

Bedford Amateur Regatta

6th May 2017

WELFARE PLAN

The Organising Committee of Bedford Amateur Regatta believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability have equal rights to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations or harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

A Welfare Officer for the competition will be appointed annually and will act as the point of contact for any concerns or allegations. Their contact number will be posted in the boating area throughout the duration of the competition.

Bedford Regatta Welfare Officer:

The Event Organising Committee has appointed Mrs Lamb as Event Welfare Officer, who can be contacted on the day via Race Control in the general enclosure.

Reporting structure:

If you have any concerns regarding welfare of children at the event these should, in the first instance be raised with the Welfare Officer. If the concern is considered to be a serious issue then it will be discussed with the Chairman of the Organising Committee and the Chairman of the Race Committee, a decision will be made by them as to the most appropriate course of action. This may include contacting the British Rowing Child Welfare Officer, or in extreme cases Bedfordshire Police. If it is a minor issue then the Welfare Officer is able to take the appropriate action without consulting the other members of the welfare committee and will be reported back to the Chairman at a later date.

The crew contact details entered on the British Rowing Entry will be used to contact the adult responsible for any junior reportedly involved in an incident. It is therefore incumbent upon the person entering the crew to ensure that a usable contact number is included in the entry. No individual contact details for juniors will be held by the committee.

Adult responsibilities

Adults with responsibility for children entered in the event are expected to ensure that boating conditions are suitable. Adults – coaches and parents – are also reminded of the need for suitable clothing for the event, given that there is the possibility of a long wait before the start; crew coaches are further reminded that in rough conditions, it is they who must make the assessment of whether their crew can safely boat and race in the conditions - particularly so where there is a junior cox. Row Safe sections 1.4, 1.7, 1.8 and 3.2 are particularly relevant. The Junior Coaches of local Clubs, in association with parents, will be responsible for the safe arrival and departure of any Junior stake boat volunteers and result runners.

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Conduct:

All coaches, competitors and other participants should abide by British Rowing's Rules of Racing and any byelaws for the Event. Attention should be paid to the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy. (<http://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/welfare/guidance-documents>).

Medical Provision:

First Aid and general medical provisions are available to all coaches, competitors and other participants. These facilities will be located adjacent to the Schools boathouse, and also in the Regatta Enclosure adjacent to the Suspension Bridge. In case of an emergency please contact the emergency services as well as advising the Event officials of the problem.

Security:

All volunteers have been advised to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the Welfare Officer.

Missing Participants:

If a child is believed to be missing it should in the first instance be reported to the nearest Event volunteer or the Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer will then advise both the Chairman of the Race Committee and the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the situation. The coach/team manager of the missing child will be made aware of the situation. The Welfare Officer will be responsible for organising the search for the missing child and, if necessary, contacting Bedfordshire Police.

Volunteer Vetting and training:

Any volunteer that will be responsible for looking after children will be CRB checked through British Rowing. All volunteers will be provided with a copy of this welfare plan and asked to read the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy. If they have any queries they should contact the Welfare Officer.

Photography:

Given the nature of the event it is not possible to control all photography taking place at the Event. Volunteers are advised to report any suspicious photography to the Welfare Officer who will take the appropriate action.

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Distribution of data:

All competing clubs, umpires and race officials will receive a copy of the welfare plan, , a set of competitors' instructions. In addition, these documents will be available on Bedford Regattas website (www.bedfordregatta.co.uk).