



ROSS REGATTA 2026



Sunday 30th August – Monday 31st August

Ross Regatta Safety Plan

Location

Address: Ross Rowing Club, Rope Walk, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7BU

OS Grid Reference for cars & trailers: SO 598 245

Latitude & Longitude: Lat 51.918327 Long -2.5850384 (51°55'05.98" N, 2°35'06.14" W)

What3Words: valued.mildest.mattress

Contact details

Jonathan Preece	Chairman	chairman@rossrowingclub.co.uk	07976 235670
Tim Davies	Regatta Organiser	safety@rossrowingclub.co.uk	07785 246721
Elisabeth Angier	Regatta Secretary	regatta.secretary@rossrowingclub.co.uk	07808 922053
Tim Davies	Safety Advisor	safety@rossrowingclub.co.uk	07785 246721

Introduction

The Ross Rowing Club Regatta will take place on the River Wye, from approximately 400 metres upstream to 100 metres downstream of the A40 bridge. Racing will be over a distance of 550 metres on both Sunday and Monday. Due to low water levels, this is shorter than in previous years. The course will consist of two-lane, head-to-head racing in fine boats.

There will be approximately fifty events each day, with morning and afternoon divisions, covering both adult and junior competitors. Competition will take place at Junior and Masters levels. All crews are required to steer an appropriate and safe course throughout their race.

Ross Rowing Club provides a safe environment in accordance with British Rowing's *Row Safe* Regulations. However, the following responsibilities apply:

1. Every adult attending the event, whether competing, officiating, or spectating, is personally responsible for their own safety.
2. Competitors, together with their coaches, must decide whether they are competent to compete in the weather and river conditions as they find them on the day.
3. A responsible adult must accompany all juniors competing in the event, act *in loco parentis*, and accept full responsibility for their safety and welfare.

Event Organisation

Organised by Ross Rowing Club (RRC) Regatta Committee 2024

Committee	Name	Contact	email
Regatta Organiser	Tim Davies	07785 246721	tc.davies@btinternet.com
Event Welfare Safety Advisor (EWSA)	Tim Davies	07785 246721	safety@rossrowingclub.co.uk
Welfare Officer	Sue Thompson	07443 491564	welfare@rossrowingclub.co.uk
	Jan Rosser		
Regatta Secretary	Elisabeth Angier	07808 922053	regattasecretary@rossrowingclub.co.uk
Coordinating Umpires	Neil Lucas	01989 565081	N968lucas@btinternet.com
	Mike Jones	07981 240897	Mikeandrose1@outlook.com
Race Committee	Bryn Hughes (Chair)		brynhughes0@gmail.com
	Mike Jones	07981 240897	Mikeandrose1@outlook.com
	Neil Lucas	01989 565081	N968lucas@btinternet.com

Communication

Navigation Authority/Local land owners – Environmental Agency informed of event. No further permission or conditions required lynn.bulbeck@environment-agency.gov.uk & paul.senior@environment-agency.gov.uk. Letter sent to land owners, Mr Scudamore & Mrs Brewer.

Emergency Services – Herefordshire Emergency Services notified using 'Herefordshire Public Event Safety Advisory Group Form' (covers Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue, West Mercia Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service)

Highways/Community/Other river users – Advertised in local press & media several weeks before the event. Published on Ross Rowing Club website and social media platforms.

First Aid – 2 first-aiders located on the river bank between Club House and Control Commission. Defibrillator and oxygen. (Additional defibrillator in boathouse).

Third-party services e.g. loud speaker system, on-site retailers, electrical supplies, waste water, sanitary services, food supplies. Register of retailers, facilities and utilities providers maintained by RRC Regatta Committee.

Participants and Competitors – Documents published on RRC website include:

- Regatta poster
- Competitor instructions
- Course map & circulation pattern
- Welfare plan & statement; downloadable welfare form for competitors/visitors
- Safety plan
- Risk assessment
- Emergency access location
- Emergency response plan

Cancellation or curtailment of the event – The Race Committee will monitor river and weather conditions prior to the event and should conditions have the potential to significantly increase the risk associated with participation in the Regatta, the Race Committee Chair will make the decision to abandon the Regatta. This will be communicated to all participants and relevant parties by means of a formal PA announcement/notification on website, social media and email communication.

At the Start of the Event

Organisers/Umpires, marshals, monitors/Safety people, 3rd party services (rescue launches, 1st aiders) – notification of planned safety briefings to be held on the Boat House ramp before racing commences by a RRC Official

Participants – competitor instructions & safety documentation available on RRC website.
Boats on/off protocol:

RRC Official at boat check & marshals on the beach will endeavour to ensure that:

- All crews are aware of the circulation pattern and be advised of rivers hazards.
- All crews must pass through Boat Check to ensure boat integrity in accordance with BR guidelines.
- Coxes must wear appropriate buoyancy aid.
- The boating area is clearly marked.
- Care to be exercised when crossing the public footpath.
- Boats on/off areas to be checked for potential sharp hazards (e.g. broken glass) and prepared for ease of descent. Crews are reminded to wear appropriate foot-wear when handling boats on/off the water.
- Blades should be safely located on the bank and not provide a hazard nor impede safe passage.
- Marshals will monitor flow of boats, crews and members of the public.

EWSA – Monitor conditions. Advise on starting, suspension, alteration or abandonment of the event.

During the Event

Organisers – Radio communication protocol will be explained at pre-race briefing with specified channels for Emergency, Umpires and General use. Key contact mobile numbers are included in the Regatta documentation and will be held at Start, Finish, Control Commission, Registration, First Aid, Notice Board and in Umpires Pack.

EWSA – Monitor conditions and incidents or occurrences during the event. Advise on the starting, suspension, alteration or abandonment of the event. Any incidents shall be reported to the Regatta Race Committee Chair to action as required.

Post Event

Participants/Officials – any feedback or comments on the competition/event safety cover after the event should be sent to: regattasecretary@rossrowingclub.co.uk. Post event debrief meeting will be held for the RRC Regatta Committee within 1 month for feedback of any key issues.

Participants – describe any plans after the event to review safety for the event.

Documentation

- Safety Plan (this document)
- Risk assessment
- Emergency access points
- Emergency response plan
- Competitor instructions
- Course map & circulation pattern
- Welfare plan & statement
- Marshalling instructions
- Radio protocol
- Safety Launch Equipment

Safety Monitor

Tim Davies, EWSA and RRC Safety Officer, will be in attendance throughout the Regatta and will be available via radio to help the coordinating umpire with safety issues. Other positions of cover by RRC Officials:

- Car park & trailer park
- Access road
- Riverside towpath
- Boats on/off
- Control commission
- Registration
- Start
- Finish
- Club house

Safety Boats

All drivers are trained to nationally recognised RYA Level 2 Powerboat (or equivalent).
Safety boats located at steps, bridge and ferry.

RRC has 3 tin-fish type coaching launches. These also carry safety equipment and perform rescue functions should the need arise. They can alert the rescue services, assist in boat and crew recovery to the bank, and evacuate 1-2 (max. 2) people at any one time who are injured or deemed to be at high risk. Neither the nature of the river nor the risk analysis warrant the need for a large launch capable of rescuing a whole crew from a large boat.

A list of equipment carried on board is included in the documentation.

Launch Protocol – Drivers and passengers must be seated. The driver and spotter will wear buoyancy aids. Driver to have engine kill-cord attached. Safety kit on board (blue box, throw lines, paddle, grab lines on gunnels, deployable boarding ladder).

Accident & Emergency Procedures

On Water & Off Water – in case of accident or emergency the first duty is to the safety of the individual in difficulty

Water-based incident – the nearest Umpire radios to 'All Points & Safety Launch'. A marshal will be situated at each of Start, 250m, 500m and Finish. A safety launch will be situated one at the Bridge, one at the Club House. In case of capsize, the competitor/s will disembark from the safety launch Club house/Steps.

Land-based incident – controlled initially by those in immediate attendance until the Safety Officer and/or Qualified First Aider assume responsibility.

First-aid Cover

- Provider – Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders
- Qualifications – Registered 1st Aiders
- Location – on the towpath between Club House and Control Commission
- Number of people – 2 qualified 1st Aiders
- Equipment – defibrillator, oxygen, advanced 1st aid skills
- Availability – 8.30am – 5.30pm Sunday and Monday

There is an additional defibrillator located on the front wall of the Boat House.

Emergency Services

- Nearest A&E – Hereford Hospital, HR1 2ER
- Travel time – approx. 30 minutes
- Ambulance response time – subject to W. Midlands Ambulance Service Response

- Emergency access point – Club House HR9 7BU; Homs Road Car Park HR9 7DE
- Who will meet & guide Emergency services – RRC Regatta Official

Emergency Equipment

A list of equipment for the Safety Launches is provided with this pack.

Pre-Boating Safety Checks – onus is on the competing crews/clubs to present their boats at Boat Pairing, ensuring that they confirm with the rules of racing. Boat pairing will take place before each race as per British Rowing regulations. No crew should Boat On until they have passed through Boat Pairing with their opposition.

Welfare Plan & Statement

Please refer to the document included with this pack.

RRC Regatta Safety Plan approved by:

RRC Chairman

RRC President

Regatta Organiser

RRC Director of Rowing

Chair, Race Committee

Safety Officer

Welfare Officer

Reference documents

- HSG195 – The Event Safety Guide
- British Rowing's Rules of Racing
- RowSafe, RowSafe +, RowSafe Further Guidance
- British Rowing Welfare Guidance – WG 3.4

Ross Regatta Committee 2026