



Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club Small Boats Head

Competitor Instructions and Rules

RACE REGISTRATION

- Registration will be behind the boathouses at Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club.
- A single representative from each club should report to Registration to collect numbers.
- Numbers will only be issued where full payment has been received and crew details on BROE 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 maintain access space to and from the boating area for boats and do not block the tarmac area in front of the boathouses. Boats should not be left on trestles in front of, or inbetween, the boathouses between divisions.
- **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. Full directions sent separately**

ADVICE TO COMPETITORS

- All competitors must be members of British Rowing registered clubs with ADULT or JUNIOR RACE membership, or have purchased a day ticket for the competition via British Rowing, and must have their digital membership card available for viewing.
- 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 the final boats 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
- There will be available hot food and drink at the Club around the Race Control area. Payment can be by cash or card. **Please note that the event encourages the use of reusable drinking bottles and fresh water taps are available near the food stall.**

TIMETABLE

08:25 Division 1 – Begin boating – single sculls and doubles/pairs to boat first

08:55 Division 1 – **All boats to be afloat**

09:15 Division 1 – Race start

10:15 Division 2 – Begin boating – single sculls and doubles/pairs to boat first

10:40 Division 2 – **All boats to be afloat**

11:00 Division 2 – Race start

12:00 Division 3 – Begin boating – single sculls and doubles/pairs to boat first

12:25 Division 3 – **All boats to be afloat**

12:45 Division 3 – Race start

13:45 Division 4 – Begin boating – single sculls and doubles/pairs to boat first

14:10 Division 4 – **All boats to be afloat**

14:30 Division 4 – Race start

16:00 approx – Prize giving

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 a point before Maidstone Town Bridge (approx. 2500m).
3. **All boats taking part in the event must be registered with British Rowing for Environment Agency waters and carry an appropriate registration number.**
4. Local Navigation Rules of the River apply. **All Boats to keep to the correct bank (the right hand side in the direction of travel)**. On the boathouse and towpath side going downstream towards the start. The opposite bank when going upstream towards the finish. (Race Direction)
5. Overtaking: Boats should overtake on the outside (leaving overtaken crew nearest right hand bank in race direction), but do not have the right of way and should only overtake when safe to do so. Boats being overtaken must not deliberately impede the overtaking boat. Any crew or scull which an official deems has deliberately impeded an overtaking crew
6. 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 (this will need to be put through the entries secretary) 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).

7. All crews and single scullers must be competent to cover the course at a reasonable racing pace. An official may remove a crew from the division, or hold it back to the end of the division, if they deem the crew to be a hazard to itself or other crews,
8. 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).
9. Substitutions. Any substitutions must be in accordance with the BR Rules of Racing. If after the close of entries 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/sculler goes afloat.
10. 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.
11. There is to be **no** firm pressure practice rowing below the timing start in the marshalling area.
12. 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 late may be disqualified.
13. Boats must turn upstream as directed in the start marshalling area, lower number crews on the towpath bank and remaining crews on the far bank. Number boards will be displayed to show where crews should be positioned (see circulation diagram in safety plan).
14. Boats will be started in the centre of the river normally at approx 10-15 second intervals depending on conditions, with larger gaps as necessary. Once the race has started crews/scullers must follow the instructions of the bank marshals as to when to proceed towards the timing start.
15. Umpires/race monitors 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. Umpires/Race

Monitors will steer boats directly in the event of a perceived safety issue (this is a local rule).

16. 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 (see circulation diagram in safety plan). Marshals will tell them when to turn and where to wait and they must take position without delay as instructed before returning downstream to the MIRC boathouse. Any boat which ignores instructions from an official may be awarded a time penalty at the discretion of the Race Committee.
17. 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.**
18. Umpires and race officials will assist in an emergency. Their instructions must be followed at all times.
19. A First Aider will be in attendance based at the MIRC clubhouse.
20. **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.
21. Following boats must assist anyone in difficulties and take appropriate action to forestall any possible consequential incident.
22. 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".
23. 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. One paper number is provided and should be worn by the bow rower on their racing kit in case the boat's empacher number is lost. All numbers must be attached before boating from the landing stage.
24. Any interference with racing crews by boats not racing in the same division will result in the disqualification of the offending crew.
25. 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. Officials at the boating areas will be watching out for inadequate clothing and to avoid delay ensure crew members have this with them.
26. Any competitor who is under medication which may be required must ensure this is available and that coaches/crew members are aware of any needs and have advised the Race Registration before going afloat if a medical condition might arise during racing.

- 27.** Cycling along the river bank is subject to EA/Council 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
- 28.** 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 may be subject to a time penalty or disqualification. Any collision must be reported to race registration immediately following the division.
- 29.** 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 on the start side of the incident 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 safely returned to the start or accommodated in a subsequent division.
- 30.** 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 written permission has been given by the Race Committee. Anyone wishing to ask permission to fly a drone must apply in writing to the Organising Committee Chair via the Entries Secretary 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, pedestrians, trees 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.