



Start 09:30 Sunday 25th January 2026

RACE AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS
Please read carefully

1. SAFETY

SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL. A CREW THAT IS UNAWARE OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS OR SIMPLY IGNORES THEM IS A DANGER TO ITSELF AND ALL OTHER CREWS. PLEASE TAKE GREAT CARE AROUND ALL THE BRIDGES, PIERS AND OTHER FIXED OBSTACLES.

A crew that is considered dangerous *will* be prevented from racing or, if acting dangerously during the race, risks a **time penalty** or **disqualification**.

All competitors are expected to be familiar with and comply with both the mandatory and advisory sections of British Rowing's Rules of Racing and Row Safe. It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that their boats are safe and are prepared in accordance with the guidance in RowSafe and are suitable for the crew and conditions in which they are to be used. The race officials may inspect boats at random to check compliance. Failure to comply will mean exclusion from the event unless rectified in time. All coxes must wear a life jacket or other suitable buoyancy aid.

Crews boating from the river foreshore should be aware that there may be sharp objects underfoot and hence that appropriate footwear should be used to wade in and out of the water.

Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all their coxes have appropriate experience and knowledge to cox on the Tideway. A minimum age of J15 is normally expected.

Accepted national practice is that rowers do not wear lifejacket/buoyancy aids unless the need is specifically identified by individual club safety advisors. This practice is in line with BR 'RowSafe'. Individual crew members will have satisfied club membership requirements regarding swimming ability.

Captains of clubs are responsible for ensuring that all their competitors have no pre-existing medical conditions which may compromise their ability to race without adverse affect to their wellbeing and are fit enough to complete the course.

Any crew or club which is involved in a verifiable navigation incident on the Tideway may be excluded from the event. This rule will be in effect for the 14 days prior to and including the day of the event.

Boats that do not carry identification numbers complying with the British Rowing requirements may be penalised.

ALL COMPETITORS MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ARE WEARING SUFFICIENT LAYERED CLOTHING SUITABLE FOR THE CONDITIONS. SPARE WARM LAYERING SHOULD PREFERABLY BE CONTAINED IN "DRY BAGS" IN CASE OF VERY COLD CONDITIONS. COACHES OF JUNIOR CREWS IN PARTICULAR ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO SEND THEIR CREWS OUT WITH SUFFICIENT CLOTHING TO STAY WARM.

Tops should not be removed for racing until it is sure the crew is to start shortly.

All crews are advised to carry a mobile phone in case they need to summon medical help urgently. In the event of a medical emergency on the water, a crew phoning 999 should ask for the coastguard and not for an ambulance.

All coxes must be aware that when their crew is not rowing, their boat will be moving with the tide. Care must be taken and appropriate allowances made when close to bridges, piers, moored boats, and other fixed hazards.

Coxes should also take care to avoid shallows near the river's edge to avoid the risk of grounding their boat.

Barnes Railway Bridge Footbridge

Coxes should particularly be aware of the narrowing of the Middlesex arch of Barnes Railway Bridge which has been slightly constricted by the support pillars of the new footbridge. Although it can clearly be seen, the structure has made the navigation under the arch more restricted than previously, and great care must be exercised in navigating the arch to ensure that entry through and exit from the arch are clear.

2. RIVER CLOSURE

The river will be closed from **08:30 until 12:30** for the Quintin Head which will be rowed on the ebb tide downriver from Chiswick Bridge (the University Post) to the downriver end of the Fulham Reach Boat Club pontoon. No vessel except boats involved in the race may pass upstream of the Barn Elms Boathouse or downstream of Kew Railway Bridge after 08:30 until 12:30.

During the river closure crews should be in the middle of the river when travelling with the tide and as near the bank as conditions allow when travelling against the tide.

All coxes must be familiar with The Tideway Code before boating at any time. The code can be found at <https://activethames.co.uk/tideway-code> and a good video summary can be found at <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safety/tideway-navigation/> Outside the river closure areas crews must steer in accordance with the code.

Incidents whilst boating on the tideway either during the race or otherwise should be reported to British Rowing using their online reporting system. Incidents during the race should also be reported to the race organisers.

Comments, suggestions, and questions about any aspect of the race may be sent to headsecretary@quintinboatclub.org

3. GENERAL

Further instructions may be issued to competitors and visitors prior to the event. Please check email, the race website and X (formally known as Twitter) for up to date information. The race organisers will be following guidance for race safety shown in the race safety plan.

Race Numbers

Boat numbers require a number slot. Please ensure yours is firmly attached to your boat. It is very difficult for the timing team to identify you if your bow number gets lost.

In the days before the race, the numbers for each crew will be delivered to a location depending on the host club specified on BROE and should be collected on the morning of the race as follows:

Host club	Collect from
All Putney clubs (excl. Barn Elms)	Vesta
St Paul's	St. Pauls
Barn Elms	Barn Elms
Other Hammersmith clubs	Auriol Kensington
Cygnets, Emanuel	Cygnets
Putney Town	Putney Town
TSS, Quintin, MAABC	MAABC (upstairs entrance)
UL	UL
Brentford BC	Brentford BC

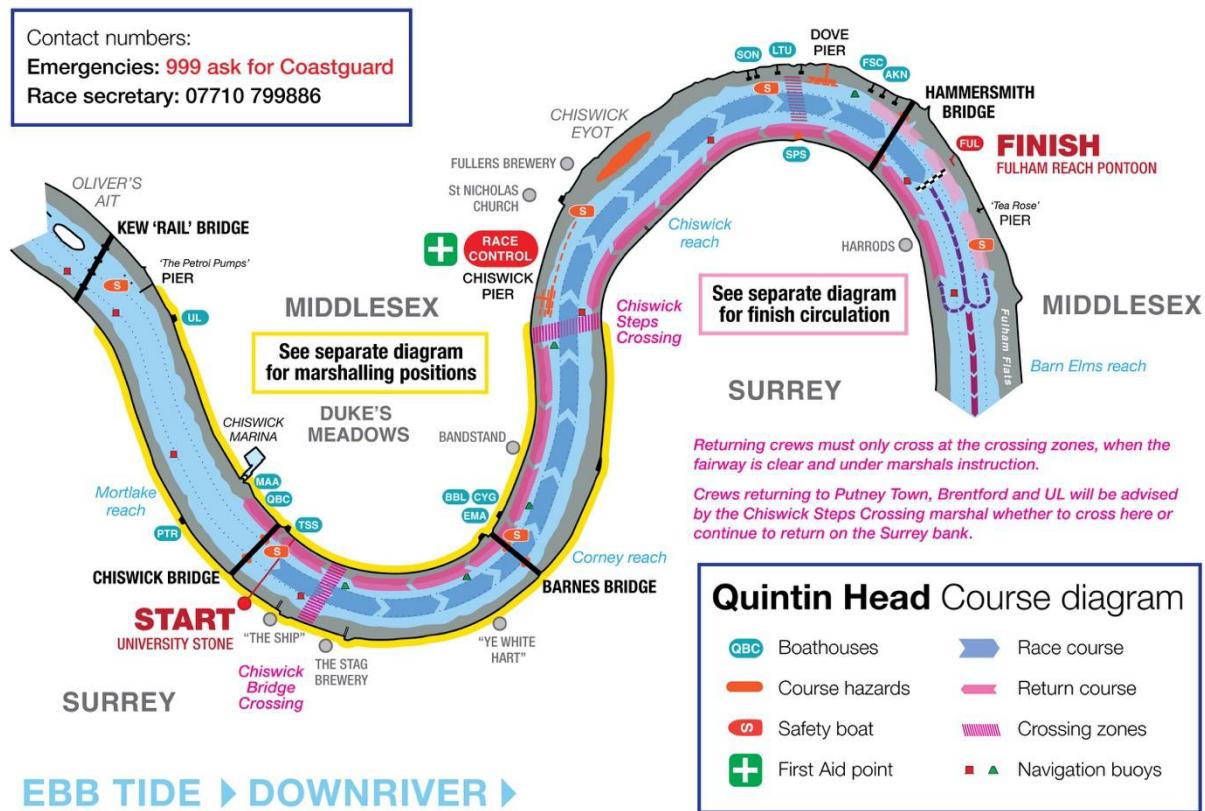
Three paper numbers will be issued, one each for bow's racing vest and outer top, and the third for the cox. The paper numbers must be securely fastened at each of the four corners to the back of bow and the cox so as to be clearly visible when the crew is marshalling and racing. In addition, a plastic number will be provided for the Empacher slot of each boat plus a pair of self-adhesive numbers to be stuck on each saxboard near the bow seat. (Please ensure any numbers from previous races are removed). To prevent it being knocked off, the plastic number should be secured in the Empacher slot by a screw. During the race, if any number is not clearly visible the crew risks not being timed.

After the race the undamaged plastic bow numbers should be returned to the place (crate if it is there) from which the number was collected. We will collect them in the days after the race. Within a month of the race, you may also return undamaged numbers either to MAABC or by post to Malcolm Cook at 15 Seychelle Court, Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5XU. Any crew that fails to return its bow number undamaged within a month of the race will be charged £15.

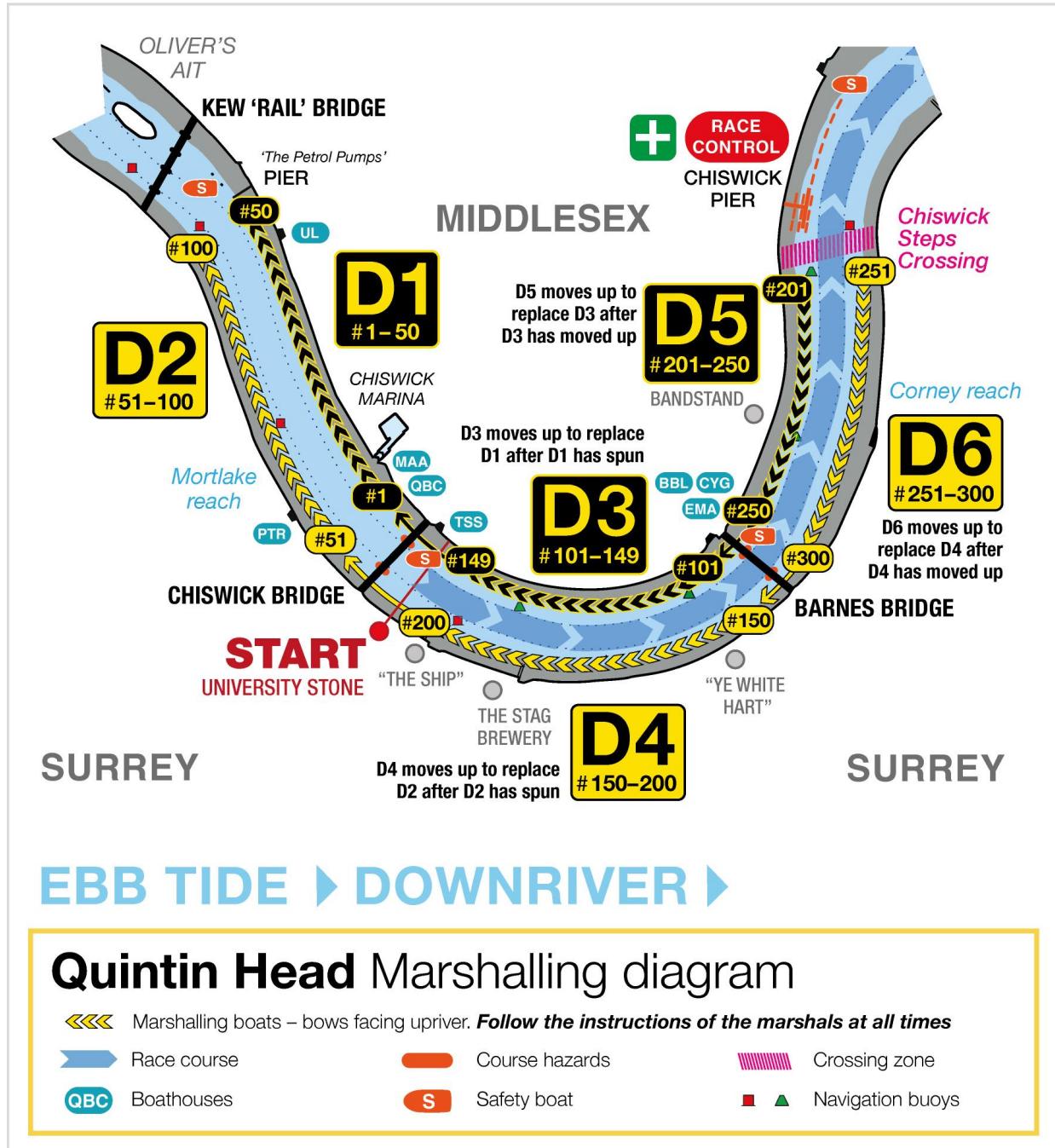
Substitutions - After entries have closed you will be able to make substitutions on BROE at any time up to the start of the race. If you wish to substitute more than half the rowers in a crew or make substitutions in a masters crew that will render it too young for its age category we will allow the crew to race for time only but you will not be able to make the substitutions yourself on BROE. In such cases you should email the details of the substitutions to the entries secretary at head@quintinboatclub.org as early as possible and definitely before the start of the race.

If you wish to make substitutions on the day of the race and don't have internet access you should report the substitutions at race headquarters at Chiswick Pier House (The Pier House, Corney Reach Way, London W4 2UG) before the start of the race. Directions to Chiswick Pier and a map are to be found at <https://www.chiswickpier.org.uk/home/contact-us>

4. MAP OF THE COURSE



5. BOATING AND MARSHALLING



ALL CREWS MUST BE IN THEIR MARSHALLING POSITION BY 09:20 AT THE LATEST (10 minutes before the start). Crews that are late to the start may incur a time penalty.

By 09:15 crews marshalling in Divisions 3 – 6 must be downstream of Chiswick Bridge and on their marshalling side of the river. Not being so risks a time penalty. You may not cross the river in the marshalling area after this time.

The crews will be arranged in 6 divisions of 50 crews. The size of the final division depends on the size of the entry.

DIVISION 1 – NOs. 1 TO 50 will marshal on the Middlesex bank above Chiswick Bridge, bows pointing upstream. Crew No. 1 will marshal immediately upstream of the lock gates beside MAABC.. The rest of the division will then marshal upstream of No.1 in number order so that No.50 is nearest to the blue pier above ULBC ("The Petrol Pumps").

DIVISION 2 – NOs. 51 TO 100 will marshal on the Surrey bank above Chiswick Bridge, bows pointing upstream. No. 51 will marshal immediately upstream of the Putney Town Rowing Club new steps. The rest of the division will then marshal upstream of No.51 in number order so that No.100 is nearest to Kew Railway Bridge.

DIVISION 3 - NOs. 101 TO 149 will marshal below Chiswick Bridge on the Middlesex bank, bows pointing upstream. Crew No.149 will marshal immediately downstream of the Boat Race finish marker. The rest of the division will then be marshalled in **REVERSE** order downstream so that No.101 is just above the upstream end of the former TTRC beach.

DIVISION 4 – NOs. 150 TO 200 will marshal below Chiswick Bridge on the Surrey Bank, bows pointing upstream. Crew No. 200 will marshal opposite the Boat Race finish post. The rest of the division will marshal in **REVERSE** order downstream so that No.150 is between the “White Hart” pub and Barnes Bridge.

DIVISION 5 – NOs. 201 TO 250 will marshal below Barnes Bridge on the Middlesex bank, bows pointing upstream. Crew No. 250 will marshal just downstream of Cygnet RC. The rest of the division will marshal in **REVERSE** order downstream so that Crew 201 is closest to the green buoy of the Chiswick Steps crossing.

DIVISION 6 – NOs 251 TO 300 will marshal below Barnes Bridge on the Surrey bank, bows pointing upstream. Crew No. 300 (or highest number) will marshal opposite Civil Service Boathouse (Cygnet RC). The rest of the division will marshal in **REVERSE** order downstream so that Crew No. 251 is close to the red crossing buoy above Chiswick Pier.

Check which section you are in and what side of the river you need to be on.

Crews in Divisions 1 & 2 to be in position by 09:20

Crews in Divisions 3,4, 5 & 6 must be below Chiswick bridge and on the correct side of the river by 09:15

Crews must not cross the river after the race has started, nor attempt to ‘warm up’ on the water in the marshalling area. Attempts to do either of these will result in penalties or possible disqualification.

Any crew arriving in the marshalling area above Chiswick Bridge after their section has been moved into that area should expect to be held near the bridge and started at the end of their section.

All crews must be in their marshalling slots by the time that the race starts; no ‘slotting in’ will be permitted. Any attempt to do this will result in penalties or possible disqualification.

WHILE THE RIVER IS CLOSED WARMING UP (ROWING FIRM PRESSURE) IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE MARSHALLING AREA. This is defined as the section of river from the Kew Railway Bridge to the Chiswick Steps crossing point.

CREWS WILL PROCEED TO THE MARSHALLING AREA FOLLOWING THE STANDARD NAVIGATION PATTERN FOR THE TIDEWAY.

Crews that are coming from Putney or Hammersmith and that are due to marshal on the Surrey bank must not cross to Middlesex at the Chiswick Steps crossing point and must instead continue along the Surrey bank.

CREWS MUST NOT AT ANY TIME PROCEED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER AGAINST THE TIDE UNLESS CROSSING, WHICH MUST BE DONE CAUTIOUSLY.

CREWS MUST OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MARSHALS AND UMPIRES AT ALL TIMES. Failure to follow any of the instructions, both these written instructions and oral instructions from a marshal or umpire, risks a penalty. Once crews have reached their marshalling position, they must maintain their position either in contact with the bank or very close to it. Since there may be a strong tidal current, crews will need to paddle light regularly in order to keep their positions. Crews should point their

bows slightly in towards the bank so that the stream does not catch the bows and swing the boat away from the bank.

6. THE START

This will be on time and without reference to absentees. There may be a short pause between divisions at the discretion of the Chief Marshal. Time gaps may also be included between categories and the first boat in each category should not turn until expressly instructed to do so by the marshals.

Division 1 will be instructed to turn first (starting with number 1) and will then turn their bows into the stream and turn into the centre of the fairway facing roughly the centre of Chiswick Bridge.

Once they have been instructed to turn, each crew must paddle towards Chiswick Bridge under the instructions of the marshals. Coxes MUST NOT crowd the crew in front of them. There should be a gap of about 1 to 1½ lengths of clear water between each crew. However, the starter will consider the status and competency of each crew and may vary the gap accordingly

As Division 1 turns and rows towards the start, Division 3 will be moved upriver along the bank (it is very important crews remain tucked into the bank) to take the place of Division 1.

Division 2 will be instructed to turn once all of Division 1 has started

Divisions 3 and 5 will move upstream on the Middlesex side as the race progresses but not until instructed to do so by marshals. Divisions 4 and 6 will likewise move upstream under marshals' instruction. Divisions 3, 4, 5, and 6 will take the position formerly occupied by Divisions 1 and 2 on Surrey and Middlesex banks respectively before they start.

Starting will be from a flying start. All crews must pass on the Middlesex side of the starter's launch. About 15 strokes before the start, the starter will call "Number xx.... Go". The start and timing will begin approximately 100m after Chiswick Bridge and not when the starter says "Go" and will be clearly marked on the Surrey bank.

7. DURING THE RACE.

CREWS BEING OVERTAKEN MUST GIVE WAY TO THE FASTER CREW.

Ideally, the slower crew should allow the faster crew to take the stream but crews may overtake on either side of a slower crew depending on the circumstances (bend in the river etc). Crews being overtaken should therefore give way to whichever side is appropriate. Nevertheless, a crew about to overtake should, in its own interest, make it clear – by its position or even by the cox's shouting – on which side it intends to overtake. Equally, the stroke of a crew about to be overtaken should keep their cox informed of the position of the overtaking crew.

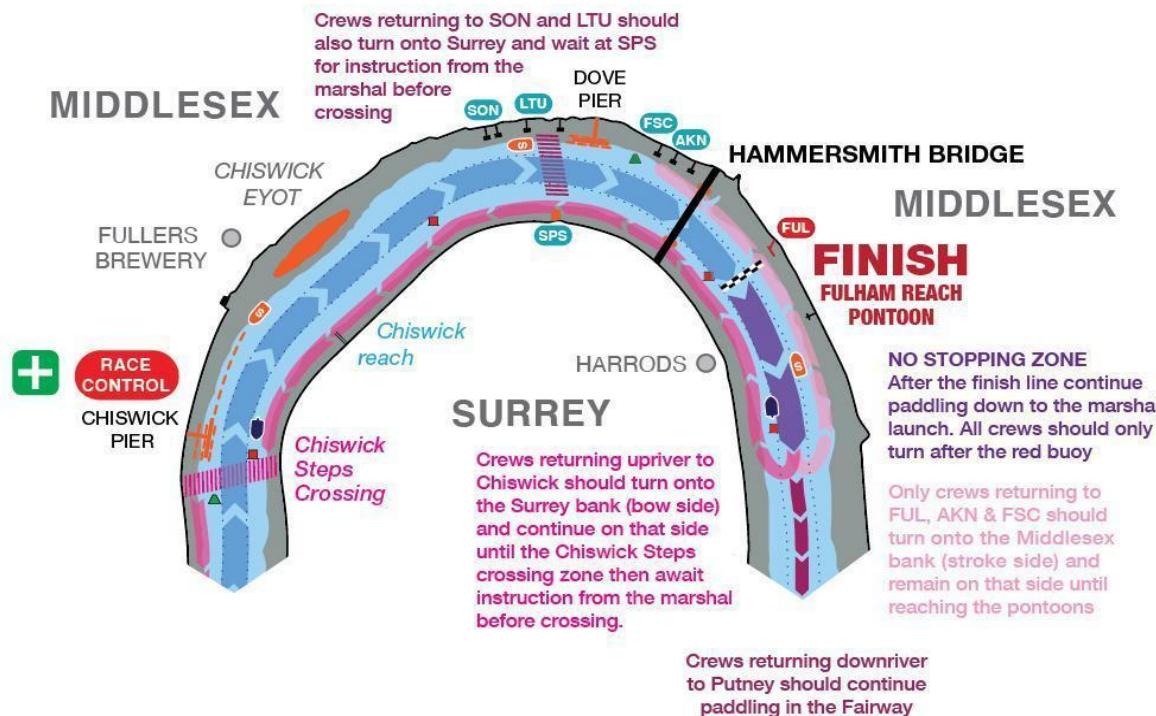
ANY CREW CONSIDERED TO BE IMPEDING A FASTER CREW MAY BE PENALISED.

Racing crews must pass through the centre arches of Chiswick, Barnes and Hammersmith Bridges. They should be on the Fairway side of each of the navigation buoys. Coxes should keep a good lookout for these buoys to avoid collision.

If a crew withdraws whilst marshalling, it should follow the race after the last racing crew if it needs to return downstream.

If a crew has an equipment failure that seriously impairs its ability to steer it must immediately drop out of the race when it is safe to do so without impairment to other crews.

8. THE FINISH AND INSTRUCTION AFTERWARDS



EBB TIDE ▶ DOWNRIVER ▶

Quintin Head Finish diagram

QBC	Boathouses	Race course	Middlesex return course
S	Safety boat	No stopping zone	Surrey return course
	Marshal launch	Navigation buoys	Crossing zones

Follow the instructions of the marshals at all times

The finish line will be across the river from the downstream end of the Fulham Reach BC pontoon. There will be a banner on the Middlesex wall marking it.

After the finish all crews must continue to paddle through the zone to the Marshal's launch approximately 250m beyond the finish in order to clear space for turning back to the Surrey/Middlesex bank if returning upstream, as ordered by the finish marshals.

All returning crews must proceed with great caution. Racing crews are quite often out of the stream and close to the bank - make every effort not to interfere with their race, even if they are out of position on the river. Stay in single file where possible and if you move out to overtake do so rapidly and keep a good lookout. You may be disqualified if you impede a racing crew.

THIS IS WHEN ACCIDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

Crews returning to clubs downstream of the finish should continue paddling to their destination.

Crews returning to Fulham Reach, Auriol Kensington and Furnivall should turn to Middlesex after the finish and proceed along the Middlesex bank, taking care with their course due to the shallows around the Middlesex side of Hammersmith Bridge. All other crews returning to upstream boathouses must turn onto

the Surrey bank after the marker buoy and proceed upstream from there. If the tide is very low, there may be insufficient room for crews to pass through the Surrey arch of Hammersmith Bridge; **in this case crews must wait below the bridge until instructed by a marshal** to pass through the centre arch.

Crews returning to Latymer and Sons of the Thames should cross from Surrey to Middlesex above St. Paul's boathouse **under the direction of a marshal**.

While the race is in progress, crews returning to Putney Town and Brentford should continue on the Surrey bank to their club and NOT cross the river at the Chiswick Steps crossing but should continue to return on the Surrey bank.

All crews disembarking at clubs on the Middlesex bank between Chiswick Eyot and Kew Railway Bridge should wait in single file before the crossing point by Chiswick Pier and keep as close as possible to the bank to allow crews racing downriver to pass freely. Crossing to the Middlesex bank at the crossing point should only be done **under the crossing marshal's direction. Crews not following the crossing marshal's instructions may be disqualified.**

After the crossing point, and while the race is in progress, crews returning to the University of London boathouse should keep to the Middlesex bank and should not cross to Surrey at The Ship.

The river will reopen some time after the last crew has crossed the finish line, but all crews returning upstream must observe marshals' instructions or, in their absence, observe the Tideway Code Guidance for navigation to their originating launch points. Crews returning downstream of the finish shall observe Tideway Code Guidance once they have left the finish.

CREWS RETURNING TO THEIR BOATHOUSES MUST:

- **NOT OVERTAKE CREWS STILL MARSHALLING AND WAITING TO RACE AND**
- **NOT IMPEDE RACING CREWS AND WILL GIVE WAY TO THESE CREWS.**

FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A PENALTY OR DISQUALIFICATION.

9. PROCEDURE FOR STOPPING THE RACE

If the race is abandoned before the start, crews will be instructed to return to their boathouses, under the control of marshals, in a safe manner following the navigation rules.

After the start of the race if a serious incident causes the Chief Umpire to decide that the race should be stopped race officials and the starter will then immediately stop the race in their respective parts of the course using the command "**STOP RACING**", reinforced by the use of air horns/sirens.

All crews must then follow the instructions of officials to return to their respective boating locations if this is possible. Where this is not possible crews will be directed to the nearest evacuation point.

Safety boats will remain on station whilst the course evacuation takes place. They will return to race control at Chiswick Pier House once the entire course is clear.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE RACE ABANDONMENT PLAN PLEASE READ THE RACE SAFETY PLAN.

NB: A collision between two racing crews will not necessarily be a reason for stopping the race.

10. RESULTS

The race will be timed with two separate systems. As soon as possible after the end of the race, provisional results based on just one of the timing systems will be posted on the internet. The results from the two systems will then be compared. The official results will be published only once all discrepancies and protests have been resolved, subject to consideration of protests (see 12 below). At that stage the 'provisional' label will be removed.

If you suspect there are errors in the provisional results, please email headsecretary@quintinboatclub.org

11. ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIZES

In order for a crew to be eligible to win a prize, it must start from its correct start position according to the published start order unless agreed otherwise with the organising committee no less than 2 hours prior to

race start time. Crews starting late may incur a time penalty or be declared ineligible for a prize and race for a time only.

12. COMPLAINTS / PROTESTS

Any **complaints** about the behaviour of other crews during the course of the race must be made to the Chief Umpire at Chiswick Pier House within ONE hour of the last crew finishing. Tel: 07788 889212

Crews have **24 hours** (i.e. until **12:30 hrs on Monday, 26th January 2025**) to make any **protests** over penalties or the published results. Appeals should be sent by email to the Chief Umpire at chiefumpire@quintinhead.org and copied to the race secretary at headsecretary@quintinboatclub.org as well as the entries secretary at head@quintinboatclub.org

Otherwise, comments and suggestions about any aspect of the race to headsecretary@quintinboatclub.org (07710 799886).

13. TOWPATH / THE PUBLIC

In the interests of spectator and public safety, supporters and coaches must not follow the race on bicycles. Owing to the particular safety considerations of this race, the use of megaphones or radio equipment is prohibited for all parties except race officials.

14. JUNIORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The welfare officer for the Quintin Head is Laura Izard. For the duration of the event, she can be contacted via race headquarters at Chiswick Pier House. This may be done in person, by any race official using the event's radio network, or by any member of the public on her mobile 07771 790477. All allegations of harm to juniors or vulnerable adults involved in the event should be referred to Laura Izard, who will determine the appropriate action.

Thank you and we hope you have a safe and enjoyable day!