

Poplar Regatta 2024 Welfare Policy Statement

The Regatta Committee (RC) is committed to ensuring that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants are paramount, whether as competitors, volunteers, or spectators, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British Rowing requirements. It acknowledges that everyone, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio- economic background, have equal rights to safety and protection and that special measures are required to protect children and young people and adults at risk.

All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

This Policy Statement aims to ensure that all participants:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at the Poplar Regatta in a safe environment;
- are protected from abuse while participating in or attending the Poplar Regatta. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the event and future competitions.

As part of our safeguarding policy the Regatta Committee will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of participants, officials, volunteers and spectators;
- ensure all personnel understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and welfare and have undertaken appropriate training;
- ensure all personnel dealing with minors in rowing are aware of the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy;
- ensure the Event Safety Advisor is aware of this Policy Statement and Safety plan;
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of welfare incidents or concerns of abuse and that support is provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;
- do their best to prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- a designated Event Welfare Officer will be appointed annually and is responsible for receiving and managing any concern or reports with the appropriate bodies (British Rowing, Local Authorities, the NSPCC and the Police).

The Event Welfare Officer will be Nick Paul. Nick will be in attendance at the event and can be contacted using the mobile number 07899935808 or via any event official during the event.

Responsibility of clubs

It is a condition of entry to the Regatta that any crew that includes junior athletes shall have a named coach or responsible adult. Each named coach or responsible adult is responsible for the welfare, safety and appropriate supervision of their crew or entered athlete and is always expected to know the whereabouts of all their athletes during the competition.

All participants and coaches must abide by British Rowing Rules of Racing and Codes of Conduct as well as the BR Safeguarding Policy, which can be found on British Rowing safeguarding webpage, and are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and conduct at all times.

Volunteers who are under 18 (young volunteers)

The Organising Committee ask that the organisations with responsibility for young volunteers ensure that they:

- agree to the British Rowing Codes of Conduct;
- have agreement from their parent/carer that they may carry out the responsibility they have been assigned;
- are supervised at all times by at least one adult who is their parent/carer or who holds a DBS check and has undergone appropriate safeguarding training (including an official);
- know their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, and how to report any concerns they have or become aware of;
- are not given responsibilities that may put someone at risk of harm e.g. sole supervision of other juniors or lifting heavy equipment