

Metropolitan Regatta Welfare Policy Statement 2024

The Organising Committee of the Metropolitan Regatta believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants are paramount, whether as competitors or as 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 Metropolitan Regatta in a safe environment;
- are protected from abuse while participating in or attending the Metropolitan Regatta or outside of the activity.

This policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the Metropolitan 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.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee (OC)

As part of our safeguarding policy the 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 is Ben Helm who can be contacted on 07771 790884.

Responsibility of clubs

It is a condition of entry to the Metropolitan Regatta that any crew that includes junior athletes shall have a named coach or responsible adult. The named coach or responsible adult, who must be over the age of 18, must be named on the entry form and a current mobile telephone number for that person must be provided. If a substitute coach or responsible adult comes to the competition, they must contact the Event Welfare Officer and register their mobile telephone number.

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.

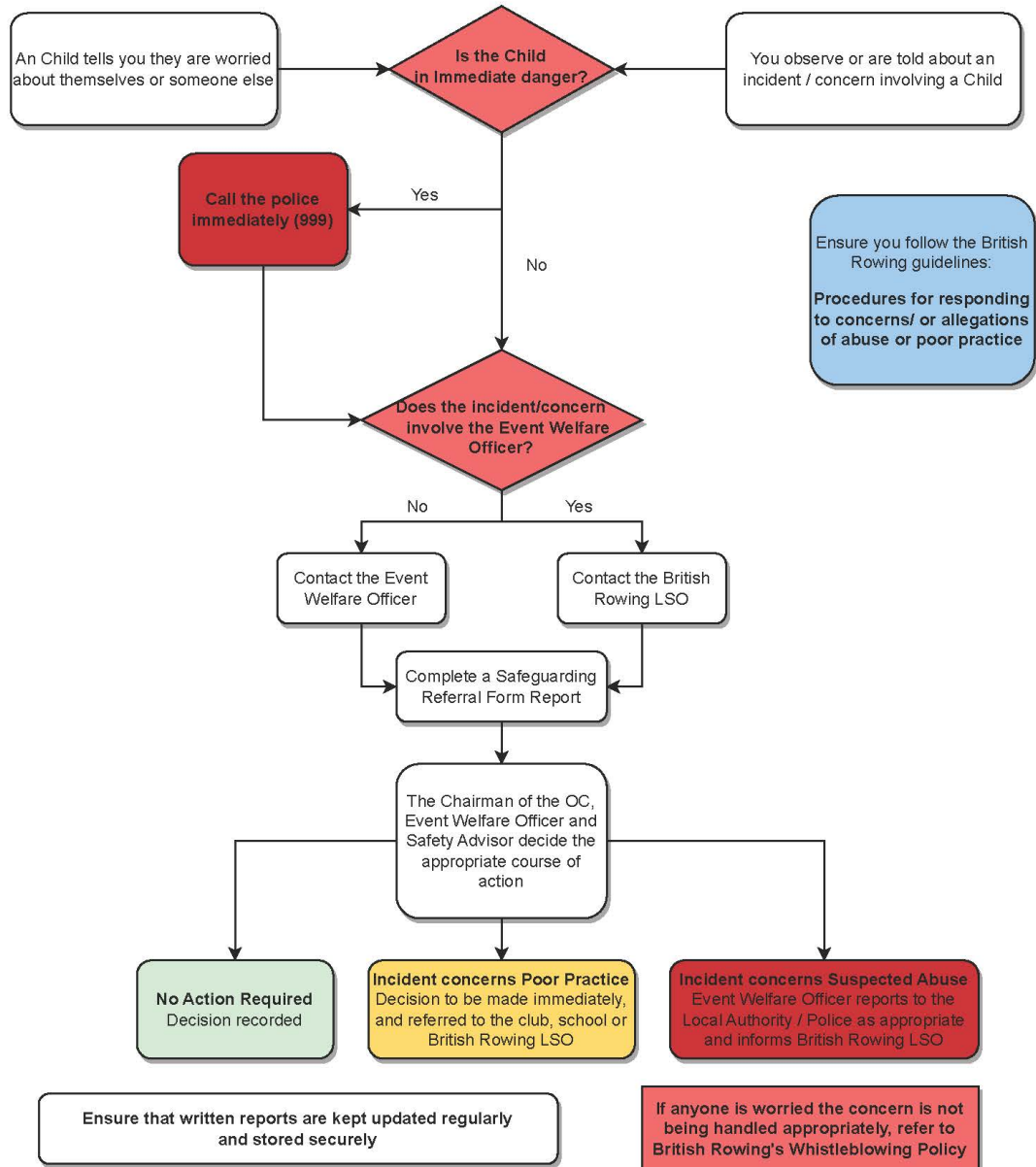
Volunteers who are under 18 (young volunteers)

Before accepting them, the Organising Committee must ensure that young volunteers:

- agree to the British Rowing Codes of Conduct;
- provide written 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 (including an official) who holds a DBS check and has undergone appropriate safeguarding training;
- 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

Reporting structure for concerns or allegations at the Metropolitan Regatta

Reporting procedures concerning a child:



Reporting procedures concerning an adult at risk:



Medical provision

All medical staff will be sent a copy of this Policy Statement and be given the contact details for the Event Welfare Officer.

In an emergency the Race Committee/Safety Advisor/Welfare Officer should contact the emergency services using 999.

Security

Volunteers and officials may be briefed on exercising vigilance for anything suspicious e.g. someone unknown to the crews hanging around or tampering with equipment; people taking pictures near the changing facilities.

Missing persons

If a child goes missing during an event, the following procedure will be applied.

- Officials must ensure that all other children continue to be supervised appropriately while a search for the child concerned is carried out.
- The initial report must be reported to the EWO.
- The EWO will request all available officials to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area.
- Radio communication should convey a description of the child but not their full name.
- All those searching should be told to report back within a short time, dependent on the size of the area being searched.
- If the child cannot be found after a search of the immediate surroundings, the child's parents/carers should be contacted to advise them of the concern and reassure them that everything is being done to locate the child.
- A note should be made of the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where he/she was last seen. A detailed physical description of the child should be prepared, including their hair and eye colour, approximate height and build and clothing he/she was wearing, as this will be required by the police.
- The concern should be reported to the police if an initial and rapid search is unsuccessful, no later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the search is ongoing.
- Police guidance should be followed, further action recommended should be taken and close contact with the police maintained;
- All officials involved, the parents, teachers and police must be informed if at any stage the child is located.

DBS checks, access to young people or their contact details

The Entries Secretary and Registration personnel should not hold any contact details for young people and do not need to be DBS checked. DBS disclosures of medical staff and the Event Welfare Officer shall be checked.

Any personnel having contact unsupervised with minors in an enclosed environment (if they have not had DBS Checks performed) must work in pairs.

Photography and publicity

The OC recognises that at the Metropolitan Regatta, many parents and other supporters will wish to take photographs, and all participants should be aware of this.

The OC may approve photography by commercial organisations known to the OC.

Live streaming

The purpose of any live streaming must be to promote a positive image of rowing, and its competitors, officials and spectators. Live streaming should promote the inclusivity and diversity of rowing, and it is important that we reduce any opportunities for misinterpretation or abuse. The content and output of the live stream will be monitored by the OC.

Luke Dillon
Secretary

On behalf of the Metropolitan Regatta Organising Committee