made on a random sample of crews for equipment compliance and crew composition.

- Please bring suitable footwear for boating (no landing stages in use).
- Competitors with hair below the shoulder must wear it in a bun to avoid it being trapped in equipment.
- Please ensure that all clothing is suitable and appropriate for conditions and the environment.
- Racing Lycras MUST be properly worn (shoulder straps and torso must not be pulled down to the waist unless replaced by a suitable outer garment such as a t-shirt) at all times on and off the water.
- Clothing such as dry robes and hoodies are not permitted on the water in line with BR guidance (Coxes excepted).
- All coxes will wear a Personal Flotation Device (life jacket). Its straps must be in good order, properly adjusted and worn on top of all other clothing.
- Please ensure that all competitors are able to provide their British Rowing membership cards as requested by Regatta officials in accordance with the Rules of Racing. Make sure you have it with you or that your coaches can produce them.
- Numbers must be worn and clearly visible on the back of the bow person, coxes and in the Empacher slots. Crews rowing in more than one event must wear only the number applicable to the event they are racing in.

The regatta has been designed so that the winner of side-by-side races stays on the water to go back to the start for their next race. The maximum length of time from the start of their event to the final should be under 90 minutes, please ensure rowers are suitably prepared for this carrying adequate clothing and hydration.

#### **5. Circulation Pattern and Hazards on the Course**

The circulation pattern is shown on the course plan. Please ensure you are familiar with it. Especially:

- if you are approaching the course from down river keep to the left (Enclosure side) of the marker buoys below the finish
- when going up to the start use the Enclosure side lane, keeping inside the line of buoys and out of the racing lanes
- when you pass the finish keep to the left of the river and steer clockwise around the marshals to get back into the lane on the Enclosure side.
- Failure to follow these circulation rules may result in an Official Warning or more severe penalties.
- Large pleasure boats (Lady Diana, Jackie etc) will be operating for most of the day of the Regatta and using the public lane on the enclosure side of the course. Umpires on the course will try to warn crews of their approach, but you should also keep a lookout for the craft and be prepared to take evasive action.
- The river is also open to other water users. The marshalls will ask canoeists etc to use the public lane, but again you should be on the lookout for such craft.
- A ferry for foot passengers will be operating across the river at sandy lane during racing. The ferry times its crossings to avoid racing crews, but again please be aware of its presence.
- The boating and disembarkation areas slope. Non-slip matting has been laid in this area, but care should be taken when boating.
- The meadows side bank may be shallow and has a slight bend starting at the umpire 3 position. Be prepared to correct your steering. At the committee's discretion lane buoys may be laid partially or fully down the meadows bank.
- The Ferry will operate throughout the day crossing the river and will give way to racing traffic. It is still the responsibility of the competitor to check their course for obstructions.
- The ferry jetty on the meadows side protrudes into the river from the bank. This obstruction will be partially buoyed but not marshalled. Remember it is your responsibility to steer your boat taking an appropriate course.

#### **6. Getting to the Start**

- Crews will be called to control commission 15-45 minutes before they are due to race and will pair on land at the sailing club.
- Crews who have a bye in the first round of their event should note that their opposition will probably already be on the water from their previous race and will not be expecting to disembark for pairing up.
- Start marshals will bring crews into the marshalling area.

- Crews must be at the start 2 minutes before the race time stated in the programme or risk disqualification.
- The first named crew on the programme will race on the Sandy Lane station.
- No boats are permitted upstream of the marshalling area.
- Practise starts are not permitted

## **7. Boating from Locations Other than Sandy Lane**

There will be a Satellite Boating Marshal at Kings School, Royal Chester, QPH and Grosvenor rowing clubs who will be in contact with the Regatta crew call via WhatsApp.

- Their function is to help find crews that have not turned up and to advise the regatta of last-minute scratchings
- to spot check boats and crews and ensure they are properly prepared to go on the water
- Please note, coxes must be weighed at the regatta ground prior to racing

## **8. The Finish**

- The finish line will be noted by two large buoys on either side of the racing lane in addition to finish boards on either bank. The finish umpire will sight the finish based on the finish boards.
- A bell will sound and white flag raised at the finish of each race and the result will be announced via the EasyRegatta system.
- If you wish to object raise your hand immediately to get the attention of the finish umpire and await instructions. Objections will not be heard if this process is not followed.
- At the finish crews must not obstruct the finish line and should promptly continue downstream and circle in a clockwise direction around the pontoon situated in the middle of the river before returning to the incoming stage.
- On disembarking please put your Empacher number in the blue tub provided.

## **9. Medical Cover & Safety Launches**

- First aid cover will be provided by the on site medical team who are based in the marquee
- They can be raised by contacting registration in the sailing club or any official with a radio.
- The nearest hospital is the Countess of Chester, Liverpool Road, Chester. Tel 01244 365000.
- Safety launches will be provided as per the course map

## 10. Local Rules

We would draw your attention in particular to the following:

- Long hair. This must be tied up in a bun if sufficiently long enough. Long hair in pony tails, plaits etc that are below collar length are not permitted.
- Dry Robes, Hoodies, loose and heavy water absorbent clothing
  - Dry Robes and Hoodies are not permitted in the boat under any circumstances
  - Heavy water absorbent materials such as fleece tracksuit bottoms must not be worn in the boat.
  - Loones or other similar legware are not permitted on the water(Does not apply to Coxes)
- Boats must
  - Have backstays to the forward port and starboard riggers (except singles or riggers designed not to use backstays
  - have sufficient buoyancy either sealed compartments or inflated buoyancy bags designed as buoyancy aids for rowing boats
- Swearing is not permitted on or off water. Failure to observe this rule will result in disqualification
- Warm up and practise starts on the water
  - Due to the river being open to other traffic practise starts area high risk so not permitted
  - Rowing is not permitted beyond marshalled areas.

Please note, rules regarding clothing and hair will be strictly enforced at control commission and whilst on the water. Non observance of these rules will result in disqualification.