

The Reading University Head of the River 2023

Juniors: Welfare Policy and Plan

Under British Rowing Rules and Row Safe Code

Welfare Policy

The organising committee of The Reading University Head of the River Race intends to ensure that any allegations or concerns of harm to juniors involved in the event are taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately.

A welfare officer will be appointed for the event and will act as the point of contact for any allegations or concerns. Their contact details will be included in the Competitors Instructions posted on the website and will be made known to all race officials.

Welfare Plan

From January 2023 and until decided otherwise, the welfare officer will be Miss Anna Turner. She will be available throughout the duration of the event and he can be contacted on the day by radio or phone via any Race Official stationed around the course and boating areas. She will determine appropriate action to be taken, and should any incident warrant such action, will be responsible for reporting to the police and the British Rowing child protection officer.

Given the nature of the event, where crews are boating from a variety of locations along the river, it is not possible for the event organisers to take responsibility for security at any specific location. Adults with responsibility for children entered in the event are expected to ensure that boating locations 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.

If a participant goes missing for a period exceeding 20 minutes, the welfare officer should be contacted, and she will contact the police if this has not already been done.

The crew contact details entered on British Rowing On-line 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.

All competitors in the event may be photographed by amateurs, or professionals who sell their photographs, and these photographs may be used for identification or publicity purposes. RUHARR cannot prevent this, as the riverbank and bridges are open to the public. Competitors will be made aware of this and should not enter if this is of concern.