

Abandonment Plan 2026

The following notes are distributed to marshals, umpires and safety personnel and are available on the event website. They are available for the Clubs racing at Wallingford Long Distance Sculls for distribution to competitors and their coaches.

Race Safety Advisor

The Organising committee has appointed Tim Brock as the Safety Advisor. He is a member of the Organising Committee and has produced this document.

Race committee

A race committee chaired by Adrian Champion will undertake the duties detailed in the British Rowing Rules of Racing. In particular, they will decide whether weather conditions or other factors are too dangerous to permit racing to continue.

Suspending/Stopping the Race

The primary duty of every Race Official is to care for the safety of competitors and others. It may be necessary to stop the race should conditions alter significantly through the course of the race or a major event occurs (e.g. multiple collisions). Racing will be abandoned or postponed if the Safety Advisor and/or a Race Umpire decide that conditions are unsafe. The Safety Advisor and/or the Chair of the Race Committee shall immediately inform all Marshals and Umpires using the event radio network.

Marshals, mainly club members with knowledge of the river, will immediately instruct racing boats to stop by shouting "STOP RACING" on megaphones and guiding boats into the most sheltered part of the river adjacent to one of the banks. If conditions are equal on each bank, preference should be given to bringing crews in to the towpath bank where assistance can be given more easily.

Launches are to stay in position so as to give cover over the entire course and drivers are to be vigilant and respond to any request for help from Marshals. All launches are equipped with Safety Boxes which include emergency foil blankets which should be used to ensure crews remain warm.

The Safety Advisor and the Chair of the Race Committee shall decide on abandoning the event or re-starting if conditions improve.

Abandonment during the race

If the Safety Advisor and Chair of the Race Committee have decided on abandoning during the race the following procedure should be observed. However it is recognised that different scenarios may need an improvisation on this plan.

Crews in the marshalling area will remain under the instruction of the marshals who will advise them of abandonment and the order in which crews will return to their boating areas.

Crews on the course are the responsibility of their nearest Marshal or Umpire, and they will instruct the crews when to progress SLOWLY to their boating areas. Racing will not be permitted after abandonment of the race.

If an incident has occurred on the course, crews above the incident, will be told to continue SLOWLY to their boating areas in single file, unless their boating area is downstream of the incident (i.e. Oxford Brookes). Crews needing to return downstream will be advised when to turn around, and will be asked to proceed downstream in single file, once the downstream channel is clear of crews travelling upstream.



Crews will be asked to progress SLOWLY along the course to their boating areas on the Upstream side of the river in single file. Crews boating at OUBC and Oxford Brookes will be asked to wait close to the bank on the downstream side of the river until the rafts are clear for them to get off the river. This will allow other crews to proceed upstream to other boating areas.

If an incident has occurred on the course, crews downstream of the incident, will be told to wait until the Safety Adviser or Chair of the Race Committee has advised that crews can continue along the course. Marshals and Umpires will then tell crews to continue SLOWLY to their boating areas in single file, unless their boating area is downstream of the incident (i.e. Oxford Brookes). Crews needing to return downstream will be advised when to turn around, and will be asked to proceed downstream safely in single file, once the downstream channel is clear of crews travelling upstream.

If there is restricted passage on the river, marshals and umpires on boats will direct crews so that safe passage around the restriction is possible upstream and downstream.

Crews will be told to progress SLOWLY along the course to their boating areas on the Upstream side of the river in single file. Crews boating at OUBC and Oxford Brookes will be asked to wait close to the bank on the downstream side of the river until the rafts are clear for them to get off the river. This will allow other crews to proceed upstream to other boating areas.

Crews in the marshalling area will be released as the course clears of boats, and told to progress SLOWLY up the course in single file.

Abandonment before the race

The Chair of the Race Committee or Safety Adviser will alert all Marshalls and Umpires if the race has been abandoned prior to the race starting.

If crews are waiting to boat, they will be advised to return to the trailer park area with their boats.

Crews in the marshalling area will remain under the instruction of the marshals who will advise them of abandonment and the order in which crews will return to their boating areas.

Crews on the course are the responsibility of their nearest Marshal or Umpire, and they will instruct the crews to STOP ROWING and when to turn upstream and progress SLOWLY to their boating areas. Racing will not be permitted after abandonment of the race.

If an incident has occurred on the course, crews above the incident, will be told to turn upstream and return SLOWLY to their boating areas in single file.

Crews will be asked to progress SLOWLY along the course to their boating areas on the Upstream side of the river in single file. Crews boating at OUBC and Oxford Brookes will be asked to wait close to the bank on the downstream side of the river until the rafts are clear for them to get off the river. This will allow other crews to proceed upstream to other boating areas.

If an incident has occurred on the course, crews downstream of the incident, will be told to turn upstream safely and wait until the Safety Adviser or Chair of the Race Committee has advised that crews can return along the course. Marshals and Umpires will then tell crews to continue SLOWLY to their boating areas in single file.

If there is restricted passage on the river, marshals and umpires on launches will direct crews so that safe passage around the restriction is possible upstream and downstream.



Crews will be told to progress SLOWLY along the course to their boating areas on the Upstream side of the river in single file. Crews boating at OUBC and Oxford Brookes will be asked to wait close to the bank on the downstream side of the river until the rafts are clear for them to get off the river. This will allow other crews to proceed upstream to other boating areas.

Any crews in the marshalling area will be released as the course clears of boats, and told to progress SLOWLY up the course in single file. Marshalls and Umpires will remain in place until all boats have passed them to the boating areas.