



Monmouth Rowing Club

Head Race

Summary Task Briefing Notes

Meals – Just to be clear – All Umpires and MRC helpers are entitled to free hot drinks and a burger (or equivalent). We want to be generous, but also make a profit!! (I'm sure you understand).

Chasers & Landing Stage - No1 is to get boats on the water IN NUMBER ORDER, so right from the start call for boats (eg all the 100's, all the 110's etc) into the checking area, onto the steps, and away from the landing stage is **IN ORDER**.

Call the boats forward in groups of 10, or so, and let the landing stage marshals sort them (and including boats from MNS (who will have a radio) and any others over the water) into number order (as far as reasonably practical, last adjustments on the water). So, at the same time, let's keep it MOVING.

The Aim to allow the COMPETITORS to Boat, Paddle to the start, wait for a minimum of time, then race back home, without incident!

Radio's – Radios are the prime comms. **SO AVOID UNECESSARY CHATTER**. Use good radio protocol (see Circulation sheets), move to separate channel if you need a “natter!” or use mobile phones.

Time Keeping - PRIORITY is accurate timing over the course (it is what people pay their entry fee for!). So webscorer gets start and finish time stamps for each boat number and back-up (Stopwatch) timers get SEQUENCE OF BOATS OVER THE START AND FINISH LINE (with time stamps in the stopwatch memories and, where time allows, times written down. I think this now requires: iPad1; iPad2; Scribe; Spotter). 2 Stopwatches can be held by scribe and spotter so these are not separate roles, Spotter also does the Hooter!). Timing Crew will chat through this on the day before we start.

Launches / Marshals -

Make sure you have read and understood the following documents:

1. This Briefing Summary
2. “Event Safety Plan”
3. “MRC Event Risk Assessment”
4. “MRC Autumn/Winter Head – Course Layout and Contacts”
5. “MRC Launch Check List”

All the above are available via the Club website.

Apart from keeping warm(!) your primary role is to **ASSIST IN EVENT OF CAPSIZE** (think through sequence of events or getting crew out of water onto land – locate nearest landing spots etc, check your boat is adequately fuelled and kitted out before you head off). Try not to interrupt racing, but **PRIMARY ROLE** is to get crew out of the water and onto land (preferably near the boathouse).

Secondary role is to **MARSHALL**. Be friendly but assertive, especially once crews are racing, so crews moving in both directions. BEWARE Keep a good lookout in both directions. Before racing starts, liaise with Marshal on

either side as it can be surprising how far (or not far) you can see in one direction (eg into the sun). Adjust positions to eliminate blind spots. Use radios and avoid “chatter”. In a real Emergency, call for help first, then go and assist. Eric/Mark or Colin will hold a briefing (probably 09:30hrs, just before boating?).

If safety of crews is compromised SHOUT, be forceful. As far as possible peel off affected crews (they can join the back and race later). Try NOT to stop the whole event, but SAFETY FIRST.

Launch Drivers:

- Be sure of radio protocol and which of the six launch stations you are manning.
- Stick to the names on the Course Layout Poster “Race Control this is Church Launch, Over.” Etc)
- If sunlight or other conditions make viewing the course difficult then adjust your location and communicate to launches either side so that they are aware of your restrictions.
- FINISH LAUNCH and BRIDGE LAUNCH be particularly mindful of getting crews to turn EARLY (Get bows into shore, to aid the turn. Normally bow to MRC boathouse side (or opposite if already well over to Hadnock side and/or returning to Monmouth School BC boathouse)

In the Event of a large boat capsize:

1. Raise the Alarm (Radio / Loud Hailer / Phone / Voice)
2. Go and assist. Approach from downstream, slowly and recover people over the bows (using the rope ladder aids)
3. Account for all crew then get them to shore.
4. Try to avoid passing through Wye Bridge, or if this happens ensure people float through the bridge rather than try to hang on around it. Familiarise with the Various Landing places available, but aim to land at the clubhouse when possible.

PARKING – **NO CHARGE.** Please be FRIENDLY and WELCOMING.

Catering – Ask Gabby!

Welfare – See Welfare forms – Any MRC Official will discretely find Welfare Officer (Amanda).

First Aid – Ask for any MRC official who will discretely find First Aid Medical Assistance (James).