



Head of the Shannon Safety Statement Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club 2012

Policy

Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club is committed to running the Head of the Shannon in a safe manner. The safety of the competitors, spectators and H.O.R. officials is given the highest priority. The organisation and safe running of the Head of the Shannon will be ensured through the implementation of the following Safety Plan.

Objectives

The Safety Plan for the H.O.R. has four main objectives:

- To ensure that racing is conducted with due observance to all of the safety conditions in Rowing Irelands Rules of Racing
- To manage hazards specific to the Head of the Shannon (see attached Race Instructions)
- To provide adequate First Aid and medical services at the H.O.R. course
- To investigate any incidents of a hazardous nature which occur during the H.O.R.

The Club Committee has appointed a safety officer who will take overall responsibility for implementation of the Safety Plan.

The safety advisor for the day is Mr. Fin McDonnell

Responsibility

In accordance with current guidelines, it is the responsibility of each participating Club Committee to ensure the safety of their members while participating. References include The National Safety Council and Rowing Ireland.

Intent

It is the intention of the Organising Committee to implement its own policy and to provide guidance to participating clubs by creating a positive and safe environment during the event.

Method

Safety awareness will be promoted by:

1. Informing Club Secretaries of the event rules in advance by correspondence
2. Holding a coxes meeting prior to the Head Race (9.30am at boathouse)



3. Slip marshals ensuring crews to check their boat safety features
4. Appointing marshals as required over the course
5. Providing Rescue launches from Carrick Rowing Club and the Civil Defence.

Marshals

Marshals are requested to assist voluntarily in the running of the event by:

1. Providing a presence over the length of the course
2. Marshalling crews on the course and at the start and finish areas
3. Giving information to other river users
4. Assisting crews in the event of equipment failure, collision or an accident

Marshals are concerned with encouraging the safety of:

1. Themselves
2. Competitors
3. Event organizers
4. Other river users

Hazard Identification

Hazards that may arise:

- Crews on their way up to the start
- Inclement weather conditions
- Crews straying off the course

Management of Hazards

Marshals will be positioned approximately every 400 metres along the course and also in the holding area and slipping area beyond the finish. It will be their responsibility to:

- (a) ensure the safe passage of crews to the start zone, and
- (b) keep the course clear for races in progress



Instructions will be issued to competitors regarding hazards on the H.O.R. course (see attached race instructions)

Direction will be issued to all competitors to follow the instructions of H.O.R. marshals

A sufficient number of safety launches will be available at all times during the H.O.R. to assist in all incidents on the course in which the safety of any competitor may be at risk, each safety launch will have its own two way radio for communication.

A Public address system will be used to advise competitors and spectators.

Crew Safety

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that their competing crews are competent to participate in the grade for which they are entered. On the day, the cox or steer-person must attend the coxes meeting as must each sculler. This meeting will include a safety brief. A map of the river is included in the programme. There is also a video of the course available on the event website (www.HeadoftheShannon.com). Bow numbers are issued to provide an identification system to marshals. All equipment must comply with Rowing Ireland safety regulations – especially bow balls and heel restraints.

Boat Accident Recovery Procedure:

1. inform other marshals in the area and the appointed Race Coordinator immediately so that onshore services can be alerted
2. approach the recovery location from down-wind when possible
3. after recovery move persons needing assistance to the nearest of the following locations:
 - (a) slip area
 - (b) one of four strategically placed 'cruisers' which will have warm clothing and be able to provide further assistance

The safety of competitors, event organisers, spectators and other river users is the priority. Abandoned boats or equipment representing a hazard to others should be removed from the racing course.



Incident Reporting

The Safety Officer will maintain a register of all reported incidents where safety is concerned. All such incidents will be investigated in order to identify hazards to be managed in future H.O.R.'s. All H.O.R. officials will be instructed to report all incidents to the Safety Officer.

First Aid and Medical Services

On site

First Aid personnel will be available at Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club for the duration of the H.O.R.

Emergency Services

The Club Secretary will provide contact details for the nearest on-call hospital and Garda Station

Access

H.O.R. officials will ensure that access roads to the enclosure are kept free for emergency vehicle access

Emergency numbers: 999 or 112

Sligo General Hospital: 071 917 1111

Carrick on Shannon Gardai: 071 9620021

Car parking

All cars to park in the car park beside the boathouse or else in designated parking areas.

Slipping

All boats competing at the event will use the official slipping area.

Summary

Encouraging Water Safety during the Head of the Shannon is an ongoing activity. It is an essential element of all decisions made in the organising of the event.

Compliance with the code is a condition of entry and the code will be reviewed annually.