

REGATTA THUNDERSTORM SAFETY PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICIALS and COMPETITORS

At times of thunder and lightning, safety is about recognising a high-risk situation and moving to a low-risk situation. However, it is recognised that on the water, difficult situations may arise where there is not enough time to seek 'proper shelter', resulting in a 'choice of evils' decision.

All officials and competitors are asked to familiarise themselves with this plan so that it can be actioned promptly and effectively should a thunderstorm occur.

As a general rule, the Event Safety Adviser and Race Committee will:

1. Consult forecasts from the day before and monitor the weather during the event.
2. Constitute the chain of command and, in the event of a storm, use the PA to warn competitors and spectators of actions to be taken (including the identification of proper shelter)
3. Use the 30:30 rule to instigate suspension and resumption of activity.
4. Direct Control commission to stop boating crews until resumption is signalled.
5. Direct the Start team, Umpires and Marshalls to instruct crews on the water, where circumstances permit, to return to the landing stages with all speed and seek proper shelter. Where practicable, all stages will be used for de-boating and an Umpire on the finish line will direct crews to one side or another.
6. Direct Control Commission and Finish judges to ensure that de-boating is executed as fast as possible.

Specific measures include:

7. Control will be executed by Race Control based near the finish, in liaison with the Safety Adviser and Race Committee.
8. If lightning looks likely/possible sufficient numbers of officials in vehicles will be dispatched to assist with clearing the course.
9. Any race formed at the start will be raced down the course in the normal way. Up to a maximum of 3 races will be started one after the other. Disembark quickly, follow the instructions of umpires/marshals.
10. The remaining crews (those below 1000m) should wait until a race passes, turn into lanes 3 or 4 and paddle firm to the finish before disembarking.
11. Crews above the start should follow races down.
12. Safety and umpires launches should proceed to the finish slowly in lanes 1 or 2 once start team has been ferried to the shore.
13. Start team and marshalls to shelter in the aligner's hut at the start, or make their way to the finish in the vehicles.
14. Competitors to shelter in the boathouses or the main building or in their vehicles. Under no circumstances should anyone shelter under trees, racks or the balcony overhang to the main building.
15. Blades are to left at the landing stages and not carried around.
16. One umpire to be nominated to execute a sweep of the lake in a car.