



National Sprint Racing Regatta

Event Briefing

Welcome

We have put this information together to help all Regatta participants (paddlers, coaches, team leaders and supporters) to prepare for our National Sprint Regattas. We hope this briefing will answer any questions that you may have concerning the Regatta, but if you have any questions after reading this, please pass them to your Team Leader who can raise these at the Team Leaders meeting.

For any club that enters ten or more paddlers, we expect you to provide at least one volunteer to help run the regattas. We're happy for volunteers from smaller clubs too of course.

Please nominate your volunteers now to Ann Hoile, email:

regatta.volunteerCoordinator@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk

British Canoeing Sprint Regatta 'Liability' Statement

Canoeing and kayaking are assumed-risk water contact sports. Participation in these sports carries an inherent risk of injury to competitors and damage to property. Participants should be aware of the risks involved in these sports and are responsible for their own actions and their involvement in these sports. In all cases competitors compete entirely at their own risk.

The Regatta Organisation, the Sprint Racing Committee and British Canoeing exclude liability for any loss or damage that may occur to competitors or property during participation in canoeing and kayaking to the fullest extent permitted by law.

All competitors must be current members of British Canoeing or home nations. Entries are accepted on the basis that each competitor and Parent/Guardian of a junior is aware of and has accepted the above conditions.

All entrants are made aware of these conditions and accept them as part of the entry.

The event organisers will endeavour to provide a safe environment. Competitors are specifically reminded that persons using the lake do so entirely at their own risk and are solely responsible for:-

- Their own safety
- Ensuring their boats are safe and conform to the standards required by British Canoeing. Any boat failing to meet the standards shall be excluded from the event.
- The strict observance of the lake circulation patterns.
- Deciding, together with Coaches, that they are competent to use the lake in the prevailing weather conditions or not of the Sprint Racing Standard.

Biosecurity

The Regatta Committee is pleased to support British Canoeing with its approach to biosecurity, watch for news concerning AQUA accreditation at the NWSC!

Paddlers please Check, Clean and Dry your boats and equipment before and after the Regatta.

CHECK

Check your boats, equipment and clothing for living organisms. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible.

DRY

Drain water from every part of your boat and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site. Dry everything thoroughly for as long as possible. Some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

COVID-19 Measures (still in place)

- Do not attend if you have COVID-19 symptoms, or have received a positive test result.
- Do not attend if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, unless you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months.
- Please understand that social distancing may not be possible during a rescue or administration of first aid.

COVID-Safe Rescues/Assistance:

- The safety of everyone on the water is paramount and when necessary all help will be provided.
- Before any Regatta Official physically assists a competitor on/in the water, **they will ask** what, or if any, help is needed, or if the competitor can make themselves safe?
- Officials will ensure the safety of competitors before salvaging any equipment.

First Aid Cover

Where possible those attending should self-administer first aid or receive it from their own coach/support bubble.

Coaches advised to bring appropriate first aid kit and PPE.

There will be first aiders and a paramedic on site to assist where required, based near the Finish Tower.

If an incident occurs which results in:-

- An injury to a person

- Medical assistance being provided or an ambulance called

- A report under RIDDOR (major incidents in the workplace)

- Damage being caused to property, equipment, vehicles etc

Then the incident **must** be reported to **British Canoeing Incident reporting system**, ideally online at:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/safety-1/incident-reporting>

Hard copies of the BC Incident Form can be obtained from the Regatta Information Desk near the Finish Tower.

Trial Layout

We will trial a new event layout for the September Regatta. This is a response to feedback we have received over the past two seasons. Feel free to raise any concerns before the regatta. We will collect feedback after the regatta to inform plans for the 2024 Regatta Season.

Please note:

Club gazebos must not exceed 4m x 4m in size. Dependent on paddler numbers, clubs may bring more than one gazebo. Above this size, they are deemed to be commercial and have associated health and safety conditions applied.

Clubs/Squads planning/wishing to cook onsite must register in advance with Cindy Appleby from Serco at cindy.appleby@serco.com. However, we have been informed that the area is full and no more booking are being accepted. The dedicated cooking area will have fire protection equipment. Clubs will be allowed to use camping-type stoves in this area but not BBQs or other live flames.

Traders who require an electrical connection must pre-book with Cindy Appleby by 31 August.



Trailers

Club gazebos

Car parking

Boat control, check,
clean dry, info cabin

Toilets

Showers & toilets

Cafe

Traders

Boat launch

Paddlers
access lane

Car entry/exit



Trailers

Boat control

Boat launch

K4s

Toilets

Showers & toilets

Trailer entry/exit

Info desk

Check, Clean, Dry

Umpire boats

Venue Facilities – British Canoeing Sprint Regatta September 2023



Traffic flow, parking, boat storage and patio lawn use changes for Sep 23!

Access to parking is via the Playground entrance gate (at <https://what3words.com/doctor.sport.drop>) off Adbolton Lane. Exit will be via the Desperate Measures gate (at <https://what3words.com/hired.march.villa>).

Use of the Boathouse entrance is restricted to Paddle Ability, Regatta Officials and Paracanoe. However, long trailers can be parked (with one tow vehicle) near the boatsheds or along the southside wall.

Participant parking will only be allowed on the grassy bank on the **North** side of the lake. There will be no parking on the South side of the lake. Please be mindful of others when erecting gazebos, wind breaks etc and do not block/take up parking space.

Parking will be charged at £5.00/day. This can be paid through Holme Pierrepont Country Park Tap2Park or in advance at: parkpcm.co.uk (Location 4455).

Note: Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are in use in the Country Park.

The Patio Lawn (near the Centre building) will be closed for the duration of the event.

Please, **do not** store boats on the patio lawn.

Facilities

Access to the Finish Tower and Bridge level of the Main Building is restricted to Regatta Officials. Team Leaders will be granted access **only when called** to meet with a Regatta Official. Please **do not** enter via the main building, use the external stairs on the Finish Tower.

Toilet and shower facilities will be open for event participants in the White Water Centre (North side) and the Main building (South side).

Cooking is strictly prohibited outside of the designated area.

The Centre Cafe will be open from 7am to 11am. The Country Park cafe (on the scoreboard side of the lake) will also be open from 08:30 to 17:00 for the sale of beverages, hot and cold food.

Sale of food not provided by NWSC is not allowed under any circumstances.

Use of the Bank – Cycle Zones



If you intend to follow
races on a
bicycle/scooter,
please use the South
(Tower) side of the
lake.

Remember: the public and pedestrians **always** have priority.

You are responsible for your own safety, and the safety of others around you.

Event Operations

Entries close on the Friday 2 weeks before each regatta.

Late entries will not be accepted

Payment for entries is required once the entries are closed and at the latest by lunchtime on the Friday immediately preceding each regatta - **No payments can be made at the regatta.**

The Regatta Information Desk is located in the cabin near Boat Control.

All Team Leader changes to entries must be submitted via the online “Crew Changes” form:

[Crew Changes.](#)

Links to the Start Lists and Event Programme

Printed programmes/start lists will not be available - if you need hard copies please print them before coming to the regatta.

Event Programme, Timetable and Start List will be available at:

<https://canoesprint.org.uk/all-events/upcoming-events/>

Communication During the Event

Primary means of communication from the Organising Committee to Team Leaders and participants will be to push information and notices via the National Regatta WhatsApp community.

Secondary means of communication will be the Public Address system. *Coverage is limited (ranges from Finish Tower to approx 400m).*



Communication During the Event

If the Competition Committee need to see a Team Leader they will call via the PA and National Regatta WhatsApp community.

Due to the Trial Layout and at the discretion of the Competition Committee, Team Leaders may be directly informed of penalties via a private WhatsApp message and will only be called to “the Top of the Tower” when a face-to-face conversation is considered necessary.

Competitors, Team Leaders or coaches may contact the Competition Committee electronically using the following forms:

[Crew Changes.](#)

[Withdrawals/Scratches.](#)

[General enquiries and questions.](#)

[National Regatta Participant Reporting System](#) - (Only monitored during the Regatta).

Links to all these forms are available via the Live Results Service during the regatta.

Crew Changes & Withdrawals

These must be submitted by Team Leaders using the online forms. Verbal notice **will not** be actioned.

Changes or scratches can be submitted online at anytime up to **1 hour** before the race by a Club Team Leader.

A paddler who has taken part in the heats of an event, cannot be withdrawn from the final of that event, unless they are unwell and withdraw from the whole competition.

Results & Progression (from Heats to Finals)

There will be no printed notices or hard copy results.

Progressions are noted on the Start List. Some will be determined by position/place, others by time.

Results of all races and draws for finals, will be published online via the live Results Service. **Please wait at least 15 mins after the last heat before checking details of lane draws for resultant finals.**

We will try to back this up via the National Regatta WhatsApp community.



National Regatta
Results Service



Protests & Appeals (Rule 32 & 33)

Protests must be submitted in written form - A verbal protest will not be recognised.

A protest, addressed to the Competition Committee can be emailed to the Chief Official at: regatta.chiefofficial@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk.

A protest regarding the published result of a race must be made within 20 minutes of that result being published.

A protest following a disqualification must be made within 20 minutes of the Team Leader or athlete being informed of the disqualification.

A fee of £15 will be applied when a protest is not upheld (£70 for an appeal).

Weather Conditions

Weather conditions will be monitored throughout the event.

If the Competition Committee decides that the wearing of buoyancy aids is required for all or some groups of competitors, an announcement will be made on the PA system and via the National Regatta WhatsApp community.

An Orange Flag will be flown on the flagpole by the Finish Tower whilst extra safety precautions are in place.

Use of the Lake (before racing commences)

Paddlers are not allowed on the lake until an umpire boat is available, from 07:45 on Saturday, 07:45 on Sunday.

Warm-up period available 07:45 to 08:45 on Saturday, 07:45 to 08:15 on Sunday.

Start Gate practice available at 200m 08:15 to 08:45 on Saturday only.
No Start Gate practice on Sunday.

The course will close 15 mins before the start of racing each day.

If you arrive at the NWSC on Friday and wish to paddle on the lake, this must be booked and paid for directly with SERCO, the facility managers. You will also need to liaise with their employees who are responsible for water safety and based in the boathouse at the end of the regatta lake.

Racing Colours (Rule 15) and Boat Numbers (Rule 22)

A reminder that competitors are to wear the Racing Colours of their registered club, as detailed in the Start List.

All boats in a race must display the correct vertical lane number, the board should be 18 cm x 20 cm with black numbers, 15 cm high x 25 mm in thickness, on a white background, different criteria apply to Long Distance races. Paracanoe lane number colours are determined by classification.

Competitors are required to supply their own lane numbers (1-9), sets are available to purchase from the Regatta Information Desk. Long Distance boards will be available on loan and Team Leaders should collect the long Distance numbers for all of their competitors from the Information Desk, a £10 deposit will be charged.

Wearing correct colours and displaying the correct lane number is a requirement of the competition rules. This enables race officials to perform their duties effectively whilst ensuring that any online (streamed) coverage and commentary will be as accurate as possible.

Access Lane

Access lane (**Lane 10**) on the North side of the course. This is a change of sides due to the trial layout for the September regatta.

This is **not** a warm-up lane, please respect competitors on the course at all times by transiting slowly to the Start and Warm-up Areas.

When a race is on course while you are paddling in the Access lane **STOP PADDLING** until the race has passed you. Following and “encouraging” a competitor in a race from the Access Lane is prohibited - this action could result in a penalty for the athlete in the race.

Do not ‘loiter’ near the Start or Finish lines.

Warm-up area is always behind the active Start Area.

Starting (Rule 25)

It is good practice for competitors to be within 200m of the start line **5 mins** before the scheduled start of their race. If competitors are too far away, they may not hear the starters instructions and could miss the start of their race.

Competitors **are to** be 100m before the start line (within the blue buoys) **no later than 3 mins** before the start.

2 mins before the start the competing boats must take their allocated race lane.

Starts will be on time, the Starters **will not** delay a race for late competitors.

Boat Control (Rule 29 & 30)

Weighing scales will be available to check boat weights before racing - **please ensure that any added weights are fixed securely in place.**

Boats will be called at random from heats and finals. **As a consequence of the Intermediate K2 sinking at the last regatta, this will include Junior D and Intermediate paddlers.**

Boats will be inspected for **buoyancy and weight.**

The lane numbers of boats required for Boat Control will be announced from the Finish Tower and will be displayed on the Boat Control pontoon at the end of the lake.

Paddlers are to empty their own boat, remove the lane number, spraydeck and any loose items from inside the boat before placing their boat on the scales for the Officials to make the inspection. **Boats that are underweight or have insufficient buoyancy may be disqualified or incur penalty points.**

Standards for Racing (see Pgs A12 and B6 of 2023 Canoe Sprint & Marathon Handbook

A reminder to everyone that **Penalty Points can be awarded to paddlers not achieving the minimum National Regatta standard times in the slowest classes!** Allowance will be made for the prevailing weather conditions.

When all participants meet the minimum time requirements, our officials have sufficient time to process results and publish final draws, reducing the probability of delays to racing.

Team Leaders Meeting

The Regatta Committee will host an online session for **Team Leaders** at 8pm on the Tuesday immediately preceding each regatta to address any questions arising from this Event Briefing and to review Crew Changes and Scratches.

Zoom invitations will be sent separately to Team Leaders and/or their nominated deputies.

Procedures for Team Leaders Meeting

- Team Leader, to sign in virtually on arrival using the chat function.
- If there are any objections to or questions concerning the programme, or order of events, these must be raised at this stage by a Team Leader. Team Leaders should indicate they wish to speak via the 'raised hand' function, then wait until their name is called
- **Deletions and crew changes should have been submitted electronically before the meeting**
- The Chief Judge may call out in order each set of heats (or finals, if there are no heats) Events will be dealt with in race order
- Team Leaders who have submitted amendments are then able to confirm their crew changes have been allowed and deletions actioned. Any queries, Team Leaders should indicate they wish to speak via the 'raised hand' function, then wait until their name is called. They should then clearly announce the race number first, lane number, then the club, followed by the competitors name(s), of the entry they wish to question.



We hope this briefing helps you to prepare for our National Regattas, but if you have any questions please pass them to your Team Leader who can ask them on your behalf at the Team Leaders meeting.

See you at The NWSC!