

Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club Small Boats Head. Race Instructions and Rules

NOTES TO ALL COACHES, CAPTAINS AND COMPETITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF ALL DULY APPOINTED MARSHALS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLES / TRAILERS / BOATS ETC.

RACE CONTROL

- Registration will be in the Portakabin behind the boathouses at Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club.
- A representative from each club must report to Registration to collect numbers before the race.
- Numbers will only be issued where full payment has been received and crew details on BROE2 are confirmed as having been fully updated.

CAR PARKING AND TRAILERS at Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club/Football Club

- Boat trailers may not be taken on to the club grounds unless permitted to do so.
- Trailers should be parked in the trailer parking areas adjacent to the club or in the football club as directed by the marshal. When rigging boats at the club do not block the through access between the gates and the boathouse. (Keep clear for emergency)
- **There is no parking for cars at the club. There is available off site parking in nearby public car parks. We suggest the station car park at Maidstone East station as the most convenient and cost effective (£1 charge for all day parking). Full directions sent separately**

ADVICE TO COMPETITORS

- All competitors must be members of British Rowing registered clubs with RACE membership and must bring their BR Racing Registration cards with them.
- All divisions will start on time unless it's unsafe to do so e.g. passenger boat is on the course.
- Scullers /crews are requested to make adjustments afloat to keep landing stage free.
- All boats must be afloat a **minimum of 20 minutes** before the division starts and must arrive at the start a minimum of 5 minutes before. Failure to do this may result in a penalty.
- There are toilets and showers at the Club and public toilets across the river in the Millennium River Park (over the footbridge on the opposite bank)
- There will be available hot food and drink at the Club around the Race Control area. **Please note that the event encourages the use of reusable drinking bottles and fresh water taps are available near the food stall.**

TIMETABLE

08.00 Coxes and steerers briefing

08:10 Division 1 – Begin boating

08.40 Division 1 – **All boats must be afloat**

09:00 Division 1 – Race start

10:00 Division 2 – Begin boating

10:25 Division 2 – **All boats must be afloat**

10:45 Division 2 – Race start

11.45 Division 3 – Begin boating

12:10 Division 3 – **All boats must be afloat**

12:30 Division 3 – Race start

1:30 Division 4 – Begin boating

1:55 Division 4 – **All boats must be afloat**

2:15 Division 4 – Race start

16:00 approx – Announcement of results and presentation of medals at the Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club Club Room.

RACE INFORMATION AND RULES

1. The race will be rowed under British Rowing Rules of Racing and Codes of Practice and the guidance contained in Row Safe.
2. The Course is from the King's School Rochester Boat House **upstream** to before Maidstone Town Bridge (approx. 2500m)
3. Local Navigation Rules of the River apply. **All Boats to keep to the correct bank.** On the boathouse and towpath side going downstream towards the Start. The opposite bank when going upstream towards the finish. (Race Direction)
4. Overtaking: Boats should overtake on the outside (leaving overtaken crew nearest bank), but do not have the right of way. Boats being overtaken must not impede boats overtaking.
5. Coxes: The river is relatively narrow and winding and therefore all coxes **must** have had prior experience of coxing and be competent to take charge of a crew and safely manoeuvre their boat. If a race official deems any cox to be not sufficiently competent they may be asked to return to the boating area and the crew will not be allowed to race.
To make it easier for crews to use experienced coxes, a cox may compete in the same event in different divisions and seniors are permitted to cox junior crews. There is no weight restriction on coxes and so weighing will not take place. (These are variations to the normal rules of racing).
6. When boating from the landing stages all boats must for safety, point in the same direction. All **bows must be pointing downstream as per the circulation diagram.** (Unless directed otherwise by the landing marshals.)
7. Substitutions. Any substitutions must be in accordance with the BR Rules of Racing. If after the publication of the draw a substitution takes place which, in the opinion of the Organising Committee, makes the crew unsuitable for inclusion in their original event (eg. If in a senior event the crew's revised CRI means it would not originally have been placed in the same event band) in order to maintain the principle of fair and equal racing then the Committee reserve the right to change the entry to 'time only'. It is the responsibility of the crew to ensure that substitutions are made on BROE before racing. If made on the day of the race then Race Registration must be informed before the crew go afloat.
8. Competitors will boat when instructed (following a timetable if one is published) and proceed downstream to the marshalling area, obey rule 3. Any boat not in position and ready to race 5 minutes before the start may be held back and started at the starter's discretion.
9. There is to be **no** firm pressure practice rowing below the timing start in the marshalling area.
10. Competitors should make every effort to boat on time, failure to do so could result in disqualification or a time penalty. Final crews must be afloat at least 20 minutes before the start of the division. Crews not boating in time may be allowed to row in a later division (but for time only providing Registration has been notified immediately). Any crew attempting to boat after this time may be disqualified.
11. Boats must turn upstream as directed in the start marshalling area, odd numbers lying in to the right bank, even numbers to the left bank.
12. Boats will be started in the centre of the river normally at approx 10-15 second intervals depending on conditions. Once the race has started the following boats must ensure they cross the start line under the instruction of the bank marshals.
13. Bank umpires/marshals will be at bends and bridges to ensure compliance with rules 3 and 4. Boats not complying may be disqualified or given a time penalty.
14. At the finish boats must continue upstream and marshal along the banks in the town as instructed by marshals. Boats delaying unduly after the finish and causing an obstruction may be subject to a time penalty. Marshals will tell them when to turn and where to wait and they must take position without delay as instructed before returning downstream to MIRC boathouse. Any boat which

ignores instructions from an official may be awarded a time penalty at the discretion of the race committee.

15. No boat may return downstream until authorised by an umpire/marshal at the finish (or elsewhere as appropriate). **Competitors must be respectful of other river users and must obey marshal's instructions. No firm paddling to be undertaken during return to boathouse.**
16. Umpires and race officials will assist in an emergency. Their instructions must be followed at all times.
17. A First Aider will be in attendance based at the MIRC clubhouse.
18. **In the event of a collision or sinking, stay with your boat.** In many places the bank is low and accessible but this is not the case in all areas so remain with the boat and await rescue.
19. Following boats must assist anyone in difficulties and take appropriate action to forestall any possible consequential incident.
20. Those taking over a boat for the next division must be ready and do so as soon it arrives or the boat will be sent away from the boating areas. Please remember to change Empacher Numbers and "adjust out".
21. Scullers /Crews are responsible for ensuring they are wearing the correct numbers on their clothing and that Empacher numbers are affixed to bow of their boat and for returning them. All numbers must be attached before boating from the landing stage.
22. Any interference with racing crews by boats not racing in the same division will result in the disqualification of the offending crew.
23. The weather may be cold so ensure all competitors boat with appropriate clothing. Special attention should be paid to junior competitors who must go afloat with sufficient clothing to keep warm while marshalling for the start and awaiting return at finish. Coaches and seniors must ensure all juniors have adequate clothing. Marshals at the boating areas will be watching out for inadequate clothing and to avoid delay ensure crew members have this with them.
24. Any competitor who is under medication must ensure this is available and that coaches/crew members are aware of any needs and have advised the Race Registration before going afloat.
25. Cycling along the river bank is subject to EA bylaws and pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Coaches or supporters cycling in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner may attract penalties for their crew(s) and/or club(s).
26. In the event of a collision with a moored craft (either during the race or outside the race), which the Race Committee deems to have been avoidable, the crew will be subject to a time penalty or disqualification. Any collision must be reported to race control immediately following the division.
27. In the event that racing needs to be halted during a division due to an obstruction on the course then umpires/race officials will verbally instruct crews below the incident to paddle light and be prepared to stop. The start will be suspended until it is safe to recommence racing. Crews affected by this will not be able to race again unless they can be accommodated in a subsequent division.
28. Drones. It is not permitted for any competitor, coach or other person associated with a competing crew/club to fly a drone above or alongside the course, either before, during or after a division has taken place, unless express written permission has been given by the Race Committee. Anyone wishing to ask permission to fly a drone must apply in writing to the Race Committee Chairman at least two weeks prior to the event but it is highly unlikely that consent will be granted due to safety concerns caused by the nature of the course and surrounding buildings. Any unauthorised use of a drone by a competitor, coach or other person associated with a competing crew/club may result in the disqualification from the event of either an individual competitor, a crew or the entire club.