

Hexham Regatta 2025 Safety Plan

7st June 2024

Safety plan issued 21st April 2025 v.1

1. Introduction

The Regatta is being organised by Hexham Rowing Club (HRC); contact names are provided in section 2 of this document. On the day, the competition will run from Tyne Green, Hexham, NE46 3HF. The course is approximately 700m and is shown on the accompanying course map.

The competition will be run over three divisions, entrants will only be allowed to row once in each division. Age categories from J13 upwards and competent athletes are invited to enter. The Regatta committee reserves the right to control the number of entries and events.

In the event of extreme or adverse weather conditions the Regatta committee reserves the right to restrict entries by age, ranking points index or experience at any time including on the day of the event. For safety reasons the course may also be shortened.

2. Competition Organisation Structure

Organising Committee		
Chair	Barney Hawkins	hexhamregatta.tynegreen@yahoo.com
Chair of Race Committee	David Robinson	davidrobinson332@aol.com
HRC Safety Officer	Andrew Bainbridge	hexhamregatta.tynegreen@yahoo.com
Regatta Secretary	Catherine Bowman	hexhamregatta.tynegreen@yahoo.com
Regional Safety Advisor	John Mulholland	john.rrsa@jdmulholland.plus.com
Competition Welfare Officer	Elizabeth Waterman	hrcwelfareofficer@gmail.com (And located at regatta control)

3. Planning and preparation

Tyne Green is a Northumberland County Council (NCC) facility. The council officer responsible, Sam Talbot has been informed. An Event Notification Form (ENF) has been submitted to NCC.

Other users of Tyne Green and the river have been notified of the event, such as Hexham Canoe Club and Hexham Park Run. Tyne Green is a public area. Externally provided safety launch cover and first aid cover have been arranged.

Racing will commence at 8:00am and aim to finish by 7:00pm, these times may vary depending on the draw. Entries will be suspended once capacity is reached.

All operations for the event will be conducted outdoors or in vented tents. The only indoor provision is for emergency first aid room which will be for exclusive use of the first aid providers in the event of an emergency.

The course map, competitors instructions, access and parking instructions, details of the one way boating system are all available on our website www.hexhamrc.co.uk.

The first aid providers and safety launch providers are responsible for their own equipment. HRC will prepare a volunteer rota in advance of the event.

HRC will ensure boating steps are in a clean and safe condition. Portaloo toilet facilities will be provided for competitors and officials with hand sanitising stations. Indoor facilities in the clubhouse will only be utilised in the event of a capsized or medical emergency.

4. Weather and water conditions

In the week running up to the event weather forecasts will be monitored. River levels will be monitored by the environment agency website. The organising committee will review the need to cancel, amend or restructure the event in adverse conditions, this includes the risk of thunderstorms. If lightning occurs on the day then the 30/30 rule will apply. Any crews on the water will be instructed to return to landing stage and come off the water. Competitors will be asked to seek shelter in cars or an emergency refuge point.

5. Regatta day

Race control will be set up early and will be staffed all day. Race control will have overall coordination of the competition. An event pack including numbers will be available from Race Control for all competing crews.

Competitor instructions will be available on www.hexhamrc.co.uk. All attendees must be well briefed prior to attending the event. This is the responsibility of attending club coaches, junior coordinators and competitors.

A one-way boating system will be in operation throughout the day. Marshals will supervise the boat queue, holding area, boating, landing and disembarking. This will ensure the minimum number of people are in the boating area and on the landing stages at all times.

Racing in each division will only commence once it is confirmed the safety launch and all Umpires and Marshals are in position with a working communication system.

Boats may be inspected visually prior to boating for equipment safety inspection to check they comply with British Rowing Rules of Racing. It is the competitor's responsibility to check their equipment before boating.

Crews and competitors will be expected to be self-sufficient getting on and off the water. Minimal assistance will be permitted. If an athlete gets into difficulty on land there will be Marshals to help. On the water there will be a Safety Launch and other competitors will be expected to help in the event of an emergency.

6. Communication

Radio communication will be in use throughout the day between race control, the start, the finish, all on course Umpires and the Safety Launch.

All volunteers and officials will be requested to carry mobile phones and the numbers will be listed at regatta control.

The event runs a mobile phone app called EasyRegatta which details all races, schedule for racing including time and results. Crews can use the app to determine next race and opposition which minimises the footfall at regatta control.

There is a clear line of sight from regatta control of the whole course from start to finish and the landing stages to maintain a visual of the racing course.

7. Emergency procedures on the water

In the event of an incident occurring it will be within sight of the safety launch, at least one Umpire and race control. The safety launch will respond immediately and racing will be suspended until the course is clear. This information will be communicated to all positions.

The safety launch will bring any rescued competitor to the landing stage, if necessary the casualty will be assessed by the first aid professional in attendance. A designated room in the clubhouse has been assigned for any medical emergency.

The safety launch may take appropriate action required, without consulting race control, if needed urgently to safeguard any crew.

All actions will be monitored and logged by race control.

8. Competitor and entering club responsibilities

HRC responsibilities and precautions are outlined above and in the risk assessment. Competitors must take responsibility for their own actions, as advised by their club. Coaches of juniors must ensure all juniors are fully briefed before the event. All documentation should be read and Regatta Local Rules must be adhered to at all times.

HRC will stress the importance of reading the competitors instructions prior to the event.

Entering clubs are asked to check all standard safety items on every boat before loading and again on the day before racing.

Competitors and coaches should make themselves familiar with the standard British Rowing Rules of Racing and Regatta Local Rules e.g. the location of the weir after the finish line.

This document should be read in conjunction with;

- Local Rules & Course Map
- Standard Risk Assessment
- Welfare Plan