

CHESTER-LE-STREET REGATTA

Welfare Statement and Plan 2026 In accordance with the British Rowing Welfare Guidance Documents

Welfare Statement:

The Organising Committee of Chester-le-Street Regatta believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants, but particularly children and vulnerable adults, is paramount. All participants, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability, have the equal right to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations of 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 and allegations. The Welfare Officer for the regatta is Gill Simpson who will be available all day at Race Control and contactable via the Umpires' radio system throughout the day of the event or on mobile 07771 411373. The Safety Advisor is Brian Webb.

This document will also apply to vulnerable adults.

REPORTING STRUCTURE

- 1) The first point of contact is the welfare officer (Gill Simpson) via mobile phone 07771 411373.
- 2) The person who takes the initial report (prior to taking it to welfare officer) should make a note of the time of the alleged incident and the reporters name and contact details.
- 3) The Welfare Officer will decide on the appropriate course of action alerting local police or British Rowing CWO if necessary.
- 4) It will be the responsibility of the Competition Club Welfare Officer to write a written report of the incident and outcomes.

AWARENESS

All coaches, competitors, spectators and others participating should abide by British Rowing Rules of Racing and particular attention should be paid to British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.

This plan shall be made available on the club website, with notices being posted in the changing rooms and toilets.

MEDICAL PROVISION

This will be provided by the St Johns Ambulance Service who will be located

outside the Boathouse in uniform. They will be given a copy of this Welfare Plan.

SECURITY

All participants have a responsibility to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to coaches volunteers and officials. Coaches Volunteers and Officials have a responsibility to report anything suspicious to Race Control.

PROCEDURES FOR MISSING PERSONS

If you have genuine concerns that any participant, spectator whether an adult or a child has gone missing you must report it immediately to your coach, their parent, the competition welfare officer or nearest race official or volunteer. This also applies to any child who is clearly lost, the child should be escorted to race control by 2 responsible adults.

- 1) Race Control should then be informed immediately and will inform the Competition Club Welfare Officer.
- 2) Race Control will then forward their name along with a description via radio and mobile phone to race officials positioned along the course who will remain vigilant. The Competition Welfare Officer will endeavour to cover the length of the course.
- 3) All Radio Communication relating to a missing person will be preceded with "RED ALERT MISSING, everyone must give full attention to the following information.", due to the number of radio messages on a regatta day. All race officials should pay particular attention to any message with this alert.
- 4) If after 20 minutes no contact has been made the local police will be informed by the Competition Club Welfare Officer.
- 5) The designated meeting point for any missing persons will be Race Control.

If the person has been located then they should proceed to Race Control where appropriate people will be informed.

VOLUNTEER VETTING AND TRAINING

All our volunteers with responsibility for children will be in possession of a current DBS and will be advised to read British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy, taking particular note of its good practice. All volunteers and officials will be provided with a copy of this Welfare Plan.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Whilst the Regatta is in a public place we have very little control of photography but would advise all volunteers, coaches, officials, participants and spectators to be vigilant and respond to any inappropriate photography they may witness and report it immediately.

A copy of the British Rowing advice on photography will be held in Race Control.

Official photographers will be asked to register their contact details with Race Control.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All British Rowing Welfare Guidance Documents

<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/safeguarding/guidance-documents/>

British Rowing Safeguarding

<https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safeguarding/>

British Rowing Row Safe Complete Document

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-RowSafe.pdf>

Key Points

<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/policies-guidance/rowsafe/>

British Rowing Guidance on Photography

[British-Rowing-Safeguarding-Handbook-4-Safety-in-the-digital-world-Covid-guidance-template.pdf](https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/British-Rowing-Safeguarding-Handbook-4-Safety-in-the-digital-world-Covid-guidance-template.pdf)
([britishrowing.org](https://www.britishrowing.org))

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency 999

Competition Welfare Officer Gill Simpson 07771 411373

Regatta Secretary David Youlton 07780 333397

Club Safety Adviser Brian Webb 07722 793971

British Rowing
Child Protection Officer 02082376700

Durham Police 03456060365

NSPCC Helpline 08088005000

Careline 02085411177

Version B

Revised on 1st December 2025 by Brian Webb – Water Safety Officer