



Bridgnorth Regatta Safety and Emergency Plan 2026

The regatta will be run over a 500m course starting at the top of the Severn Park and finishing at the rowing club landing stage.

There will be Juniors, Seniors, and Masters events run on a round-robin format with multiple divisions. All boats in the division will stay on the water and follow a circulation pattern back to the start. Each crew will have a minimum of two races depending on the number of entries in the event.

The regatta will be controlled by British Rowing Umpires and run under Row Safe guidelines.

RISKS.

A separate risk assessment has been compiled covering all key risks such as capsizes, collisions, changing weather conditions, slips, trips and falls.

Command Structure.

Chair of the race committee: Rachel Bray

Regatta Secretary: Tim Grimdsdale

Welfare Officer: Lucy Warren

Safety Officer: Paul Wallis.

Water Safety.

Two safety launches on the course .

Throw lines at Umpire points and in launches

Safety boats manned by qualified RYA drivers also a first aider will be in each boat which will be equipped with first aid kit, thermal blankets and VHF radio communication.

Rescue Protocol.

Nearest launch responds immediately to capsizes after being summoned on radio channel 1 by officials.

Priority is to extract rower from water, assess condition, hypothermia protocol initiated if required, transfer casualty back to landing stage and handed over to the onshore Medical team. British Rowing Incident reporting logged by Safety Officer.

Safe Guarding.

Welfare officer present and identifiable - each club with juniors and vulnerable people must have a responsible adult overseeing them.
All serious incidents to be reported to British Rowing and the relevant authorities i.e. Police.

Contingency Plan for Severe Weather.

In the event of severe weather, or an adverse change in the river conditions, the race committee and Safety Officer will make the decision on whether to suspend or cancel the event.

Competitor Safety.

All coxswains to wear life jackets
Heel restraints to be spot-checked by qualified British Rowing Umpires in boat pairing – crews are responsible for their own boat safety.
No racing permitted in visibly damaged boats.
Racing course lanes marked with buoys.
Any shallows buoyed off.
Route to and from the landing stage will be marked and marshalled.
Exclusion zone immediately after the finish line, crews will be marshalled away.

Medical Provision.

On-site Medical centre next to race control.
First aiders in the safety launches.
Clear Emergency vehicle access.

Post Event de-brief

Meeting to discuss any safety incidents, lessons learned, feedback from competitors and officials.

EMERGENCY PLAN.

THE ROWING CLUB ADDRESS IS:

Bridgnorth Rowing Club
Boat house
Severn Park
Bridgnorth
WV15 5AD

Entry via Severn Park

COORDINATES ARE:

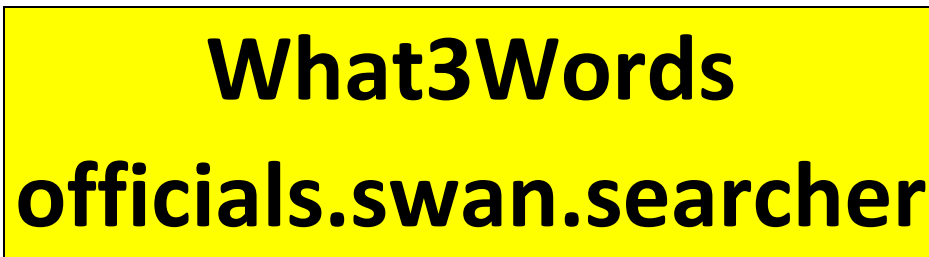
OS X (Eastings): 371985

OS Y (Northings): 371985

Lat (WGS84): N52:32:13 (52.537014)

Long (WGS84): W2:24:52 (-2.414461)

Nat Grid: SO719933 / SO7198593320



There will be a phone available for use at Race Control

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Emergency Services: 112 or 999

Police Non-Emergency: 101

Bridgnorth Police Station: 101 5309
Wenlock Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 5BB

Bridgnorth Hospital: 01746 762 641
Northgate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4EU

Princess Royal Hospital (Telford): 01952 641 222
The Princess Royal Hospital, Apley Castle, Apley, Telford, TF1 6TF

Organising Committee

- Regatta secretary: Tim Grimsdale
- Event Welfare officer: Lucy Warren
- Chair of the race committee: Rachel Bray
- Event safety advisor: Paul Wallis

GENERAL SAFETY NOTES

1. In the event of an incident, the first duty is to the safety of the competitor or any persons in difficulty.
2. The nearest umpire or marshal is to report any incident immediately giving clear concise details of the incident over the radio, keep it brief, full details can be recorded later.
3. The Safety Officer will record as much detail of the incident as possible and report back to the Club, Region, and British Rowing (dependent on severity), after the event.
4. If racing is required to be suspended then an announcement will be made over the PA system informing everyone, umpires and marshals will inform crews already on the water and issue appropriate instructions as directed by Race Control.
5. Suspended racing will not resume until the Race Committee and Safety Officer are satisfied that it is safe to do so. Following suspension of racing a decision to re-start will be made by the race committee and Safety Officer only. Both must agree it is safe to restart. In the absence of agreement racing will remain suspended.
6. Should the weather become inclement to an extent that this adds extra risk either on or off the water, the Race Committee and the Safety Officer, will immediately assess the situation and take any action they consider necessary to ensure the safety of all. This may include suspension and cancellation of racing. All will be advised to seek suitable shelter if conditions demand it. Following suspension of racing a decision to re-start will be made by the race committee and Safety Officer only. Both must agree it is safe to restart. In the absence of agreement racing will remain suspended.
7. All electric storms must be reported. In these circumstances, the Race Committee and Safety Officer will take any appropriate action to ensure all seek appropriate shelter as quickly as possible.

Provisions laid down in the British Rowing document "Developing an action plan for risk from lightning" are to be followed: "Suspension and resumption of racing should follow the 30/30 rule: racing should stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds and should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning."

Any competitor that falls into the river under any circumstances will not be allowed to race again until British Rowing's capsized procedure has been followed (showering etc.), dry kit has been obtained and authorisation has been provided by a member of the First Aid team.

MINOR INCIDENTS

Collision on water

Safety Boats should be dispatched to deal with the incident. If you are the first to see the collision, and have a radio, report it to the Safety Launches immediately, and then inform the Race Control and the Start that races should be suspended until the incident is concluded and the course is clear. If you do not have a radio, then tell someone who does, or run and inform them yourselves.

Any person with a spinal injury should not be moved. If they are in the water, then they should be supported until the Emergency Services arrive.

Capsizes

Inform Safety Launches via radio and inform Race Control and the Start that racing should be suspended. If you have a throw line, and the Safety Launches are not in sight you may use it, but if the rowers (and Cox) are afloat and holding the boat, we recommend you wait for the Safety Launches to attend. Capsized crews should stay with their boat until the Safety Launch arrives unless instructed otherwise. Any person with a spinal injury should not be moved. If they are in the water then they should be supported until the Emergency Services arrive. First aid will check all involved in the incident. Any competitor that has been in the river will not be allowed to race again until all standard capsize procedures have been followed, they have obtained dry kit and have been cleared to do so by a member of the Medical team. The Safety Launches will provide first aid until the casualty can be handed over to the onshore Medical team who will then provide any necessary treatment, or call an ambulance if required.

Off-water injury

The onshore Medical team should be informed either by radio or should be reached on foot or via Race Control. If the onshore Medical team are already attending an incident, report to Race Control where they can be informed by radio. If they are completely unavailable one of the first aiders in the Safety Launches may be able to attend (although this may mean a suspension in racing while they do so), or one of the qualified club first aiders may assist.

If the Emergency Services are required, Race Control / the Safety Officer will send marshals to be stationed at the car park gate to prevent traffic leaving the site, to allow the Emergency Vehicle clear access and direct them to the incident.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

In the event of any major incident or an emergency where there are large crowds, the Medical team or the Safety Officer will radio Race Control and there will be an announcement for any spare members to assist in 'moving on crowds' or installing cordons. Any spare members should report to Race Control, ask where the emergency is, and should take a hi-vis vest and report to the person in charge of the emergency. After this, they should stay on the cordon, and must make sure only authorised personnel enter e.g. First Aider, Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade. Club members are not permitted in the area due to safety unless they are club First Aiders or are directly involved.

Event of a Fire

In the event of a fire evacuation of the building should be made via the emergency exits in a quick and safe manner, for any fire outdoors the immediate danger area should be cleared. People should then gather at the assembly point located by Race Control.

The Medical team should also be informed to be on standby in sight of the scene in case of casualties, and casualties should be dealt with away from the danger zone. There should be an announcement for members to obtain hi-vis vests from Race Control and should go and help cordon of the affected area and remove crowds. Marshals will need to allow access to the emergency services.

Full-Scale Evacuation

An announcement should be made, and all club members should obtain hi-vis vests from race control and be marshals to ensure everyone is evacuated quickly and safely.

Public Disorder

An announcement should be made for spare members to obtain Hi-vis vests from race control and move to the scene and move crowds away and try to prevent injury. The Medical team should be informed to be on standby at the scene, but at a safe distance. Police may need to be informed if serious, but any small public disorder crimes should be reported to Race Control, and the police non-emergency number may be called for assistance.

If the Emergency Services are required, Race Control / the Safety Officer will send marshals to be stationed at the car park gate to prevent traffic leaving the site, to allow the Emergency Vehicle clear access and direct them to the incident.