



Bridges



Marshals



Moored Boats



Safety Launches (Club)



Safety Launches (Wycliffe)



Over Hanging Vegetation



First Aid

Briefing Notes

- All boats may be checked by the Control Commission before being allowed to go afloat
 - Please make sure before approaching the stages that all boats:
 - Have an approved ball securely attached to the bow
 - Have secure hatches/bungs for all buoyancy compartments
 - Have no holes in the canvases
 - Have secure heel restraints for all rowing/sculling shoes (7cm)
 - Club Number XXX123
 - The forward port and starboard rigger on all boats, other than single sculls, should be protected by a backstay
- All Coxwains should wear an appropriate lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
- Coxwains in front loaders must wear a lifejacket which will not inflate or provide buoyancy until the wearer is clear of the boat.
- All members of the crew must be adequately dressed for cold conditions - Long Start 5Km (7.67Km x 2 = 14.35Km)
- Any crew not meeting these criteria will not be allowed afloat.
- Please boat at your allocated time, so crew are not left exposed at the start, transgression with lead to disqualification.
 - That said Short course crews should not present themselves in the boating area before all long course crews have boated. Advertised boating times are indicative, short course crews should be ready to boat at the appointed time but not go to the boating area until called by officials. Long course crews should present themselves at the indicated time and may not be allowed to race if late. Once the short course crews have been called, long course crews not already in the boating area will not be allowed to race.
- When crossing tow path do so with the boat parallel to the water. Listen to any Marshals and watch out for other users as you cross as this is a shared space.
- Do not obstruct other users of the towpath. Only cross when it is clear to do so and there is space on the landing stage. At all other times, leave a clear passage for other users.
- On the way to the start proceed on the starboard, towpath side.
- During the race the whole course will be within sight of a number of Race Officials who are in radio contact with rescue launches. Should you be unfortunate enough to fall in or get into difficulties, please make every effort to get your boat to the side whilst awaiting the arrival of a launch.
- Remember that your boat will float even when capsized so STAY WITH IT and be prepared to shout to warn oncoming crews.
- The launch will tow you to the bank where you can get into it and be taken quickly to the nearest bridge / boathouse. 5 launches
- Hazards
 - Bridges
 - Crew in front 100m before a bridge has priority
 - No lights should be shown at bridge – if its red stop – Bridge Keeper will advise / Marshal
 - If bridge opens do not go through
 - Parkend, Broken Bridge (No bridge platform just stanchions) , Pilot (Sellers), Rea, Sims and Netheridge – 5 1/2 Bridges
 - Swans – Reeds on right hand side 50 m from Pilot (Sellers Bridge) – Keep clear
 - Vegetation – has been cut back but bank collapsing into canal at points,
 - Flotsom and jetsom
 - Moored Craft
 - Turning Bay
 - Bends
 - Canal Traffic – rules of the canal are keep to the starboard (looking forward)/ right. The Canal is n low season so other users maybe still be out, so keep to the regular Navigation Pattern and listen for any Marshals instructions
 - Fishermen
- Marshalling before the race is below Pilot / Parkend Bridge / above Parkend Bridge towards Gloucester – listen to the Monitors & Marshals for instructions – for Long Start crews a warmup loop is available.
- On instruction of the Monitors turn and move towards Gloucester, go firm when your number is called, as this is the start of the race.
- To prevent congestion / keep other users safe on the tow path coaching / following races by bike is discouraged unless a specific request (e.g. junior / adaptive) has been made to the committee ahead of the competition. Cyclist must give priority to the safety of other towpath users even if that means they cannot keep pace with a crew. Any bikes must be fitted with a bell to warn of your presence, as per the CRT Towpath Code <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/support-us/our-campaigns/stay-kind-slow-down/our-towpath-code>, Share the Space, Drop your Pace campaign <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/support-us/our-campaigns/stay-kind-slow-down> and Sustrans Guidance <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/get-active/advice-on-using-shared-use-paths/> - note our tow path is Cycle route 41 from Llanthany Bridge to Rea bridge.
- Steering advice may be given to coxless boats to avoid accidents.
- Crews being overtaken must give way to overtaking crews and stick to the starboard (non tow path side) and give audible warning as what they are doing as required. Overtaking crews are to pull out onto the port side (towpath side), if clear to do so, overtaken and pull back into the starboard side (non towpath side) once they have completed the manoeuvre.
- All competitors must comply with the requests of the race monitors. Failure to do so could risk lives and may lead to disqualification.
- Keep moving and do not stop until you are advised to do so after the race as other boats following behind will also need space to wind down.