

# North of England Head and Chester Long Distance Sculls

## Notes for Competitors and Local Rules

**The Royal Chester Rowing Club Open Events Committee thanks you for your entry, and asks you to take note of the following instructions:**

### **Trailer Parking and Boat assembly**

Parking is available for boat trailers only on the Groves between Souter's Lane and the Old Dee Bridge (see enclosed map); access is via Souter's Lane, not Dee Lane. The nearest public parking for other vehicles is the NCP car park on Pepper Street. Towing vehicles must not park in the Groves. Parking permits to the Little Roodee Car Park for towing vehicles only will be issued on the day at the Groves.

Boats must be assembled and dismantled on the hardstanding areas, NOT on the road itself, which must be left clear for emergency access. The Cycleway must also be kept clear.

### **Crew Numbers**

The race starts at 10.00am and 3.30pm. You should collect your crews' numbers from the Race Offices at Royal Chester RC and QPHS for crews boating from there. Crews boating at Sandy Lane can collect numbers from the Safety Marshal at Sandy Lane. Numbers should be collected at least 30 minutes before the embarkation time (see the draw).

Numbers must be clearly visible from the bank. One number is worn by bow and must be securely pinned, with **4 pins**. There are 2 boat numbers they must be displayed clearly one on each side of the **boat adjacent to bow seat**.

### **Boating and the Start**

Crews should leave the boating area at their allocated embarkation time. You will NOT be called to do so by marshals. Crews arriving late at the start may be disqualified or given a time penalty. **Crews on their way to the start must have passed the RED HOUSE PUB (2.5 kilometres from the Groves boating areas) at least 35mins before the start time. Crews failing to do so will be stopped and return to their boating area. Crews must also pass the Road Bridge (4k from**

**the Groves boating areas) at least 20mins before the start) time, crews failing to do so will be stopped and held there by the umpire.**

Crews must assemble above the start with their bows facing upstream with ODD numbers on the LEFT bank, EVEN numbers on the RIGHT (towpath/Eccleston) bank. Marshalls on the LEFT bank will indicate to crews the required staging positions.

**It is inevitable that there will be some waiting at the start. Please ensure that your crews are dressed for the conditions.**

It is IMPERATIVE that the race starts promptly.

### **Starting**

Competitors must obey the instructions of the start marshals at all times.

The chief start marshal will signal groups of crews to turn into the centre of the river, maintaining their numerical sequence.

When instructed, crews must row downstream keeping 1-2 lengths of clear water from the boat ahead, until they reach the starter on the towpath bank about 50 metres above the start line.

The starter will release each crew with the words "Number .... Go!". Timing will commence as each boat crosses the start line.

The procedure will be repeated for each group.

### **The Race**

Any crew being overtaken must give way, giving the overtaking crew a clear passage. Failure to do so may result in a time penalty or a disqualification.

Any crew failing to obey the instructions of the Umpires may be disqualified or suffer a time penalty.

Complaints by competitors about interference must be reported to Race Control within 10

minutes of disembarking. Time bonuses will not be awarded to impeded crews; offending crews may incur time penalties.

### **The Finish**

Competitors will be timed as their bows pass the Finish, 100m upstream of Royal Chester RC. Crews remain under the jurisdiction of the Finish Umpire until they reach the suspension bridge.

**Crews must continue paddling on the QPHS bank without stopping.**

**Crews disembarking from the GROVES should turn BELOW the suspension bridge and paddle to the stages.**

**Crews disembarking from other stations should turn around the buoy immediately BEFORE the Suspension bridge and paddle back upstream on the Chester bank.**

**Crews disembarking at the QPHS Stage should paddle as far as KINGS before crossing under the direction of a marshal when the river is clear.**

Failure to comply may result in a time penalty or disqualification.

Only competitors boating from Sandy Lane may return upstream beyond the finish on the Royal Chester RC side of the river, **taking great care not to impede racing crews.**

### **Results**

Provisional results will be displayed at Royal Chester RC as soon as possible after racing is over, and copies will be available after presentation of the prizes.

Any appeals about timings must be made to the Chief Timekeeper immediately after the publication of results.

### **Water Safety**

*Water safety is of vital importance, and we would like you to pay particular attention to the following points, and to the attached Safety Plan.*

*This event is run according to the British Rowing Row Safe Code and coxes must wear life jackets. Crews not following the safety code will not be allowed to boat.*

*Extreme conditions on the Dee rarely result in swamping but additional buoyancy in open stateroom boats IS required.*

*There is no River Closure during the race, so please be on the look out for pleasure craft on the lower reaches of the river, particularly if the weather is good.*

*Operators of the larger pleasure craft will be in radio contact with race officials and so will be aware of race status, but it is your responsibility to keep a look out for such boats.*

ABOVE ALL, HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE DAY ON THE NORTH-WEST'S BEST ROWING VENUE!

ROYAL CHESTER RC WILL BE OPEN FOR REFRESHMENTS.

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