



Marshals' Instructions

Club members acting as marshals have a key role in the smooth and safe running of the event. They must clearly understand their role and work with the umpires. Marshals must understand that their primary role is Safety.

Raft Marshals:

The function of raft marshals is to ensure that crews depart from the stages in a prompt, orderly manner and that return raft marshals help crews off the water promptly and safely.

Outgoing raft marshals should ensure:

- boats have been checked for safety
- boats are called forward in an orderly manner to avoid crowding on the rafts
- boats are safe before being pushed off eg. gates done up – particularly Juniors.
- cox is wearing a suitable lifejacket
- stages are kept clear of trip hazards such as shoes. It is recommended that a supporter (or parent) be asked to look after shoes and re-unite them with the crew as they come off the water.

Incoming raft marshals should help crews onto the rafts, particularly if there is a side-wind. Marshals should hold off crews to avoid crews being blown onto each other or into the bank. Incoming raft marshals should also ensure that crews have footwear as soon as is practical to avoid walking in socks only.

Bank Marshals:

Bank marshals will be positioned at key points on the return lane so as to control boats on the way to the start and warming up. The Safety Officer will allocate marshals to specific locations and duties once the list and rota of marshals is established before the event.

Key marshals will be located at the bridge near the start. They should be aware that crews should be in this area 10 minutes before their race and (with races at 5 minute intervals) will have 2 races under their control. Crews should be marshalled in lane order with Lanes 1 and 2 adjacent to the bridge. If safe (wind conditions etc) front crews should be pointed through the bridge. Crews should be advised when their race will be called so as to take off excess kit (trousers etc). When the preceding race has set off and it is evident that there will not be a recall, marshals should be prepared to get the crews to pass through the bridge into their lane to come under control of the start pontoon marshals and the Starter. Crews **must not** be dispatched through the bridge until instructed by the Starter.

Start Pontoon marshals:

The role of the Start Pontoon marshals is to get crews onto the start promptly and safely. They should also be responsible for safe supervision of the stake-boat people, mainly Club Juniors. Instructions should be clear and recognise that, as an early season regatta, some coxes may have limited experience attaching.

Start Pontoon marshals should be aware of the 'Best Practice for getting onto the start on non-tidal water'.

Start Pontoon marshals should ensure that everyone on the pontoon has lifejackets or buoyancy aids. They should also consider the welfare of the stake-boat people by circulating people and ensuring that refreshments are available.

Everyone at the start area must be aware that the Starter is in overall charge and should listen for and obey his/her instructions.