



Maidenhead Junior Regatta

Maidenhead Rowing Club, River Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0AT
Website: <https://www.maidenheadrc.org.uk/index.php/regatta-home>

Safety Briefing – 2024

The following information defines key Regatta rules, procedures and guidelines, which must be fully adhered to by all regatta crews and officials.

It is a condition of racing that coaches of visiting clubs must go through this Safety Briefing with every crew – and especially their coxes – before boating.

- **Registration and Results** – Located at Maidenhead Rowing Club boathouse. Umpires on control commission duty co-ordinate all safety and rescue between the road bridge and the railway bridge.
- **Finish tent** - Race Committee and umpires in tent at finish line. Co-ordinates safety and rescue on the regatta course and all areas downstream of the railway bridge.

Whilst in the area of the regatta as defined in the circulation plan, all competitors are under the authority of the regatta and must follow all the instructions given by officers of the regatta – this is particularly relevant in emergency situations.

The regatta is being run in full compliance of the BR Water Safety Code and the MRC Safety Management Plan.

- The primary safety boat will be manned by Regatta Safety Services, moored on the Bucks Bank, at the midpoint of the course.
- The second safety boat will patrol the stretch of river between the road bridge and the regatta finish line.
- A Marshal's boat will patrol the river area downstream of the start line.
- All Marshals' and safety boats will be afloat before racing crews get boated prior to any racing. Approval to go afloat and for racing to commence will be given by the Race Committee once all safety and marshal boats are in position.

1. Boathouse Car Park

Boat Trailers only may be parked in the Club Car Park. All other vehicles (including towing vehicles) must be parked in other designated parking areas.

Boats will be stored during the regatta on trestles on the grass area just upstream of the boathouse (see map attached) and in the boathouse car park. Competitors and supporters are reminded that the tow path is a public right of way and should try to allow clear passage.

2. Boating / Landing (as directed by Raft Marshals)

Launchings and landings will be from the four landing rafts outside the boathouse. Raft Marshals will co-ordinate.

Crews **must not** get boated before being paired with competitors by Raft Marshals. Please inform Raft marshals of intend boat sharing / hot boating. Random checks of safety equipment (e.g. heel straps, bow balls, hatch covers, etc) as well as coxes' lifejackets will be carried out by an BR Umpire or delegated officer as an audit check for safety conformance. It must be emphasised that it is the Clubs' and master of the vessel's responsibility – not that of the Regatta – to ensure that they row in equipment that conforms to the Water Safety Code. The passing of a random check, for example on a bow ball, should not be interpreted as tacit approval or acceptance by the Event that the boat as a whole is safe.

Launch – from the two, upstream rafts i.e. nearest the bridge. The turning point is approx 10 metres south of the Maidenhead Bridge close to the boathouse bank. **Keep a lookout for leisure craft** coming in both directions before turning. Craft coming downstream through Maidenhead Bridge have a very restricted view of the rowing boats in the turning area.

Turning is not permitted in the Navigational Channel adjacent to The Guards Club Island.

Landing – All boats will be landed on the two downstream rafts. Raft Marshals will assist (where possible) with the removal of boats from the water.

Supporters – For reasons of safety and expediency, supporters are not allowed in the boating area or on the pontoons, a coach may accompany each crew in this area.

3. Boat Circulation Plan (See attached, and posted on notice boards at the boathouse)

Rowing upstream of Maidenhead Road Bridge is not permitted at any time during the regatta.

No overtaking between boathouse and the railway bridge. *Hazardous section*

This is the narrowest part of the river. Beware leisure craft and rowing boats travelling in both directions. Crews must follow Marshals' instructions at all times. Be considerate and give priority to other river users when paddling to the start.

The 500 metre course will be buoyed on the Berkshire station, meeting the requirements of the Environment Agency, creating a navigation channel on the Berkshire bank. Non-regatta river traffic and racing crews moving to the start will be directed to use this channel by signs positioned at either end of the course and by Marshals at either end of the course. The course will not occupy more than two thirds of the available river; this will allow adequate safe navigation for passing traffic and crews proceeding to the start.

Competing crews going to the start are reminded to give priority to other river users.

Practice starts and firm paddling are not permitted in the navigation channel; crews disregarding this notice will result in the offending crew receiving an official warning or disqualification. Adequate space exists below the start line for warm-ups and practice starts.

Crews must remain within calling distance of the Start Marshal, and under no circumstances may crews pass beyond the bend of the river at the downstream end of the course.

4. Racing

All crews below the start will be under the control of the Start Marshals in the moored launch. Instruction given by the Start Marshals must be obeyed at all times. Failure to do so may result in the offending crew receiving an official warning. Crews should line up on the start when instructed to do so. A 'Free Start' is used. There are no stake boats.

The Race Umpire will direct crews when they are on the start. Depending on the strength of the stream on the day, the Umpire may not start the crew's level, to compensate for any advantage from the stream. Races will be started according to BR rules. Each race will be followed by the Race Umpire in a launch.

5. What to do in an Emergency

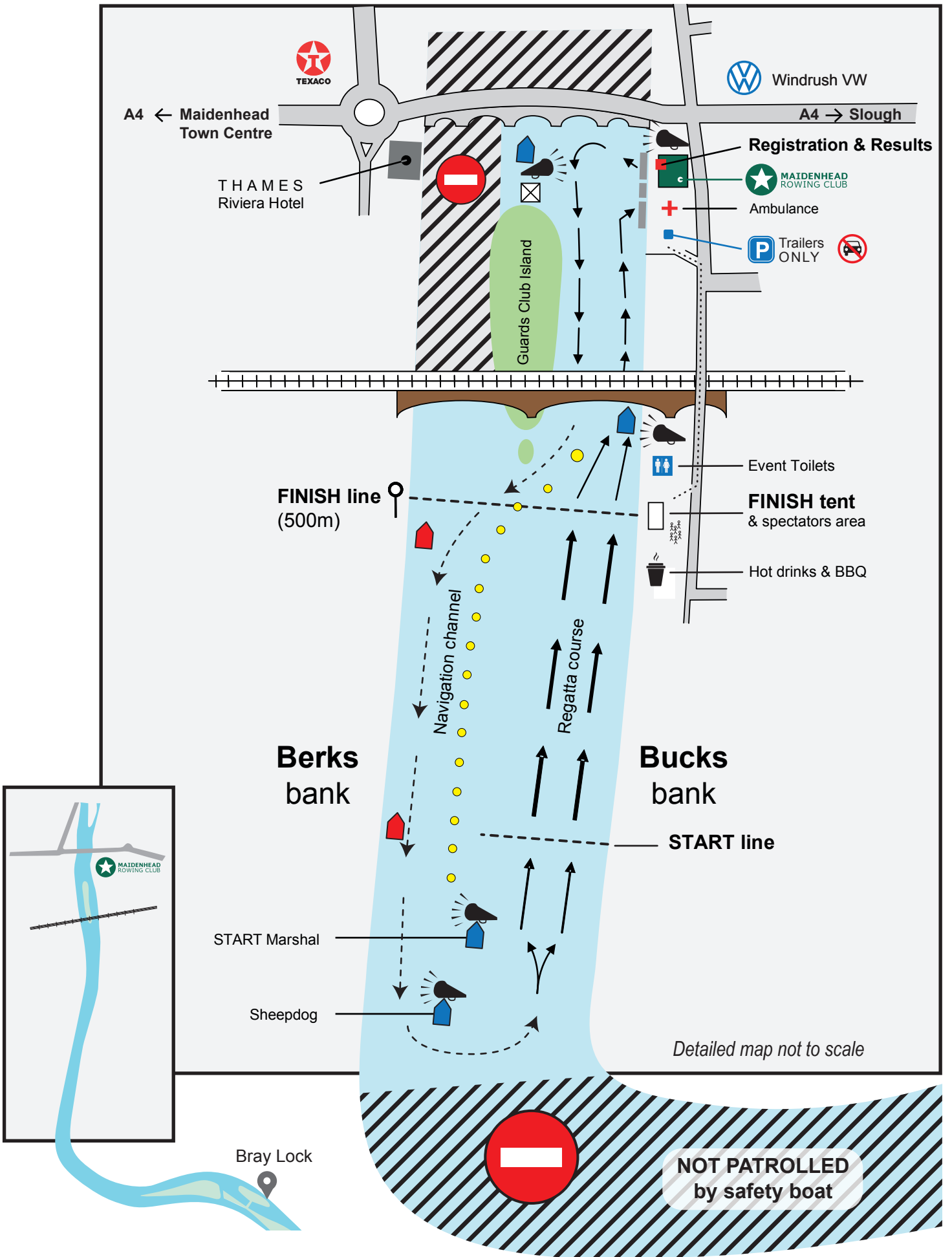
- **Any Accident** - Racing will be suspended by race officials until such time that the casualties have been attended and the course is in a clear state, safety boats are back on station and approval is given by the Race Committee. Registration and Results will make the necessary arrangements with the South Regional Ambulances or the Emergency Services and liaise with Race Committee regarding the incident.
- **On Water Incident** - Safety Boats will provide an immediate response and rescue if required. An Umpire's boat will follow all racing crews and will provide initial assistance until the Safety Boat is in attendance. Other marshal boats will remain on station to ensure the safety of other crews and if necessary change their position to provide cover for the areas allotted to boats involved in the rescue. Should the medics be required to go afloat, safety jackets will be made available and they will be accompanied by an experienced launch driver.
- **Waterside Incident** - Below the railway bridge, the Race Committee in the finish tent will co-ordinate the rescue and land support; between the road bridge and the railway bridge it will be co-ordinated by Umpires at Maidenhead Rowing Club boathouse.







**Nearest telephone for '999' is located in Boathouse (inside the centre boat bay and in the Boathouse bar).
Ordinance Survey Grid Reference for Maidenhead Rowing Club is 902-813.**

6. First Aid

- An Ambulance will provide First Aid at the Regatta - based at the Boathouse.
- The Umpires will be launch-based and will carry a first aid kit as specified in the Water Safety Code.
- Key Safety and First Aid information is also published in the regatta programme.

Maidenhead Rowing Club champions reduction of plastic waste and encourages the use of reusable bottles. Maidenhead Rowing Club requests clubs ask their rowers and supporters to bring reusable bottles that can be refilled at the water tap at the front of the boat house, on the towpath by the pontoons and at the boathouse bar.



-  Marshal
-  Safety boat
-  Marshals boat
-  Marker buoy
-  Channel post
-  No Go area