

# Wycliffe Big Head 2011 Race Rules Regulations

## General and Entries

- 1.1 The race is held under British Rowing Rules of Racing, RowSafe, these Rules, the Marshalling Instructions and any other instructions published by the Committee.
- 1.2 Contact details: Tel: 01453 732033, Fax: 01453 873344 email: [wbh@wycliffehead.co.uk](mailto:wbh@wycliffehead.co.uk)
- 1.3 Captains must ensure that they only enter competent crews and that their crews are properly prepared for the race. Crews should be capable of completing an 8km outing per division (4500 metres at race pace) and may be on the water for 1¼ hours for each division.
- 1.4 The Weather in February can be wet and cold. Hypothermia is a real danger. Crews should take sufficient warm clothing on the water with them. A plastic bag is useful for placing clothing in during the course of the race.
- 1.5 The Committee will determine the order of start. It will generally be in record time order with entrants in order of application and priority number (if more than one entrant from a club).
- 1.6 In the event of a serious transgression of the rules (e.g. Rowing below status, endangering other crews) the Committee may disqualify not just the crew involved but also all crews from the Club it represents and refuse entries in future years.
- 1.7 The Committee does not accept any liability for crews or their equipment.
- 1.8 The Wycliffe Big Head is run for the benefit of the competitors. It endeavours to provide an enjoyable and fair race for all. The Marshals are all experienced people and are there to assist you and ensure the safe and smooth running of the race. **Please obey their instructions at all times.** This does not negate your responsibility for the safe navigation of your craft.
- 1.9 With over 80 crews on the canal an atmosphere of mutual tolerance is most conducive to the safe running of the race. Crude abuse to other crews or marshals is unlikely to solve any problems and may lead to further problems. Remember also that you are on public show and such behaviour gives the sport a poor image.

## Changes

- 2.1 Notice of scratching, by email or on-line, must be received by the Entry Secretary before the race. On race day notice may be handed in at entries desk.  
  
Notice of scratching should include a full explanation of the reasons for the scratching. Failure to provide an adequate explanation could affect the acceptance of a Club's entries in future years.
- 2.2 Notice of scratching can be notified online which is preferred but emails may be sent at any time after you receive the draw ([wbh@wycliffehead.co.uk](mailto:wbh@wycliffehead.co.uk))
- 2.3 Any alteration in composition of a crew must be notified and updated either on-line or on the forms provided. The entries Secretary must receive this on race day, at least one hour before the start of the division. Failure to comply with this rule will render a crew ineligible for any prize and may result in disqualification.
- 2.4 No crew will be allowed to change class of boat or status after the draw. Any crew unable to make its original status due to crew changes after the draw has been made will be allowed to row. It will be shown as unclassified in the results and ineligible for any prize.

## **Results**

- 3.1 In the event of two or more crews returning the same time they will be placed at the same position and awarded the same medal if applicable.
- 3.2 A full list of provisional times will be available in the Boathouse as soon as possible after the division finishes. Final results will be posted on our website as soon as possible. Prizes will be presented approximately 30 minutes after the end of the second division. A Pennant and Gold medals will be awarded to the winners in all events with sufficient entries.

## **Parking**

- 4.1 Only vehicles carrying boats or towing trailers will be allowed at the boating area/boathouse.
- 4.2 All crew minibuses and coaches will be parked courtesy of Mrs Teasdale.
- 4.3 Spectators' cars will be parked in a nearby field.
- 4.4 The Club must arrive in the minimum number of vehicles.
- 4.5 There is no parking available along the course. Parking is not permitted in Frampton on Severn.

## **Competitors Numbers**

- 5.1 The card number should be attached to the back of bow's/sculler's racing kit with four safety pins at the corners. Care must be taken when removing outer layers of clothing to make sure that the number is not removed. A number is also provided for coxed boats.
- 5.2 The adhesive number should be attached to the port (left) strokeside of the saxboard above the waterline and as far forward as possible.
- 5.3 It is acceptable to use Empacher slot cards to display the adhesive number. If used, the number must be visible on the port (left) stroke side.
- 5.4 Old numbers must be removed in the second division.
- 5.5 We cannot guarantee to produce a time for crews that fail to comply with these instructions.

## **Start Positions**

- 6.1 These are based on records for the various categories of boats over the last 10 years and though no system is fool proof it usually works out satisfactorily. We are aware that there may be certain anomalies.
- 6.2 The starters will be prepared to hold up boats at the start if particularly slow boats are ahead.

## **Getting Afloat**

- 7.1 The Boating map shows the location of the temporary landing stages. Some crews will be permitted to boat from Wycliffe's landing stage.
- 7.2 It is dangerous on this water to start the races before all crews have reached the start. Allow at least 60 minutes to get to the start and to get under Shepherd's Patch Bridge once you are afloat. Younger crews may need to allow longer times.
- 7.3 Bear in mind that there will be queues to get afloat and so leave plenty of time.
- 7.4 Crews who hold up the start of divisions may be liable to time penalties or disqualification with no refund.
- 7.5 Oars & Sculls must be taken to the stages before the boat.
- 7.6 Crews must adjust away from the stages.

## Marshalling at the Start

- 8.1 Crews will marshal on the towpath/boathouse side of the canal above Shepherd's Patch Bridge (see map of course) with their bows towards the finish and with the lowest numbers nearest to the bridge.
- 8.2 There are zone markers (**A, B** etc.) on the bank to show the area in which to marshal. These are marked on the Divisional Lists, Official Entry Summaries and on the card numbers.
- 8.3 It will be necessary to duck when negotiating bridges. Splatt and Cambridge arm bridges will be open during racing.

## The Race

- 9.1 On the instruction of the marshals move back down towards Shepherd's Patch Bridge and as soon as you are clear of the bridge, go firm.
- 9.2 The start is well marked and is about 50m from the bridge.
- 9.3 The bridges on the course will be open during racing. Note rules about overtaking

## Overtaking

- 10.1 Crews being overtaken must give way to overtaking crews and if necessary give audible warning as to which way they are moving. Overtaking crews may do so on either side
- 10.2 There is no overtaking permitted within 100 metres of a bridge. The crew in front will go through first. There are umpires on each bridge (Splatt & Cambridge Arms) to issue directions as required.
- 10.3 Crews disobeying the overtaking instructions will be disqualified or given a time penalty.

## After The Race

- 11.1 Do not 'easy' until you have gone around the bend at the finish and under Frampton Bridge.
- 11.2 Failure to comply with this instruction could cause serious accidents and will certainly lead to time penalties and even disqualification.

## British Rowing Membership Card

- 12.1 All competitors must bring their British Rowing Gold membership card. Random checking will be taking place.
- 12.2 British Rowing members, who do not have their Licence available or their Licence has expired, will not be able to race. Crews withdrawn for this reason will not be refunded.

## General Advice

- 13.1 The Wycliffe Big Head is run for the benefit of the competitors. It endeavours to provide an enjoyable and fair race for all. The Marshals are all experienced people and are there to assist you and ensure the safe and smooth running of the race. **Please obey their instructions at all times.** This does not negate your responsibility for the safe navigation of your craft.
- 13.2 With over 75 crews on the canal an atmosphere of mutual tolerance is most conducive to the safe running of the race. Crude abuse to other crews or marshals is unlikely to solve any problems and may lead to further problems. Remember also that you are on public show and such behaviour gives the sport a poor image.

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

1. All boats may be checked by a member of 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
  - All coxswains should be wearing an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
  - Coxswains of front loading boats 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 winter conditions.
2. Any crew, which does not comply with the above, will not be allowed to go afloat.  
*Crews that are withdrawn on the day for this reason will be **NOT** be refunded.*
3. Please make sure that your boat and its coxswain are fit to go afloat before approaching the landing stages.
4. Coaches, please make sure that all your crews are competent to race on the day, i.e. can cope with the weather, water & racing conditions pertaining.  
*Crews that are withdrawn on the day for this reason will be refunded by post*
5. The Safety Advisor, in consultation with the Chief Umpire and the Control Commission, reserves the right to deny permission to race to any crew which is, in his opinion, not competent to race and may be a hazard to itself and other competitors.  
*Crews that are denied permission will be refunded by post less a small administration fee.*
6. In the short days of February, lack of light and exposure may pose a safety hazard so it is very important that races start on time and that competitors are not kept waiting long at the start.
7. Please get on the water in good time and do not hold up the races.
8. During the race the whole course will be within sight of a number of Race Monitors and umpires who are in radio communication with safety launches. Should you be unfortunate enough to fall in or get into other difficulties, please make every effort to get your boat to the side whilst awaiting the arrival of a launch.
9. Remember that your boat will float even when capsized so **STAY WITH IT** and be prepared to shout warnings to oncoming crews.
10. The launch will tow you to the bank where you can get into it and be taken quickly to the boathouse.
11. All competitors must comply with the requests of the race monitors. Failure to do so could risk lives and may lead to disqualification.